

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Sports news

### Oban golfer hits 2 holes in one

## Companies fined after Argyll pollution court case

THE DIRECTORS of two companies were fined on Tuesday for polluting waters in Argyll and Perthshire and killing a protected population of freshwater pearl mussels.

At Perth Sheriff Court Alan Smith and Charles Kippen were fined a total of £11,000 for offences under water environment regulations. Both had pled guilty to the offences at an earlier hearing on December 6 last year. The men were directors of A and C Construction (Scotland) Limited and Kippen was also a director of Chic Kippen and Son.

Both companies failed to ensure effective silt mitigation measures were in place between May 26 and October 1, 2010 at the Inverinian Hydro Scheme site, near Aberfeldy. Their construction activities at the Perthshire site, including the building of a pipeline, a ford and an access track, caused pollution of the surrounding watercourses and extensive environmental damage to the river bed of the River Lyon, killing and injuring rare freshwater pearl mussels.

In addition, Alan Smith admitted a failure to ensure effective silt mitigation measures by A and C Construction (Scotland) Limited between August 4 and October 4, 2010 at the Castles Estate Hydro Project, Lochawe, Argyll. The construction of ford crossings, an access track and coffer dam there permitted the pollution of local watercourses, namely the Allt Coire Ghlais, Allt Coire Chrechainn and Allt Mhoille.

At an earlier hearing at Perth Sheriff Court on February 18 Shawwater Limited, the company that provided the engineering design for the Perth site, was fined £4,000 after pleading guilty to permitting employees of A and C Construction and Chic Kippen and Son to carrying out the activities that caused the pollution of the watercourses in Perthshire.

Procurator fiscal Craig Harris said: 'I hope the successful prosecution will act as a warning to others that such reckless pollution of Scotland's natural environment won't be tolerated.'



An employee of A and B Service makes an important phone call shortly after the fire broke out on Friday. Picture - The Studio, Killin

## Fire closes Killin's Main Street

RESIDENTS had to be evacuated from the centre of Killin on Friday after a major fire engulfed the premises of a local engineering firm.

Evacuated  
The blaze broke out in the workshop of A and B Services shortly before 3pm, spreading quickly through the building.

So intense was the blaze that Main Street had to be closed, causing mourners at the funeral of the 23rd Chief of the MacNab clan to be diverted.

Fire crews were concerned that welding equipment close to the seat of the fire could cause an explosion and ordered an evacuation of neighbours of

the building, including elderly residents of the Glen Dochart residential home.

The fire was extinguished and the roads in the surrounding area reopened at 5pm.

There was considerable damage to the engineering workshop but nobody was injured as a result.

## Travel firms simplify ticketing

### West coast ferry and bus companies to agree travel links throughout the region

UNPRECEDENTED co-operation between ferry and bus companies will see travel throughout the region simplified thanks to Argyll and the Isles Tourism's (AIT) 'Better Together' campaign.

Mike Story, chief executive of tourist body AIT, has confirmed that, as a result of talks during last week's tourism summit at Mount Stuart on Bute, work is progressing between Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) and West Coast Motors to introduce a simplified unified ticketing system.

Further links are being forged between CalMac, West Coast Motors, the Kintyre Express, Western Ferries and others as part of a unified move forward to further develop the west coast's reputation as a world-class tourism destination.

Mr Story, who welcomed 140 delegates to Mount Stuart for AIT's flagship tourism conference, said the moves were encouraging and augured well for the future.

'What the summit did bring out was a new sense of partnership working between a selection of companies and not just for the

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.

**"Visitors will buy one ticket and be delivered to their desired destination."**

**chief executive AIT Mike Story**

day, all these people are now working together.

'CalMac and West Coast Motors are now working on selling destination tickets, such as to Mount Stuart. Other attractions are looking at the same thing.'

'Visitors will be able to buy one ticket and be delivered to their desired destination, by bus and ferry along the way.'

'It's very encouraging and makes the process very simple - that's something visitors want. It removes the headache of

booking multiple tickets.'

Speaking at the event, CalMac's managing director Martin Dorchester urged companies to work together in a bid to improve the region's tourism fortunes.

He said: 'The internet has revolutionised the way customers identify and research possible destinations; how they purchase accommodation and ferry, air or rail tickets; and raised expectations of what to expect when they get there.'

'In order to keep up with the competition tourism businesses must therefore make themselves easy to find, easy to deal with and the end product must then meet - and wherever possible exceed - customer expectations.'

Meanwhile, Mr Story has confirmed that the format for next year's tourism summit will be changed in a bid to help foster even better working relations between companies.

He said: 'I think this summit was a great event and a fantastic demonstration of partnership working. Next year we will be changing the format though because it's never a good idea to stand still.'

## Consultants awarded £2,500,000 CHORD contract

THREE consultants have been awarded a contract worth £2,500,000 to 'assist' Argyll and Bute Council with the CHORD programme.

CHORD, which seeks to enhance the five Argyll towns of Campbeltown, Helensburgh, Oban, Rothesay and Dunoon, already has a programme

manager - the consultants will help them 'deliver' the projects in three - Oban, Rothesay and Dunoon.

Three years  
The three consultants selected are Parsons Brinckerhoff, from Glasgow, Amey, from Motherwell and Capita Symonds Ltd, Carlisle.

The lucrative contract will run for three years with an option to extend by a further year.

The employed consultants will be required to provide support to the programme manager, take on a project management role and carry out architectural, civil and structural engineering work.

## Shake and bang remains a mystery

### MOD denies sonic boom

HOUSES across a huge area shook on Tuesday afternoon as a mystery boom was heard all the way from Oban, north to Fort William, east to Crianlarich and west to Mull.

Residents in North Connel reported hearing a loud bang before the windows in their homes rattled. Many compared the feeling to that of an earthquake but the British Geological Survey confirmed no earth movements had taken place in the area.

The walls were shaking at SAMS at Dunstaffnage but staff at both Bonawe and Glensanda quarries also denied having anything to do with the boom - and reported feeling it themselves.

Jets were spotted in the area at the same time as locals heard the noise, leading to suspicions of a sonic boom. Gavin Turner said on The Oban Times Facebook page: 'My first thought was a sonic boom as just after the boom I could hear a jet flying.'

'Low level sonic booms over land do often have effects similar to small earthquakes, windows rattling etc. With the jets flying about its more likely that than an earthquake.'

Michele Paterson added: 'Just spoke to my husband at the Crianlarich Hotel. He said RAF planes had just gone over, could have been a sonic boom, it does feel and sound like an earthquake.'

But a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) denied the claims. He said: 'We only do supersonic runs 10 miles or more out to sea so it is pretty much impossible what they felt had anything to do with us.'

It seems the MOD weren't the only ones denying involvement. Laura Cook, who said it 'sounded like a train going through the garden', told The Oban Times on Facebook: 'We're on Lismore and my five year old came running through with his hands up saying it wasn't him!'



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## Oban Lifeboat whisky sells to £260 a bottle

TWO BOTTLES of unique 18-year-old Oban Lifeboat malt whisky have succeeded all expectations when sold this week at auction.

The bottles sold for £260 each - £100 more than expected - at Mulberry Bank Auctions on Tuesday to the same internet buyer.

Anniversary gift  
The Oban lifeboat fundraising committee says it now has to set a price for the bottles, which have come from a cask stored in 1994 and gifted by Diageo last year to mark the lifeboat's 40th anniversary. Les Stewart, treasurer of the fundraising committee, said:

'What a colossal amount of money for a bottle of whisky. We are really pleased they sold for so much.'

'But while we want to make as much money for the charity as possible, we need to set a price people can afford.'

The price of the bottles will be set on March 26 and those who have registered an interest with the lifeboat station before that date will be told how they can purchase a bottle.

The bottles are then likely to go on general sale from the beginning of April from Birchwood Service Station, Oban, and online through the Green Welly Stop website.



Mary Catherine MacNeil sings the song written by the late Rev John MacLeod and Erik Spence. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

## Sell-out concert remembers death of local Falklands soldier

THERE was a hearty round of applause at a fundraising concert held in Oban last week by Oban High School Pipe Band when local singer Mary Catherine MacNeil marked in song the memory of a young Dunbeg soldier killed in action.

Marine Gordon Macpherson of Zulu Company, 45 Commando, Royal Marines was killed during the Falklands conflict. He was killed on June 12, 1982 along with seven of his comrades during an attack on a mountain known as 'Two Sisters'. The song, 'Nam Anna Le Mo Smaointe' (Alone With My Thoughts), was written for Gordon after he died by family friends Erik Spence and the late Reverend John MacLeod.

The young pipers accompanied Mary Catherine on stage - for more from the concert see Pages 16 and 17.

## Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Tobermory Thu 21 - Sat 23  
Lochgilphead Sun 24 - Tue 26  
Tighnabruach Wed 27



**Wreck-it Ralph** (PG)  
Nine foot tall Ralph has had enough of being the bad guy and now wants to be a hero - and save the games arcade...

**Life of Pi** (PG) **Winner of 4 OSCARS!**  
Based on the Booker prize winning novel, this is Ang Lee's magical film about a zoo-owner's son shipwrecked along with a tiger.

Book at: www.screenmachine.co.uk or phone 0871 902 5750. Tickets at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. £7.00 Adults. Concessions £5.50. 3D +£1.50

**Les Misérables** (12A)  
Anne Hathaway dreamed a dream and won an Oscar. Set against the backdrop of the French Revolution and based on Victor Hugo's epic story.

**Quartet** (12A)  
Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Pauline Collins, Tom Courteney are four retired opera singers planning a fundraising concert.



## Really comfy carpets



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**A82 road repairs underway**

ROAD repairs on the A82 between Spean Bridge and Invergarry got underway on Monday.

The works alongside Loch Lochy have temporary traffic signals and a 10mph convoy system in place between 7am and 7pm.

A Scotland Transerv spokesman said the £164,000 resurfacing job is scheduled to be completed by Friday March 29. He added: 'These essential maintenance works have been promoted to arrest carriageway deterioration and have been programmed for completion before the traditional increase in traffic from April onwards.'

**Young people honoured at civic reception**

LOCHABER councillors are to host a civic reception in Fort William to recognise the contribution young people make to local life.

Next Wednesday evening's event in the Council Chambers will also feature an exhibition of material showing Lochaber youth volunteering in the community.

Councillor Bren Gormley, adult and children's services committee member, said: 'The enthusiasm and talents of the Highlands' young people are an inspiration to us all. They are the future and deserve all our support and encouragement.'

Provost of Lochaber, Councillor Allan Henderson, said the young people 'make us all so proud to say we come from Lochaber'. He added: 'Our youth are our future and investment at this level will reap rich rewards in the years to follow.'

**Family praise death fall climber's skill and courage**

THE FAMILY of a man killed in a horrific accident on a Glencoe mountain have praised his selfless courage in ensuring no-one else in his walking party died with him.

Shaun Bowden, 39, of Ware, Hertfordshire, plunged to his death from an ice field near the summit of Stob Coire nam Beith on March 8.

Mr Bowden, a talented cardiac physiologist and latterly a successful international sales and marketing executive, was

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

killed instantly in the 700-foot fall from the forbidding 3,700-foot peak, which looms over the south side of the glen near Glencoe village.

Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team recovered his body from halfway down an 1,800-foot vertical face in dangerously high winds the following day.

In a statement issued through Northern Constabulary, relatives

said: 'Shaun's family and friends were devastated to learn of his death on 8th March.'

'It is a testament to his courage and skill that when he fell, he instinctively avoided grabbing his walking companions which would surely have resulted in their deaths as well. Instead he attempted to arrest his fall with his ice axe but the quality of the snow made this impossible.'

'He had spent many hours on the hills in Scotland. He was an experienced hiker. Although he was doing what he loved, it was tragic that his death was the result of an accident on a walk he had been on many times.'

'He will be sadly missed by his wife, two children and the rest of his family and many, many friends.'

'They would like to express their gratitude to the Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team for their courage during the search for Shaun and to the Glencoe Police for their kindness and professionalism.'

Four climbers died in an avalanche on January 19 only a short distance from where Mr Bowden was killed.



Stob Coire nam Beith and its 1,800-foot vertical face which claimed the life of Shaun Bowden, insert. 20\_1212stob02



Oban station commander Martin Hill, extreme right, welcomes the new trainee firefighters. Back, from left: William Gemmell, Michael Robertson, Derek Wilson, Alan Thomson and Gareth Strang.

**New trainees at Oban fire station**

FIVE new trainee firefighters have joined up at Oban after passing an arduous trial.

William Gemmell, Alan Thomson, Derek Wilson, Gareth Strang and Michael Robertson were all welcomed to the Community Fire Station by station commander Martin Hill after completing two courses over recent months.

'They will now embark on a further three years of training but will be on hand to respond to calls in the area.'

William and Alan are already well known in Oban having previously served as retained firefighters in the town. Derek and Gareth served in the same capacity in Campbeltown previously.

Michael, meanwhile, moves from Craignure, where he was a volunteer firefighter. Group commander John Rae, who is also head of operations and development for Argyll and Bute,

said: 'The area is delighted to welcome all our new trainees to Oban.'

'They have successfully completed the challenging 13-week Firefighter Foundation Programme at the Scottish Fire Services College in East Lothian. In addition they have also completed a further two weeks of residential fire training at the new UALLL Fire Training Centre in Clydesmill close to Cambuslang.'

'Their journey towards competence has truly begun.'

'I would like to congratulate them on their success thus far and, on behalf of everyone at area level and Oban Fire Station, I'd like to wish them well as they take their place on their respective duty groups and contribute to making Oban community and its surrounding areas a safe place to live, work and visit.'

**Campaigner takes poverty message to MP**

AN ARGYLL woman who campaigns tirelessly against poverty and hunger across the world is demanding the government addresses the root causes of the problems.

Marian Pallister, Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) ambassador and Justice and Peace commissioner for Argyll and the Isles, recently met with local MP Alan Reid and reminded him of the 'disgrace' that two million children die from malnutrition every year.

Marian is a supporter of the Enough Food for Everyone IF campaign, a coalition of more than 100 organisations working together to demand changes to the food system that will benefit hungry people.

**Promises**

MPs are being asked to write to the Prime Minister David Cameron and Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne to ensure they keep their promises on aid to poor countries and crack down on tax dodging by big companies.

Mariansaid: 'George Osborne's budget contains decisions about how our country's money is spent. It can help lay the foundations for a world free from hunger.'

'I'm happy I've had my say on how the budget should be used to transform lives and build a better future.'

'I would encourage everyone to meet or email their own MP and have their say. Join us at www.enoughfoodif.org.'

Max Lawson, IF campaign spokesman, said: 'Aid on its own won't do the whole job. This budget, Osborne must force big companies to stop fiddling the system and spill the beans about the taxes they owe to developing countries.'

**Food**

The IF movement challenges the UK government to tackle four big IFs to help ensure enough food for everyone.

It calls for governments to keep their promises, stop big companies dodging tax in poor countries and be honest and open about the deals they make in the poorest countries that stop people getting enough food.

It also tries to stop poor farmers being forced off their land and use the available agricultural land to grow food for people, not biofuels for cars.

**Lorn Lines**

AN EASTER-themed coffee morning at Glencruitten Church Centre has boosted Happy House Nursery funds. Families gathered at the hall to enjoy treats and a blither while children enjoyed games. The event raised £431.19 towards new equipment. The nursery thanked everyone who attended.

PUPILS at Oban's Park Primary School have been busy building their own indoor igloo.

The primary one youngsters tackled the construction project as part of their Polar Lands topic.

Alison Johnston, class teacher, said: 'We have been learning about life in the Arctic, the animals and the people who live there.'

'Elaine Mitchell from SAMS came to school to talk to us about her many trips to the Arctic and some of the work she has carried out there.'

'We have also used the topic for our writing project and each child has written an Arctic Journal this term.'

The children thanked café staff at Atlantis and other Park Primary School pupils who helped collect more than 200 milk bottles needed for the igloo.



Some of the Park Primary School pupils with their igloo.

OBAN'S branch of Bell Ingram has been shortlisted for a prestigious award after a successful year within its lettings and sales departments.

Reviews from clients praising the company's quality of service has seen the firm shortlisted in the Lettings and Agent Awards (ESTAS). Steven Hornby, senior estate agent at the Oban Bell Ingram office, said: 'This is the fourth time we've been shortlisted which is an absolute merit to Bell Ingram as the judges are the clients so being nominated can have a massive impact on the way potential clients will view us.'

FILM buffs can now find out what films they can watch at their community cinema on the move thanks to a new smartphone app.

Oban Phoenix Cinema's new app not only allows you to search showing times, details of the films and cinema news, but you can even book your tickets through your Android or iPhone device.

The app, which is free, is available now.

**Faulty speed signs putting Isle of Mull children's lives at risk, claims island police**

CHILDREN'S lives are being put at risk outside a Mull primary school due to faulty speed limit signs, according to the island's most senior police officer.

Bunessan Primary School sits on a main road with a 60mph limit unless the signs with flashing lights are in operation which limits motorists to 20mph.

But the lights are erratic, with parents reporting them out for

days while occasionally flashing on a Saturday when no children are present.

Stewart MacDougall, a member of Mull Community Council, told *The Oban Times* he thought there was a 'good chance' of an accident happening.

He said: 'There are cars going flying past the school at excessive speed and you have got the kids cycling and walking around.'

'Parents park across the road

when they are picking their kids up, the kids run straight across the road. They don't worry about what is on the road they just see mum and dad and want to go. I grabbed a hold of one that was heading on to the road in front of cars the other day.'

Sergeant Mark Stephen described the matter as a 'child safety issue'. He said: 'It is the main route to Fionnphort and Iona. It is now getting in to

holiday season and tourists don't know there is a school there. 'If there is no flashing lights the children are at risk. It is a matter of concern. We can't enforce the legislation without the lights and I would hope they get it fixed as soon as possible.'

But Mr MacDougall is suggesting an easier solution than fixing the lights. He added: 'If the council extended the 30mph limit from the village out

to the school that would make a difference. 'Then you wouldn't have to worry about lights and police would be able to do their duty.'

A council spokeswoman said: 'The council is preparing a contract for the maintenance of the 20mph signs across Argyll and Bute. The contract return is expected mid-April and work can then be prioritised and get underway.'

**Plockton Music School students embark on four-day tour**

PLOCKTON Music School (Sgoil Chiuil na Gaidhealtachd) S6 students will hit the road for a four-day tour next week.

First evening gig for the traditional musicians will be the Coigach Hall, Achiltibuie, on Monday. Performances at East Grange Loft in Kinloss on Tuesday, Harlaw Academy in Aberdeen on Wednesday and The Gardyne Theatre in Dundee on Thursday will follow. There will also be a number of schools workshops in the daytime.

Pincock said: 'These tours are always a highlight of the session and give us a great opportunity to get out and share our music, not only with the audiences, but also with the many young musicians we meet at workshops or who provide support at the gigs.'

The proceeds of the Dundee concert are being shared between Friends Of Plockton Music School, the centre's supporting charitable trust and the Marra family's El Sistema appeal, in memory of the late Michael Marra.

**Hospital video link boost for care home residents**

A BALLACHULISH old folk's home residents are benefiting from a new scheme which sees patients being treated by video link to avoid journeys to hospital.

Sixteen dementia patients at Abbeyfield Care Home have received specialist mental health support at the home, meaning they avoided long trips to hospital in Inverness.

The scheme is now being expanded further by the Scottish Government after it received an extra £1 million of European funding.

Kinlochleven woman Marlene

Montgomery's mother, Margaret Young, 92, has benefited from the project.

She said: 'Abbeyfield has been a great benefit to my mum as she knows the place well and she has close family nearby who can pop in and see her as much as possible. It is also marvellous that she doesn't have to travel to Inverness any more as the journey is very tiring and takes a lot out of her. I can definitely say that this has made a real difference not only to my mum but to the whole family as well.'

Health Secretary Alex Neil said: 'This project is a fantastic

example of how using innovative technologies can reduce the need for hospital admissions.'

'Scotland has already made significant progress on developing and expanding new technologies and this European funding will enable us to expand even further the role technology plays in supporting 21st century healthcare.'

'In addition, we have launched a new national delivery plan for telehealth and telecare, which will help us to ensure everyone is able to live longer healthier lives at home, or in a homely setting by 2020.'



Helen MacLean of MacPhee and Partners, centre, with the newly kitted-out Shopmobility staff and volunteers. 20\_122hopp01

**Law firm helps Shopmobility staff raise new uniform cash**

SHOPMOBILITY Lochaber has new uniforms thanks to a fundraising drive and a local law and property firm.

The charity's committee and volunteers raised three quarters of the cost of new fleeces and hooded tops themselves, while Fort William-based MacPhee and Partners contributed the balance.

Shopmobility chairman Keith Gadsby said: 'We have wanted a uniform for a long time and through the hard work of the volunteers and the donation from MacPhee and Partners, this has become a reality. Now, when we are out in the community, our team will be instantly recognisable. It adds another dimension of professionalism

to our charity.' Helen MacLean, senior partner at MacPhee and Partners was 'delighted' the company could be of assistance. She said: 'Without the Shopmobility service many people would be unable to access the local area or visit the shops in the high street. This is an essential service and one which we are proud to support.'

**Marine completes Arctic winter training**

A ROYAL Marine from the Isle of Skye returns to Scotland at the end of this month after being deployed to the Arctic Circle for the first time for extreme winter training.

Lance Corporal Jamie Paterson, aged 21, a former pupil of Portree High School, has been in Norway for the past three months as part of an annual cold weather exercise.

The training at Asegarden involved learning how to move, survive and fight in a temperatures as low as -30°C, testing men and equipment to the limit.

The Marines slept in a brushwood shelter and hunted game to eat, marched for miles on snowshoes carrying 30kgs of kit and endured rapidly freezing waters.

The exercise, named Cetus 13, saw around 135 Royal Marines work alongside the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps and The Norwegian Army.

Jamie, from Glendale, hopes to complete the gruelling nine-month mountain leader course and, if successful, he will return to Norway as an instructor himself.

He said: 'This is an amazing place to train for fighting and surviving in these extreme weather conditions. Norway is different from anywhere else in the world and if you're tough enough to train here you can train anywhere.'



Sgiteanach James Paterson in Norway.

Jamie, who is with 45 Commando based at Arbroath, added: 'I am looking forward to getting home and seeing my family and dog Jack.'

Royal Marines are among the world's leading experts on cold weather warfare thanks mainly to a small group of specialist mountain leaders who administer the exercise.

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### No health care cuts just 'virtual wards' at Kintyre hospital

HEALTH bosses have denied they are making cuts to services in Kintyre - despite admitting wards at Campbeltown Hospital will be replaced by 'virtual wards'.

At a drop-in event in the town last week, NHS Highland staff claimed a cut in beds at the hospital was not part of a cash-saving exercise but more a redesign of services.

Clinical services manager Donnie Cameron claimed the 'virtual wards' would allow elderly care to move into the community as 'that's what people want'.

He went on to say: 'This is not something the health board has just decided - it has been policy since 1996.'

The claim came after a heated discussion with members of Campbeltown Community Council, who attended the drop-in to express their concerns that services in the town were being eroded.

Its chairman, Andrew Hemmings, said: 'Whilst I was given assurances the resources released would be ring fenced, I still have to be convinced that an element won't be surreptitiously absorbed into the overall savings with our most vulnerable and elderly people holding the short straw and suffering.'

### Oban man accused of pizza cutter assault on woman

AN OBAN man has been remanded in custody accused of assaulting a woman and holding a blade to her throat.

Michael McPhee, 28, of 4 Burnside Court, Miller Road, Oban appeared at Oban Sheriff Court from custody on Monday.

He denies all charges, including behaving in a threatening manner and having an offensive weapon, a pizza cutter, in a public place.

McPhee is expected to stand trial on April 16 and he will appear next on April 2.

### North Connel Hall meeting on flat proposals

A PUBLIC hearing into an application to build 24 flats on the site of the former Ossians Retirement Home will be held in North Connel on Monday.

Melfort Care Ltd's application has met with local objections but Argyll and Bute Council has recommended the plan be granted planning permission, subject to conditions.

The meeting will be heard in North Connel Hall at 11am.

### Man reported after Dalmally thefts of cash

A MAN has been reported to the procurator fiscal after £500 in cash was stolen from a Dalmally hotel.

The 28 year old man is accused of stealing from a 44-year old man, an 18-year old woman and a 29-year old man.

### Bus and lorry collide at Connel

AN ELDERLY woman was taken to hospital for treatment to cuts after a bus collided with an articulated lorry outside Connel on Friday.

Police are still investigating the cause of the collision which occurred on the A85 just after 8.55am.

Some 33 passengers were on the bus at the time of the collision and several were treated for minor cuts.

The road was closed for a short time just before 10.10am to allow an ambulance to take the woman to hospital, but the road was passable by cars until the vehicles could be recovered.

The road was fully reopened at 10.49am.

### Appin road check reveals cannabis

POLICE carrying out road safety checks in Appin arrested a man for being in possession of cannabis.

The 45 year old man is accused of having in excess of 50grammes of the drug.

### Car and bus collide in Oban esplanade

TRAFFIC came to a standstill at Corran Esplanade, Oban, on Tuesday after a car collided with a bus.

The accident occurred at 12.40pm.

The female driver of the car was unhurt and nobody was charged as a result.

## Oban businesses change premises ahead of summer season

BUSINESSES in Oban have been closing one door and opening another as long standing retailers move premises. Staff at The Whisky Shop have confirmed the business is moving from its current home in Station Road to the former Thornton's confectionary shop at 52 George Street.

Despite rumours circulating in the town a spokeswoman for VisitScotland has confirmed to The Oban Times that the tourist information office will be staying near the town's North Pier, and not moving into Station Road. The doors have closed on George Street's Blockbuster

retail outlet for the last time as administrators try to avoid a total collapse of the film and game rental company. Joint administrator Lee Manning said: 'We have continued to review the performance of individual stores since our appointment and have concluded that further closures are neces-

sary in order to restructure the company for sale. 'We would like to thank the company's employees for their support and professionalism during this difficult time and we are also grateful for the continued support of customers. 'We are in discussions with a number of parties interested in

purchasing all or parts of the business and will update on progress in due course.' Scottish memento and trinket store Scotch Corner has also been on the move again, its short-lived home next to Oban Phoenix Cinema at 42 George Street now lying empty as the store takes up residence in the

former Pound Crazy Jane's at 2 Macgregor Court. Backpackers Plus has announced that it is to move into the former Dunollie Halls as part of an expansion for the business. The hostel will move out of its Breadalbane Street premises into new custom designed facilities in May.



Taynuilt Sports Council chairman Fraser Inglis, right, believes the new sports hub will be 'the start of bigger things'

# Taynuilt finds funds for purpose-built sports centre

'This is the start of bigger things', claims sports council chairman

THE VILLAGE of Taynuilt will have a new purpose-built sports pavilion by the end of the year after it confirmed the commitment of its main funders.

The famous old green, 'temporary' pavilion that has served Taynuilt so well for more than 30 years will be replaced.

An investment of £120,000 from sportsScotland and £191,481 from Argyll and the Islands LEADER, along with substantial funding from a range of other sources, will now allow Taynuilt Sports Council (TSC)

to move forward with the first phase of its plans to develop its community-owned facilities.

TSC chairman Fraser Inglis said: 'I cannot praise the rest of the sports council committee highly enough for their incredible dedication.'

'Taynuilt is already a thriving centre of sport with shinty, rugby, cricket, tennis, football, golf, and many other sporting and cultural activities taking place weekly.

'The new hub will benefit local people and visiting teams

through the provision of modern changing facilities, showers, meeting space, catering facilities and an upgraded car park. This is the start of bigger things.

'TSC is very pleased that these two major funders could see the value in the project and support it in such a positive manner.'

Taynuilt Community Council and Argyll and Bute Council have made considerable contributions to the project, which has also been supported by local businesses.

*'The new hub will benefit local people and visiting teams'*

chairman TSC Fraser Inglis

Mr Inglis added: 'The assistance received from individuals and other organisations has been critical and a grant from the Big Lottery Investing In Ideas fund, allowed us to get

the process started.

'Everyone's contribution has been extremely valuable and we are very thankful for their support.'

Ward councillor Louise Glen-Lee said: 'I am delighted for the people of Taynuilt as the new sports centre is something the community has worked so hard for.'

'I'm very pleased the council was able to make a contribution to the project and look forward to seeing the new pavilion.'

The plans have been approved

and the next step will be to hire a contractor who can complete the pavilion in time for use at the end of this year.

Stewart Harris, chief executive of sportsScotland, said: 'We are delighted to be supporting Taynuilt Sports Council as it aims to create a sporting hub for the whole community.'

'We are committed to maximising the opportunities for children, young people, and whole communities to become involved in sport and physical activity.'



Susie Wolff is the subject of a documentary airing this weekend.

## Oban's Susie to feature in documentary this weekend

Producer brother David makes it a family affair for 'The Fastest Woman in the World'

A DOCUMENTARY featuring Oban racing sensation Susie Wolff, which was produced by her brother David Stoddart, is to be aired this Sunday.

The Fastest Woman in the World will air on BBC 2 Scotland at 8pm and will look at Susie's rise through the sport, which has culminated in her signing for the Williams F1 team.

The experience of making the

documentary film was new for both brother and sister, as David also had the camera turned on him.

David said: 'The documentary charts the run up to Susie doing her first testing for Williams, which obviously has a lot of ups and downs.'

'When I was filming that it was difficult because I was torn between being a documentary

maker and a brother.

'Especially in the more difficult moments, it is hard not to be protective of her and in those moments they turned the camera on me - I hated that.'

'I'm not supposed to be in front of the camera!'

David said his first foray into documentary making was an enjoyable one and that he tried to bring his background in drama to the production.

### Dunbeg man found guilty of threatening to kill neighbour

A DUNBEG man was found guilty of threatened to kill his neighbours when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Ian Hendry, 47, of 64 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, denied making threats towards his neighbours.

The court heard Hendry had motioned for his victim to come out of his house following a disagreement over the installation of CCTV.

'I opened the back door and all hell broke loose,' claimed the victim. The victim then told Hendry he was going to phone the police. 'He went completely nuts and said he was going to kill me and my family,' he added.

But defence agent Stephen Macleod told the victim: 'You're simply making all of this up as part of a dispute and you had previously made threats to make your neighbours' lives hell.'

Hendry will be sentenced on April 16.

### Oban power cable fault creates problem for electric company

A 'ROGUE' circuit in the Combie Street area of Oban is causing headaches for electricians.

Problems for Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) started on March 9 when a faulty power cable caused an outage from 11.10pm.

Working through the night, the company managed to restore the supply by 3.35am.

However, fuses blew at the substation between 1.30pm-2.30pm last Friday, leading to a fresh power cut in the Combie Street and Market Street areas, although this time the outage was much shorter.

New link boxes are now being installed at various points across the network in a bid to identify the source of the problem and reduce the possibility of cuts to nearby premises.

A spokesperson for SSE said: 'It's frustrating for everyone involved. We'd like to apologise to our customers for the inconvenience but thank them for their understanding.'

### South Uist man admits car theft and forgery on the Isle of Mull

A SOUTH Uist man who landed his friend's car in a ditch on the Isle of Mull after taking it without permission has been banned from driving for six months.

John MacNeil, 20, now of Mains of Dudwick, Ellon, had previously admitted the offences, including causing damage to a fence during the collision.

He also appeared for sentencing at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday after admitting attempting to pay at various locations in Tobermory with forged £20 notes.

Sheriff John Herald further deferred sentence on MacNeil until July to check his progress on a community payback order imposed by Lochmaddy Sheriff Court.

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**VisitScotland funding agreed**

HIGHLAND Council has agreed funding of up to £270k to national tourism promotions body VisitScotland in 2013-14. The cash will go towards regional marketing activity and running VisitScotland information centres. A further £80,000 will go to the council's own tourism team and providing discretionary grants to business or community groups undertaking tourism projects. Latest full-year figures show the industry generated £748m direct expenditure and £175m of indirect expenditure in the Highlands, supporting more than 18,000 jobs.

**Camera club win annual challenge**

OBAN Camera Club hosted the annual photographic challenge between Oban Camera Club and H2O, the Christian Youth organisation based at the Well, Lochavullin. Both clubs were well represented by competitors and supporters. Judge Tom Robley from Carlisle Camera Club gave his comments and marks on the 50 images submitted. Some high end marks were achieved but at the end of the night the tally showed that the host club was ahead of the visitors and were awarded the handsome trophy donated three years ago by local photographer John Douglas. Oban Camera Club president Stephen Lawson accepted the award on behalf of the club. Vouchers to the value of £25, courtesy of the Oban Camera Centre, went to Malcolm Alloway for the best image submitted by H2O. Ewen Munro of H2O thanked Oban Camera Club for a most enjoyable evening.

**Trial postponed**

THE TRIAL of a Fort William woman accused of making a racist comment to another woman and shouting and swearing has been postponed until May 20 due to a lack of court time. Alexandra McIsaac, 38, of 33 Wallace Place, denies the offence, which is alleged to have occurred at Wallace Place in the town on November 24.

**Thieves lift picnic table**

Concrete cut to remove gifted bench at Acharacle

ACHARACLE Community Council has hit out at sneak thieves who stole a large wooden picnic bench gifted by road contractors to the community. The circular table, installed to celebrate the re-opening of the A861 at Drynie Hill, is approximately eight feet in diameter with four curved seats attached. It had been anchored to the ground with concrete. Wills Bros Ltd of County Mayo in Ireland put up the cash for the treated larch bench after completing the £900,000 upgrade last June. Acharacle Community Council chairman Hugh MacPherson told *The Oban Times*: 'The community is pretty disgusted - it is a popular spot. Most times you went past there were folk

sitting there having a picnic and enjoying the view. 'Whoever took it must have been pretty desperate. The bench was set in concrete at an angle so they would have to cut the whole thing down to make it sit anywhere.' He added: 'There's nothing really safe these days - even in rural areas.' Police believe more than one person was involved and a large transit type vehicle or trailer may have been used. It is thought the criminals carried out the theft between 7am on Friday, March 8 and 7am the following morning. Anyone with information regarding the theft is urged to contact 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Acharacle Community Council chairman Hugh MacPherson surveys the popular picnic spot where the bench stood before it was stolen

**Martha meets president of Malawi**



THIS WEEK marked another momentous occasion for 10-year-old Martha Payne as she met the president of Malawi Dr Joyce Banda. The Lochgilphead Primary School pupil and her father Dave met president Banda on Monday evening at an event celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Scottish missionary David Livingstone. The pair were invited to the event, organised by Scotland Malawi Partnership, in recognition of their work with Mary's Meals. President Banda said Martha, who visited Malawi six months ago, had a 'genuine' respect for African people.

**Prestigious cruise line chooses Oban**

Majestic pick perfect spot for operation

THE ROYAL Family's favourite cruise line is to base both its boats in Oban for the first time this year due to increasing demand for the area. Perfect spot The Majestic Line says the town's transport links, its central location and good range of facilities makes it a perfect spot to focus its operation, while increased demand for trips to the Inner and Outer Hebrides, Skye and the inland cruise towards Glencoe played a major role in making the decision. The move will see an extra 22 affluent visitors come to the area per week over the summer season, when the company

will recommend a host of local activities and businesses. Its *Glen Massan* vessel will begin its seven-month stint in the bay next month, offering cruises around Mull, Skye and the Inner Hebrides. Sister ship, *Glen Tarsan*, will follow in June, meaning the company's full cruise offering will be based from the town for the first time in the company's history. The move comes after the company confirmed it has already sold all its private charter trips for the year, with demand for the scheduled cruises remaining high. Marie Thoms, sales manager

for the Dunoon-based company, said: 'Oban is a fantastic place and very easy to get to. We also feel it has a lot to offer not just for the local businesses but as the start of the Highlands. From our point of view, you can get to a lot of places from Oban in six days. 'In addition, a lot of our guests get here by train and the journey to Oban is beautiful, so it's ideal on that front. 'We also have somewhere guests can leave cars securely and the Caledonian Hotel seems ideal because it's right next to the station. With visitors coming from all over the world to use the

Majestic Line's services, Marie says it will help put Oban on the map. 'We get a lot of people coming up from the south of England, as well as France, Russia and even China. It's great for the area as not a lot of them had heard of Oban before. 'A lot of our guests travel with us as part of an extended holiday so we should see some offshoots for the area.' The Queen has regularly travelled with the Majestic Line before, while rumours persist that the Duke and the Duchess of Cambridge spent part of their honeymoon in Argyll aboard a Majestic Line vessel.

**Morvern Lines**

MORVERN used to be well-known for its illegal whisky making; at one time there were dozens of small stills in the parish. One of the last of these illicit 'shebeens' was in an oak wood on the south shores of Loch Sunart near Laudale. The distiller, Paul Graham, was nearly caught in the 1850s when a boat load of excise men, making their way up the loch from Tobermory to inspect the lead miners' camp at Strontian, saw smoke rising from the wood and went to investigate. Before they landed Paul managed to hide the 'poit dubh' - the black pot - and its contents and escaped into the hills. Following this scare, he shifted his operations to a cave in the Black Rock between Laudale and Liddesdale, where the tell-tale smoke was obscured by a cliff. The late John Graham, a grandson of Paul Graham, told me he had once sampled his grandfather's whisky and described it as 'fire in your throat and Hell let loose in your belly'. Not all stills in the area were unlawful. The York Building Company and the Morvern Mining Company, which worked the Strontian and Lurga lead mines in the 18th and 19th century, were permitted to have small distilleries at Strontian and Liddesdale for their employees. Eventually though they were forced to close them down because of the insobriety they caused and the subsequent injuries and loss of production. It was not only the labourers who enjoyed a dram - the local clergy took their fair share. In June 1733 the Rev Archibald Campbell, the Church of Scotland minister of Morvern, was reported to Presbytery for drinking, swearing, squabbling, neglecting his ministerial duties and threatening to fight with a sword. These allegations could not be ignored and on August 15, 1733 Campbell was tried by the Presbytery at Kiel, Lochaline. Witnesses stated that one day he had been drinking in the inn at Knock from 8am until 6pm and that when the party dispersed Campbell was seen to stagger back to the manse. When he arrived home he asked his wife for his supper. She replied she was in no great hurry to give him any because he had obviously eaten elsewhere. At which, it was said by one of the witnesses, 'he kicked her several times'. Campbell was given an opportunity to repent. He refused and sometime later he was found guilty and suspended for a year. Later it was the Roman Catholic priest at Drimmin who came under the spotlight. The estate factor, writing in the 1830s to Sir Charles Gordon, the laird of Drimmin, reported: 'With regard to the priest being thirsty, although he wishes to get a little spirit several times a day he does not exceed. He has not been the worse of drink since he came to this country to my knowledge. He wishes to get a small drop in the morning, a glass in the middle of the day, two tumblers after dinner and a tumbler going to bed, and he is not willing to take more shall it be offered him.'

This was enough for Sir Charles to have the priest moved on although unfortunately he was not aware until it was too late, that the factor coveted the priest's house and croft and wanted him out!



An illegal whisky still: Morvern was notorious in days gone by for the production of illicit 'firewater'.

Dr John Maclachlan of Rahoy, a brilliant physician and Gaelic bard, and like many others in his profession, was no abstainer and died an alcoholic in Tobermory in May 1874. During his lifetime Maclachlan recognised his own failings and by way of a warning to others composed a fine Gaelic song, 'Di-Moladh an Uisge' miscalling whisky. A translation of the first verse runs: 'My eyesight you slurred it, my clothing are lost to me, just fit for a corner in the poorhouse am I; Oh how can I walk there as nothing will do me, as I am so cranky just over the dram.' The Rev John Macleod, minister of Morvern in 1843, recorded that there were three good inns at Strontian, Arisaig and Glenfinnan and a further four of inferior description. Of these he wrote, 'The best that can be said is that they are necessary evils.' In 1913 the last of the old Morvern inns, the Cameron Arms Hotel, standing near the site of the Lochaline Social Club, was demolished by Gerard Craig Sellar of Ardrornish, because, according to the factor, his men were arriving for their work in the morning in an intoxicated state. For the next 50 or so years Morvern became 'dry' for the first time in 500 years. Iain Thornber.

**Fife man stopped for speeding near Bridge of Orchy admits cannabis and lock knife charges**

BEING found with cannabis and a lock knife resulted in a man from Cupar, Fife being on trial in Oban Sheriff Court this week. Mark Jennings, 52, of 8 Broomhill, Luthrie, Cupar, pled guilty to possessing cannabis, obstructing police by trying to conceal it and speeding at 40mph in a 30mph zone. He further admitted having a lock knife but denied he had committed an offence as he said it had been for use while camping. The court heard Jennings had been stopped by police on the A82 near Bridge of Orchy on January 9 as he was speeding. When police approached the vehicle they saw 'tobacco and drug paraphernalia' and detained Jennings. The court heard prior to being searched Jennings handed over a lock knife and said 'I forgot I had this. I shouldn't have it'. The vehicle was searched by chief inspector Brian Auld who said during evidence: 'There was a duvet in the back seat, I drew the assumption he was sleeping in the vehicle. He didn't indicate he was camping.' Sheriff John Herald found Jennings guilty of possessing the knife. He said: 'The fact of the matter is that this prohibited item was in your possession and you quite clearly stated you had forgotten about it.' Sentence was deferred until April 16.

**Man admits threatening store manager**

A MAN has admitted threatening to 'smash the head in' of a Fort William shop manager after being asked to leave the premises. Fort William Sheriff Court heard Eriks Osipovs was banned from Tesco on the town's High Street after being caught shoplifting last year. Despite this, the 32-year-old tried to buy three boxes of beer on March 10, and when the store manager asked him to leave, Osipovs said he would find out where the man lived and smash his head in, Fiscal Alison Wylie said. Appearing from custody, Osipovs, of 7 Morvern Place, admitted behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by uttering threats of violence. Ordering the Latvian to carry out 50 hours unpaid work, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'People who serve the public have the right to do so without being subjected to this type of behaviour.' Oban woman admits theft AN OBAN woman appeared from custody at the town's sheriff court on Monday for stealing a ring. Donna Duffy, 38, of 2 MacDougall Court, Oban, admitted the offence, which took place at 52c Soroba Road last Saturday. She will be sentenced on April 15.



The Danish media students found a warm welcome in the Highlands. 20\_112danes01

**Danish students capture Kinlochleven on film** A GROUP of Danish media students returned home from Kinlochleven on Monday after spending a week filming in the village. And the young people from Oerestad High School in Copenhagen were bowled over by Highland hospitality during their stay. Per Helmer Hansen, who heads the school's media department, told *The Oban Times*: 'It has been fantastic. We were in London last year to do the same job and it took us three days to get our first interview. 'Here in Kinlochleven it was three hours - the people are very kind, very friendly and very helpful, first of all. 'We have been filming at the local Leven Ales, the boxing club and the Salvation Army. Two of our groups are making a film about being young in Kinlochleven - what opportunities there are and what restrictions there are. 'Other groups went to the local school and everyone there was also extremely helpful. It is such a small school, far away from everything, but they do such meaningful work - which you can see with the camera.' He added: 'We did a lot of filming of local landscapes too. Back in Denmark our highest mountain is only 500 feet - even the smallest hills here are higher than that! 'The young Danes are making seven short video documentaries about the Loch Leven area and its people. When produced, the film clips could boost Kinlochleven's international profile - Oerestad High has a very strong media presence and boasts Denmark's biggest and most professional media department. Anyone wishing to find out more about the film project can email Mr Hansen at phh@oegnet.dk

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**Partnership key to successful event**

THE ORGANISERS of last week's tourism summit on Bute say partnership working helped make the event a success.

Carron Tobin, project manager for Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative, said: 'The success of this year's summit was a direct reflection of the significant levels of partnership working on the day. VisitScotland covered the cost of the catering, Mount Stuart had a team of 36 staff supporting us and transport was provided free of charge by West Coast Motors, CalMac Ferries, Kintyre Express and Portavadie Marina. The summit is an important element of the Argyll and the Isles 'Stronger Together' initiative, which is jointly funded and supported by Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, VisitScotland Growth Fund, Argyll and the European Community and Argyll and the Isles LEADER 2007-13.'

**Morar fisherman released from jail**

A MORAR fisherman accused of sending sexual messages to underage girls has been admonished after spending 37 days in prison for breaching bail conditions by changing his Facebook profile photograph.

Thomas Crawley, of 1 Camus Crescent, was given bail on January 30, but was arrested nine days later after police were informed he had accessed the social networking site despite being ordered not to do so by Sheriff Noel McPartin.

The 27-year-old admitted the breach, but claimed he had been unaware about the bail conditions. He was held in custody while reports were prepared until appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court last Thursday.

Crawley is due to stand trial on April 22 accused of sending numerous text and Facebook messages of a sexual nature to a 13-year-old girl sometime between May 1 and December 18, sending messages with sexual innuendo via Facebook to a 12-year-old girl sometime between October 1 and December 19 and sending another 13-year-old girl numerous texts of a sexual nature on November 11 and December 20. He is also accused of three related charges of behaving in a threatening and aggressive manner by sending the messages. Crawley denies all charges.



**Rainbows, Brownies and guides dance through World Thinking Day**

Dozens of children learned dances from around the world as part of celebrations for World Thinking Day 2013 and raised £113 in the process. Oban District Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Senior Section and leaders enjoyed their time in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls to mark a day of friendship, advocacy and fundraising for girls around the world. The afternoon saw them learning dances from other countries followed by a campfire. Organisers would like to thank Adele Gillies, Claire Firth and Sandra Coles for leading the dancing and singing.

**National tourism group cannot promote without plan**



Stephen Leckie, left, chairman of the Scottish Tourism Alliance with Mike Story, executive director Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative Limited.

**No forward strategy to promote Scotland beyond 2014**

SCOTLAND'S national tourism body is 'finding it tough' to plan ahead after admitting there are no solid plans for marketing the country beyond 2014.

Speaking at Argyll and the Isles tourism summit on Bute last week, Riddell Graham, VisitScotland's director for partnership working, has laid the blame for a lack of planning at the door of the Scottish Government, but says VisitScotland will soon be in a position to talk more on what direction to take in 2015 and beyond.

Meanwhile, Stephen Leckie, chairman of the Scottish Tourism Alliance, has also expressed frustration that the SNP has

failed to deliver a business plan on how Scotland would support tourism should the country vote to leave the union in next year's referendum.

*"We just don't know how the tourism industry in an independent Scotland might look."*

Stephen Leckie, chairman, Scottish Tourism Alliance.

The discussion arose after Stuart Green, senior development officer for economic development at Argyll and Bute Council, asked VisitScotland for details on what is happening in 2014 and beyond so the council and businesses could start planning ahead.

Mr Graham said: 'If you are finding that tough, we are finding it even tougher.'

'This hasn't come from us, it is a Scottish Government initiative we're asked to deliver on their behalf. We need to have a strategy.'

'This is the year of Natural Scotland and we have groups from across Scotland asking

about what the themes are for 2015 and beyond.

'We've had these themed years and there is a view we've had too many but that's not a view represented by groups I was in. 'But by the middle of this year we will have an idea of what is happening after 2014. There are two or three ideas out there.'

Mr Leckie added: 'We just don't know how the tourism industry in an independent Scotland might look. Nobody has the answer to that.'

'What I haven't heard from the SNP is this is how Scotland might work.'

'We need a business plan and facts and they aren't there yet.'

**Taynuilt man found guilty of careless driving**

A DRIVER who wrote off another car and drove off the road to 'prevent a more serious accident' after overtaking a coach has been found guilty of careless driving.

Stuart Reid, of 32 Aldersyde, Taynuilt, had denied a charge of dangerous driving on October 9 last year on the A85, at the castbound approach to Achnacloch Bridge.

Although Sheriff John Herald found the 35-year-old guilty of the offence, he said the evidence did not amount to a dangerous driving charge, instead finding the former student guilty of the reduced charge of careless driving.

The court heard how Reid overtook the 39-foot Alfa Romeo coach, only to be faced with two cars slowing down ahead of the bus, the first of which was indicating to turn right into Achnacloch.

In attempting to evade a collision Reid hit the rear of a Ford Fiesta and crashed into the roadside embankment.

The damage to the Fiesta was such that the roadside rear suspension and wheel were taken off. Reid said he had not seen any indication or brake lights before overtaking the coach. Sheriff Herald commended Reid for taking evasive action once he had realised he could not safely complete the overtake but fined him £350 and endorsed his licence with five points.

**Glenfinnan man denies glass assault**

A GLENFINNAN man has denied throwing a glass at a barman in a Fort William pub.

Appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court from custody, George Archibald, of The Cottage, denied assaulting the man by throwing the glass and attempting to throw a bottle in the bar on March 16.

The 49-year-old was released on bail under the condition he does not enter the establishment. Archibald is due to stand trial on June 4, with a further hearing set for April 24.



Lorn Resource Centre writers, back row: Stuart MacQueen, Janette Black, Mairi Scott and Lorna MacConnell. Front row: Carol Barnett and Kathleen MacDonald. David Gilchrist and Melissa MacFarlane were published but missing from the photo.

**Lorn Resource Centre members' writing published**

MEMBERS of Oban's Lorn Resource Centre have had their writing published in a new collection of literature.

Eight pieces of writing by members of the centre have been published in the booklet Our Journey 6, which is part of and Argyll and Bute Council literacy initiative.

The pieces were originally written for 'My Favourite Place', a project organised by the Scottish Book Trust.

Anne Horn, lead councillor for adult services, said: 'It's great to see Lorn Resource Centre members contributing to national projects and having their work published.'

'The effort and time taken by members and staff to produce

such creative work is recognised. I am sure people will enjoy reading these pieces.'

Lorna MacConnell, one of the writers, added: 'I was delighted. It is the first time I have been published.'

Members were supported in their writing by Lorn Resource Centre staff, the adult literacy co-ordinator Brian Marden and James Watt College.

Copies of Our Journey 6 are available from Lorn Resource Centre, Oban Library and Community Learning offices.

Contributions to the booklet have come from all over Argyll and Bute and, of the 10 submissions from Oban, eight were from members of Lorn Resource Centre.

**New Zealand artist aims for home exchange holiday**

A NEW Zealand couple hope to pay a visit with a difference to Oban by offering a home exchange.

Colin Gibbs and Catherine Lang live on a small holding of eight acres near Hamilton in the North Island of New Zealand, where they have beef cattle, Dorper sheep, chickens, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, quail, pheasants and Ben, a Labrador-Beardie cross.

The pair are hoping to visit Oban and the isles in May or June as Colin, an artist, has been 'intrigued by the Scottish light' since their first visit to the country.

Catherine said: 'He would love to paint in this light, which is so different to that in New Zealand, hence the trip west, and he hopes to complete works and hold an exhibition while he is in the area.'

Colin and Catherine are hoping to find someone who would like house-sitters for at least two weeks - hopefully longer - or who would be willing to rent them a cabin or a room with a place to paint.

Colin added: 'We don't mind isolation and will happily look after animals in a house-sitting arrangement and are comfortable living simply and minimally.'

'We are experienced gardeners and Catherine is a good cook so payment in kind by working for board is also a possibility for us.'

If you'd like to find out more about Colin and Catherine, visit the website for their gallery, the GibbsLang Contemporary Art Gallery, at www.gibbslang.co.nz.

If anyone would like a visit to New Zealand as an exchange, Colin and Catherine would be happy to host them. Their email address is gibbslang@operamail.com.



Colin Gibbs wants to paint in the 'Scottish light'.

**Hotel worker remanded at Oban Sherrif Court**

A HOTEL worker accused of breaching his bail conditions in relation to a rape charge appeared on petition at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Alan Radcliffe, 28, of staff quarters, Portsonachan Hotel, Dalmally, was fully committed and remanded in custody.

**Man jailed after refusing drug search**

A MAN who refused an internal search for drugs after his girlfriend made a malicious allegation to police has been jailed for 60 days.

David Smith, 28, of flat 4, 10 Bedford Avenue, Clydebank, was taken to Oban Police Office on February 19 after his girlfriend told police he had heroin hidden in his body.

Prosecutor Fiscal Eoin McGinty told

the court: 'She told police the accused was in possession of diamorphine secreted in his anus.'

'He was fully searched and nothing was found.'

The court heard Smith was taken to Lorn and the Islands Hospital 'for his own safety'. The following morning he agreed to an x-ray which was unclear.

Defence agent Stephen Macleod said:

'Mr Smith had been in a dispute with his girlfriend who, out of spite, made a vicious and false allegation. No drugs were found on Mr Smith.'

Sheriff John Herald backdated Smith's sentence to February 25 when he was taken into custody. He said:

'This is a serious matter. It involved a lot of people, a lot of time and a lot of expense.'

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**LUING**

LUING Primary School opened its doors for The Big Brew, held on March 7 as part of Fairtrade fortnight.

Linda Leggett had her Fairtrade stall there, which proved very popular. Linda also has her stall at Kilchattan Church on the last Sunday of every month.

Children in the school have been doing human rights as a project and Fairtrade Fortnight offered them a platform to raise money and highlight the cause.

Tea, coffee and baking were enjoyed by visitors to the school, who could also look at their project work and their recent castle models.

**SEIL**

A DECISION on whether to hold a public hearing over a planning application for a fish farm in Seil Sound was expected yesterday.

Argyll and Bute Council planners had recommended the proposal, for 12 cages of 100m circumference plus the installation of feed barge, for approval.

The relocation of the fish farm further south of its existing site at Ardmaddy has gained all necessary licences and the decision rests solely on planning considerations.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency has assessed the proposal and considers it will 'not adversely affect the integrity of the site'.

But the move has attracted much local opposition resulting in the establishment of campaign group Save Seil Sound.

The group claim the fish farm would threaten the environment.

A spokesman said: 'At peak production, the farm would need to house up to 450,000 adult salmon (approximately 2,500 tonnes of fish).

'The resulting massive pollution would threaten the biodiversity in the waters of the Seil Sound and nearby Loch Melfort.'

**MORAR**

MORAR Community Council (MCC) recently met in Lady Lovat Primary School for its monthly meeting.

Among the issues discussed were:

Deirdre Roberts has retired as community council secretary with Tiina Heinonen taking over.

Susan MacMillan from Highland Council's planning department attended to discuss issues in Morar. Concerns included incoherent recent housing developments, possible overdevelopment of scenic areas and perceived inconsistencies in planning permission.

Ms MacMillan assured that a member of the planning department visits each site before a decision is made regarding an application.

The side gate at Morar Cemetery has been removed for repair.

MCC received an



The Barcaldine pupils with Scottish Beaver Trial education ranger Olwen Hemmings.

BARCALDINE Primary School was delighted to have a visit from an education ranger from the Scottish Beaver Trial.

Olwen Hemmings visited the school from Knapdale

**BARCALDINE**

and delivered an educational workshop called Beavers are Back.

The pupils had an interesting morning, learning all about beavers.

Dam They got a chance to feel beaver fur, handle a skull, look

at life-size images of beavers, learn about their diet and even tried to be beavers by building their own dam. The pupils thanked Olwen for coming to see them.

**MORAR**

MORAR Women's Rural Institute members enjoyed a lesson on drawing and shading landscapes by local art teacher Helen Race at their March meeting.

The chocolate brownies competition was won by Christine Haynes, who also won the flower arrangement in a tea cup competition.

Audrey MacEachen was the raffle winner.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday April 18 in Lady Lovat Primary School.

**KILLIN**

A COMMUNITY run retirement home in Killin has paid tribute to the support of locals after rallying to help pay for roof repairs.

Jim Cushey, director of the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home, described the response as 'overwhelming' after an appeal was made to help pay for the essential repairs.

The 10-bedroom care home, which gives preference to those in need who live locally, was bought with grants from the Big Lottery, Stirling Council, Forth Valley Health Board and the Rural Challenge Fund.

Jim said: 'A recent appeal for financial help to carry out repairs to the roof resulted in an overwhelming tidal wave of donations. The amazing response resulted in private individuals handing in donations from £10 upwards. Local clubs, community organisations, fund raisers - all too numerous to name individually - donated. The importance of the home was demonstrated by the local response. Donations were also very generously made by The Gannochy Trust a trust set up to help good causes in the Perthshire area and also The Robertson Trust.'

Governed by a board of volunteer directors and enjoying tremendous local support by tradesmen and fantastic donations, the home employs 15 dedicated carers, with the locally recruited staff seen as the 'backbone' of support.

**LOCHALSH**

THE LOCHALSH branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland, whose funds were low after sending out 30 parcels at Christmas, raised £424.10 at a coffee morning in the Plockton Inn on February 23.

A bingo session in the Navy Club, Balmacara, on February 28 raised a further £330.

A pool and darts competition was held in the Plockton Inn on February 23. Winners were Donald Mackenzie and Lloyd Brockett.

Lochan, the local arts network, presented Birds of Paradise Theatre Company's production of 'In an Alien Landscape' on February 21.

The attendance was disappointing.

Plockton Drama Club (South) and Lochcarron Drama Club (West) will represent Southwest Ross at the Scottish Community Drama Association Highland final on April 5-6 after coming first and second respectively in the district competition.

**LISMORE**

WORLD Book day at Ionad Naomh Mhuig, the Gaelic Heritage Centre, was packed with interesting events for all ages.

Lismore Primary School children visited dressed as their favourite characters which included Harry Potter, The Gruffalo, Little Red Riding Hood, Lightning MacQueen and a cowgirl.

Lorraine King told them the story of the Wee Bannock, Beth Campbell gave them each a cup cake iced with a book and their initials and they were invited to select a gift from the museum shop sale.

The café was busy all day, the shop sales were steady and a world atlas was raffled and won by Freda Drysdale.

The day concluded with a get together in the library where Barbara McDougall had selected readings with a Lismore theme. Readers were Barbara, Freda Drysdale, Margaret Black, Mairi Smith, Mary MacDougall and Lorraine King.

☐☐☐

**INVERGARRY**

INVERGARRY Nursery youngsters raised a fantastic £149 for Marie Curie Cancer Care funds by holding a tea party.

The children decorated 'mini pots of care' and grown daffodils for donations and had made decorated cakes for the teas.

Invergarry Primary head teacher Jane Strachan said: 'It was well attended and the nursery would like to thank everyone for their support.'

**NORTH UIST**

A NORTH Uist woman will share her home baking talents with BBC ALBA viewers in a new series starting tomorrow (Friday).

In 'Fuine' (Homebaking) Mairi MacRitchie will travel the Highlands and Islands to seek out other talented bakers and their favourite recipes.

In the first programme, Mairi makes her way to Barra and meets Mary Anne Ferguson, who is busy preparing cold-tea loaves to enter into the competition.

School-cook Flora Campbell shows Mairi how to make a delicious gingerbread following a recipe that's been in Flora's family for some time.

And in North Uist, Joan MacDonald makes a fruit loaf that's a great way to use up surplus courgettes grown in her garden.

Back in her own kitchen, Mairi bakes some of her own favourite fruit loaves, using recipes that are simple but delicious and that anyone can bake at home.

Fuine, produced by Caledonia TV, is on every Friday at 8.30pm.

**ONICH**

A FUNDRAISING race night for St Bride's Primary School in Onich last week brought in more than £1,303.

All proceeds will go to the school's parent forum to pay for trips, outings, projects, equipment and activities for the youngsters.

Organiser Katie Daynes told The Oban Times the night had gone 'very well'.



Pupils at Roinn-sgoile Ghaidhlig a' Ghearsdain (Fort William RC Primary School) have become peer mediators - the first in Lochaber to do so. The kids have trained to help each other deal with minor disputes such as falling out with friends and arguments in the playground. Acting head teacher Kim Bentley said: 'It will help to improve pupils' self-esteem.' 20, f12peer01

**FORT WILLIAM**

email Keith Read asking the community council if they would make a representation to reverse the decision of moving the dental practice from Mallag.

Following the meeting held in Arisaig where Joanna Hynd assured that NHS will continue to provide the service in Mallag, MCC feel that there is no need to reverse the decision.

A survey regarding the uplift of bulky items was received from Highland Council. Everyone agreed this survey should highlight problems with fly tipping at Tougal car park and some lay-bys at Traigh. The chairman will respond to the survey and highlight that it may be beneficial to provide a skip at regular intervals in the area.

One set of the Christmas

lights and the transformer have now been replaced.

Two planning application renewals were discussed in brief. Concerns were raised regarding recent flooding and possible contamination of the loch from septic tanks. It was agreed MCC wishes SEPA to be consulted further regarding these concerns.

**KILMELFORD**

AN EASTER holiday club for children, featuring stories, games and crafts, will be taking place around Lorn in April.

Showstoppers, organised by the Netherlorn churches along with Hilton Church, Inverness, will be a week full of fun.

The afternoon events are aimed at younger children, from pre-school to primary seven,

and there will also be evenings arranged for older teenagers.

The events will be held in different halls around the area. Maggie Brooks, one of the organisers, said: 'This will be a full week of Easter activities with a different thing every day. 'We didn't feel it was fair to just be in one hall and expect everyone to travel so it will be all over the area.'

There are evening events for older teenagers called Refuel. These will be a drop in youth club and open to anyone who wants to come in.

Maggie is keen to stress that although these events are organised by the church it is a chance to socialise and 'quite different' from a church club.

'It is just something different. It is going to be fun, entertaining and something to do in the

afternoons in the holidays,' added Maggie.

The evening events will be 'very relaxed' and include table tennis, air hockey, music and snacks. 'We're hoping to broaden people's ideas of what goes on in church. There is a spiritual side of things if people are curious and want a glimpse and we're hoping that they might think coming to church could be fun,' said Maggie.

Seven youngsters and three youth leaders will travel down from Inverness and stay in Kilmelford Village Hall for the week with locals providing catering.

The group of youngsters will also have the opportunity to visit Oban during their stay.

The free events will take place from 2pm until 4pm from April 8 until April 12. Craignish Village Hall plays host on Monday, Luing Cullipool Hall on Tuesday, Kilmelford Village Hall on Wednesday and Friday and Seil Island Hall on Thursday.

**RAASAY**

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson is writing to everyone on the Raasay electoral register following the return of shooting rights to island crofters.

Mr Thompson is seeking views 'on the best way forward for the community' after South Ayrshire Stalking agreed a deal with the Scottish Government to withdraw its interest in return for £9,000 compensation.

Edinburgh officials had awarded the sporting lease to the Girvan-based firm after it outbid Raasay Crofters' Association.

Mr Thompson said: 'Maybe this is a good time to consider whether, and this has to come from the wishes of the Raasay Community, there is wider benefit to be had.'

'The community is already looking at buying the forestry estate emulating the recent successful purchase of the forestry estate on Sleat and I would like their views on wider community ownership.'

**GLENFINNAN**

GLENFINNAN Gun Club held a shoot on Saturday March 9 in cold, windy and dry conditions with a good turnout of 16 guns.

Winners: First competition - George Nairn (Fersit); Second competition and Tennent Shield - Ewen MacColl (Corpach); Member's Trophy and Donnie Strang Memorial Quaich - Ewen MacColl; High Gun for the day and Glenfinnan Gun Cup - Ewen MacColl; Double Rise and Dewar Cup - Ewen MacColl. Returning after a four-year absence was DJ.

**CALLANDER**

WORK To repair Bridgend Youth Club's roof has been suspended until new cash can be found.

Fundraising continues apace, however, with text donations continuing and all proceeds from the Spring Gourmet Meal going towards the essential repairs.

The meal will be held on April 13 and will cost £5 to attend. In return, guests will enjoy a five-course meal and live music from local band Stushie.

Capacity is limited to 62 and seats are allocated on a first-come first-served basis. To book, email Stew at stewart@cyp.org.uk. Text donations of £5 can be made by sending CTPT13 £5 to 70070.

**ROY BRIDGE**

MNally joined fellow dog handlers Jessie Mains of Tayinloan (captain), John Casey of Tayinloan and Wullie Stevenson of Whiting Bay.

Nine teams of five dogs took part in the competition, which was judged by J J Templeton of Fenwick. The winning team on 274 points was South Ayrshire.

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# Spotlight ON Mull



## Removal of bus has parents up in arms

PARENTS of school children on the Isle of Mull are up in arms at the removal of the school minibus by Argyll and Bute Council.

Tobermory High School Parent Council is protesting against plans to remove the transport used to take children to extra curricular activities and home from after school clubs.

The bus is based in Tobermory but used by other schools and groups in the area. The council

is withdrawing the service at the end of March as part of recent budget cuts.

Gordon Chalmers, parent council chairman, said: 'We have been told by the council that it is inequitable for us to have access to buses that are not used directly for pupil home-to-school journeys.'

'But what is really inequitable is that island communities and their children are further disadvantaged by a council

which appears not to take our situation seriously.

'There are very few days in the month that after school clubs are not assisted by the bus. The smallest usage is 17 days in the month and there are only 22 teaching days in any month. We have come to depend on this bus.'

The bus is currently used to get children to things like swimming, school sports days, geography trips and home in

the evenings at the end of after school activities.

'This is an end to any extra curricular activities. We have no other option - there is no bus we can hire,' added Gordon. 'It is not feasible for them to expect parents to club together five or six cars to get kids home.'

Alternative transport suggested by the council would be used for taking children to and from school so would be limited in use to between 9.30am and 2.30pm

during the school day. In the new arrangement, the bus must be back in situ at Tobermory by 7.30am - a requirement Gordon says effectively rules it out from being used for after school activities.

He said: 'The bus is driven on a voluntary basis by teachers who take all the children home then go home themselves. They can't be expected to get back to the school for 7.30am.'

A council spokeswoman said:

'The council agreed to remove five vehicles in the fleet as part of the recent budget setting process to ensure all schools are treated on an equitable basis.'

'In an effort to mitigate the impact on the school, staff have been made aware of the availability of the alternative school transport which can be used.'

'In the meantime the school is actively exploring other options.'

## Island police issue speed warning as more drivers stopped in Salen

POLICE on the Isle of Mull are reminding motorists to slow down in villages after another 10 drivers were caught speeding.

Two motorists were also reported to the Procurator Fiscal, one for careless driving and the other for driving dangerously due to excess speed.

Sergeant Mark Stephen told *The Oban Times* none of the drivers ticketed, including locals, were 'even close' to receiving a warning. They had all been travelling more than 40mph with one vehicle travelling at 61mph in the 30mph zone.

He said: 'These offences took place in the Salen area, despite our continued high profile presence in the village. We will continue to carry out checks at this location to educate drivers while keeping the public safe.'

## Proposed fish farm site to be inspected as Scottish Salmon Company appeals

AN INSPECTION is to take place at a proposed site for a fish farm on the Isle of Mull as The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) aims to overturn refusal of planning permission.

Plans for a fish farm in Loch Scridain in the south of Mull were rejected by Argyll and Bute Council last September. But SSC has entered an appeal to that decision and the outcome should be known soon. A site visit by a Scottish Government reporter will take place on April 3.

## Top films come to Tobermory

SCOTLAND'S most famous mobile cinema is visiting the Isle of Mull this week and bringing a quartet of great films with it.

Screen Machine, an 80-seat mobile cinema, is in Tobermory today, tomorrow and Saturday, showing the new Disney animation *Wreck-It Ralph*, Oscar winners *Life of Pi* (in 3D) and *Les Miserables* and *Quartet*.

For full details on screenings and information on how to book go to [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk).

## Bunessan primary pupils organise Grand March to boost school funds

PRIMARY pupils on the Isle of Mull have been busy organising a sponsored walk to boost school funds.

Youngsters from primary five, six and seven at Bunessan Primary School have been arranging a Grand March - with a little help from their class teacher. The event, due to take place tomorrow (Friday) at 1pm, has been organised by the community to enjoy and everyone is encouraged to attend. The walk will be led by the Coastguard vehicle.

## Argyll and Bute MP invited to hear community's fears over 'bedroom tax'

ARGYLL and Bute's MP Alan Reid is to be invited to attend the next meeting of Mull Community Council (MCC) to address concerns over the proposed 'bedroom tax'.

At the last meeting of MCC, concerns were raised that the changes to housing benefit rules could mean vulnerable people in island communities could be out of pocket and may even face eviction if they have a spare room in their home.

The next meeting of MCC is on April 9 at 8pm in Craignure Village Hall.

## Mull and Iona pipers aim for world stage

MULL and Iona Pipe Band aim to compete in the world championships for the first time later this year and is trying to raise enough money to get there.

The band will head to Glasgow on August 18 for this year's World Pipe Band Championships, where it will compete in Grade B.

However, the band needs to raise an extra £4,500 this summer to cover travel and accommodation for the trip.

Joanne MacDougall, band secretary, said: 'We are looking for as much funds as we can get. If anyone is holding an event like a fun day we're happy to come along and play as long as we can put a bucket out. If people want to pay us we can play at weddings or parties, they don't need to take the full band, we can provide a mini band or even just a lone piper.'

Joanne added: 'We are hoping to get a sponsor for the worlds and we're willing to put their name on the bass drum. We are in this to compete and to give the younger members of the band the experience. It is going to be a very big event for them. If we don't get the funding we don't know if we'll be able to go.'

If you are able to help the band through sponsorship, donations or events contact Joanne on 07841 530826.



The children enjoy their re-designed playground.

## Lochdonhead pupils create story glen playground

CHILDREN at Lochdonhead Primary School on the Isle of Mull have been taking charge of the redevelopment of their school playground.

The youngsters have planned,

resourced, gained funding and overseen the development of the area, creating a story glen, based on an old Gaelic tale, Iolaire Loch Treig.

The pupils have worked with

various artists and they are also working with pupils in a secondary school in Harrogate, who are designing wooden story boards based on the Mull youngsters' designs.

'We now have a fantastic imaginative play area, including a willow dome with tunnels, a willow cave and a log ringed area,' said staff at the school.

Lochdonhead Primary would

like to thank everyone who helped fund and construct the project including Mull Forestry Commission, TSL, Trevor Leat and Jen, parents, supporters and Quality Improvement Officers.

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# The 39th Lochaber Music Festival 2013



Fergus Munro's rendition of 'Stars' from Les Miserables won first place in the Premier Vocal Award for the 15 year-old - 20\_f12music02



John Robertson faced tough competition in the brass solo euphonium intermediate level, but won after scoring 86 out of 100 - 20\_f12music04



Sisters Francesca, 12, (left) and Helena Rose, 15, were named junior and senior Young Musician of the Year and are pictured with Lochaber Rotary Club President Sheana Fraser - 20\_f12music03



Tuba player Antony Hook of Lochaber High School was described by adjudicator Alan Fernie as an 'excellent young player' as he won the intermediate level competition - 20\_f12music05



Mallagh youngster Eve Cameron was praised for her 'very clear sound' as she won the strings solo violin secondary elementary - 20\_f12music01



Roy Bridge Primary youngsters' mix of break dancing, costumes and singing proved a crowd pleaser - 20\_f12music06

## The 39th annual Lochaber Music Festival has been hailed a success by organisers

Around 500 youngsters took part in a variety of musical, singing, poetry recital and dancing competitions over the five day event at venues in and around Fort William.

Festival secretary Ian Strachan said all the performers across the week had produced a 'tremendously high standard' of recitals.

He told The Oban Times said: 'It went really well, the standard was really good. We had some really positive feedback from the adjudicators, and not just for the standard of playing but also of the way the whole festival went and how all the competitors behaved.'

'It's hard to say if the standards across the festival as a whole are getting better, but we've got quite a lot of young players coming forward and the performances in the premier competitions were fantastic.'

The festival's main prizes were handed out in Lochaber High School last Tuesday, where some of the top performing youngsters played for an appreciative audience.

A pair of Roy Bridge sisters took home two of the top prizes – the junior and senior Young Musician of the Year. Helena Rose, aged 15, dazzled the audience for the senior award by first performing a 12 bar blues on the violin and playing two songs.

Adjudicator Rachel Greenwood described her performance as a 'marvellous, varied recital'.

Helena's younger sister Francesca, aged 12, had earlier impressed the adjudicators in the junior competition, playing pieces by Bach, Shostakovich and Bazelaira on the cello.

Helena also picked up the Premier Instrumental Award.

Fergus Munro's performance of 'Stars' from Les Miserables earned him first place in the Premier Vocal Award competition – the second time in three years the 15 year-old has won the prize.

### The 39th Lochaber Music Festival 2013

#### TROPHY WINNERS:

Premier Instrumental Award - Helena Rose; Premier Vocal Award - Fergus Munro; Premier Scots Traditional Award - Hannah MacRae; Lochaber Young Musician of the Year Award (junior) - Francesca Rose; Lochaber Young Musician of the Year Award (senior) - Helena Rose.

DCB Maitland Memorial Quaiha (singing) - Cadenza; Mary MacPherson Memorial Cup (action dramatised song) - Banavie Primary 4/5; John MacDonal Memorial Trophy (primary age choirs) - Banavie Primary School Choir; Saitire Award (choir, Scots song) - Strontian Primary 4-7; Maitland Piano Trophy (solo, set pieces) - Walter Baak; David CB Maitland Award (Piano solo 17 and under, own choice) - Carys Bilton; Lochaber Music School Junior Trophy (string solo under 8) - Liberty Kerr; Lochaber Music School Primary Trophy (strings solo) - Mya Horn; Lochaber Music School Secondary Trophy (solo violin/viola) - Caitrin Edmond; Jean Cameron Cup (solo cello, secondary) - Francesca Rose; Lochaber Music School Trophy (strings solo, open) - Helena Rose; Russell String Duets Trophy - Eleanor Bell and Alice Gray; Elizabeth Findlay Memorial Trophy (Scots violin solo age 17 and under) - Rhona MacKintosh; Chamber Music Groups Trophy (strings) - LMS Braes Trio; Lochaber Strathspey and Reel Society Trophy (fiddle group, under 18) - Sgoil Chuil Lochabair; The Thomson Trophy (string ensembles) - Lochaber Schools Junior String Orchestra; Mr and Mrs R Tatler Recorder Trophy (solo) - Maddie Lennon; Moyra M MacGregor Memorial Trophy (woodwind solo, intermediate/advanced) - Natalie Brayshaw and Caitrin Edmond; Millennium Woodwind Trophy (performer showing most potential) - Caitrin Edmond; Silver Jubilee

Trophy (group music making, instruments only) - Invergarry Primary 4-7 and Spean Bridge Primary 4/5; Margaret Adam Memorial Silver Quaiha (group music making, instruments and voices) - Spean Bridge Primary 2/3; JRG Bruce Trophy (brass beginner/elementary) - Kayleigh Howden and Mairi Bell; John Whyte Trophy (brass solo intermediate/advanced) - Sarah Johnson; Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy (woodwind or brass ensembles) - LCWB Brass Ensemble and LCWB Woodwind Ensemble; Lydia Jackson Trophy (clarsach solo) - Syeda Chowdhury; John Tague Memorial Cup (accordian solo) - Liam Stewart; Lochaber Cup Chanter (age 10 and under) - Archie Clark; William MacLeod Trophy (chanter solo, 11 and over) - Clare MacLellan; Kenny Nicholson Memorial Trophy (bagpipe solo novice march) - Martin MacKinnon; David MacGregor Cup (bagpipe solo (Intermediate March) - Wallace Dempster; Archie Kennedy Memorial Trophy (bagpipe solo, 15 and under march) - Rona Nicholson; Alexander MacDonald Cup (bagpipe solo, 15 and under strathspey and reel) - Rona Nicholson; Evan MacRae Trophy (bagpipe solo, piobaireachd 1st year) - Ruairidh Shaw; Lochaber Piping Society Trophy (bagpipe solo, piobaireachd 2nd year) - Finlay Cameron; John MacCallum Memorial Trophy (bagpipe solo, piobaireachd 4th year) - Ally Weir; Lochaber Pipe Band Trophy (bagpipe solo, 18 and under jig) - Rona Nicholson; Alec MacDonald Memorial Trophy (bagpipe quartet, 18 and under) - Lochaber Pipe Band Quartet; Val Howland - Cairney Trophy (solo verse age 8 and under) - Jake Sessions; Solo Verse Speaking Trophy (age 9 and 10) - Kathleen Rigby; Caol Community Council Shield (verse speaking, 11 and over) - Lewis MacRae; Marshall and Pearson Trophy (choral verse

speaking) - Fort William Primary 1-7; Church Guilds' Trophy (bible reading and dramatisation) Lochside Primary 1/2; Bible Reading Awards (age 8-9 and age 10-11) - Struan Stephen and Liam McCrimmon; Lochaber Burns Club Awards (poetry) - Natalie Burns, Stuart Petrie and Lewis MacRae; Lochaber Burns Club Awards (solo singing) - Amelia MacFaggart, Kevin Cameron and John Duncan Clark; Kilmallie Country Dance Club Trophy - (endeavour) - RSCDS Lochaber (age 8 and under); Margaret Rankin Memorial Trophy (Scottish country dancing age 18 and under) - Nether Lochaber SCD Club (12 and under); Junior Organisations Trophy (Scottish country dancing age 10 and under) - Nether Lochaber SCD Club (10 and under).

**RESULTS FROM MONDAY MARCH 18 TO WEDNESDAY MARCH 20**

**Vocal**  
Girls 7 and 8: 1, Aine O'Rua, 2, Karyn Black, 3, Laura Robertson; Girls 9 and 10: 1, Amelia MacFaggart, 2, Molly Gregory-Beard, 3, Eleanor Bell; Girls 11 and 12: 1, Stephanie Hume, 2, Eilidh Munro; Girls 13 and 14: 1, Charlotte Lawson, 2, Sarah Johnson, 3, Fergus Munro; Boys 15 to 17: 1, Fergus Munro, 2, Kevin Cameron. Song from a Musical, Secondary age: 1, Annabel Brayshaw, 2, Heather Millar, Burns Song - Girls Under 12: 1, Amelia MacFaggart, Burns Song - Boys 12 to 14: 1, John Duncan Clark, Burns Song - Boys 15 to 17: 1, Kevin Cameron. Solo Scots - Girls under 12: 1, Karyn Black, 2, Molly Gregory-Beard, 3, Eilidh Munro. Solo Scots - Girls 12 to 14: 1, Charlotte Lawson. Vocal Duet 12 and Under: 1, Molly Gregory-Beard and Amelia MacFaggart, 2, Heather Millar and Jasmine Webb, 3, Jo Barr-Moir and Ciara Muir. Adult Folk Group: 1, Cadenza. Gilbert and Sullivan - Duet,

Trio or Quartet: 1, The Red Hot Toddlers. Vocal Ensemble (unconducted) 5 to 16 Voices: 1, Glengarry Singers. Action Dramatised Song - 1/2/3 Teacher Schools: 1, Roy Bridge Primary 2-4, Action Dramatised Song - Age 8 to 12: Banavie Primary 4/5. Singing Games - Age 7 and Under: 1, Spean Bridge Primary P1/2. Choirs, Primary age, Age 12 and Under: 1, Banavie Primary, 2, Caol Primary, Choirs, Primary age, Hymn singing: Lochside RC Primary 5/6. Saitire Society (Scots Song) - Primary Age: 1, Strontian Primary 4-7, 2, Caol Primary 7.

**Piano**  
Beginners - set piece: 1, Walter Baak, 2, Ben Muir, 3, Oliver Muir. Elementary - set piece: 1, Millie Jackson. Age 10 and Under - own choice: 1, Ivan Davies, 2, Joe Lennon, 3, Abbie McFadrigue. Age 12 and Under - own choice: 1, Carys Bilton, 2, Corran Wineberg, 3, Rachel Simmonds. Age 14 and Under - own choice: 1, Hannah MacRae, 2, Syeda Chowdhury, 3, Stewart Cameron. Age 17 and under - own choice: 1, Fergus Munro, 2, Kevin Cameron. Duets 12 and under: 1, Carys Bilton and Rachel Simmonds, 2, Sophie Brennan and Abbie McFadrigue. Duets (15 and Under): 1, Sine MacRae and Katrin Murray.

**Strings**  
Violin Under 8, Beginners: 1, William MacLeod, 2, Mia Descennes, 3, Corra Davies and Anna Gray. Violin/Viola Under 8, Elementary: 1, Liberty Kerr. Cello Under 8, Elementary: 1, Nina Cameron. Violin/Viola (Primary) Beginners: 1, Mya Horn, 2, Kate Leitch, 3, Alice Campbell. Cello/Double Bass (Primary) Beginners: 1, Ivan Davies, 2, Sophie Brennan, 3, Josie Bloom. Violin/Viola (Primary) Elementary: 1, Angus Moss, 2, Rianne Gilchrist, 3, Fergus Fraser. Cello/Double Bass (Primary) Elementary: 1, Tanya MacDonald, 2, Ellie Muthel-Gibb, 3, Georgia Dennis. Violin/Viola (Primary) Intermediate: 1, Ailsa

MacDonald. Violin/Viola (Secondary) Elementary: 1, Eve Cameron, 2, Mel MacKenzie. Violin/Viola (Secondary) Intermediate: 1, Caitrin Edmond, 2, Corran Wineberg, 3, Sophie Cameron. Cello/Double Bass (Secondary) Intermediate: 1, Ryan Gunn. Violin/Viola (Secondary) Advanced: 1, Rhona MacKintosh, 2, Solene Cargill, 3, Morven Cameron. Cello/Double Bass (Secondary) Advanced: 1, Francesca Rose, 2, Alice Doogan. Violin/Viola, Open: 1, Helena Rose. String Duet - Beginners: 1, Nina Cameron and Ivan Davies. String Duet - Elementary: 1, Eleanor Bell and Alice Gray. Chamber Group, Intermediate: 1, LMS Intermediate Violin Quartet. Chamber Group, Senior: 1, LMS Nevis Quartet. Chamber Group, Open: LMS Braes Trio. String Orchestra, Junior: Lochaber Schools Junior String Orchestra. String Orchestra, Senior: 1, LMS Senior String Orchestra. Classical Guitar 12 and Under: 1, Caitlin Gilchrist.

**Woodwind**  
Recorder Solo, descant - 14 and Under: 1, Maddie Lennon. Flute - Beginners: 1, Maria Halliwell. Clarinet - Beginners: 1, Carrie Manson, 2, Emily Campbell. Saxophone - Beginners: 1, Molly Cameron, 2, Samantha Rucianeman. Flute - Elementary: 1, Stephanie McKenna, 2, Sian Angus and Caitlin Gilchrist. Clarinet - Elementary: 1, Dawn MacIntosh, 2, Rachel Simmonds, 3, Lucy Kyle. Saxophone - Elementary: 1, Gregor Linfield. Flute - Intermediate: 1, Natalie Brayshaw. Clarinet - Intermediate: 1, Caitrin Edmond, 2, Corran Wineberg. Saxophone - Intermediate: 1, Kevin Cameron. Woodwind Duets - Beginners: 1, Walter Baak and Fraser Anderson. Woodwind Duets - Elementary: 1, Fraya MacDonald and Carly Smith. Woodwind Duets

- Intermediate: 1, Caitrin Edmond and Corran Wineberg. Woodwind Ensembles - Elementary: 1, The Treble Clefs. Woodwind Ensembles - Open: 1, Lochaber Community Wind Band Woodwind Ensemble.

**Brass**  
Cornet/Trumpet - Beginners: 1, Kayleigh Howden, 2, Jo Barr-Moir and William Landsborough. E flat Horn - Beginners: 1, Rachel Cameron and Precious Okeke. Trombone - Beginners: 1, Liam MacDonald, 2, Polina Ijina, James Thomson and Michael White. Cornet/Trumpet - Elementary: 1, Mairi Bell, 2, Jochem Baak, 3, Cameron MacDonald and Natasha McGhee. Cornet/Trumpet - Intermediate: 1, Sarah MacIntyre and Annabel Brayshaw, 3, Ewan Anderson. E flat Horn - Intermediate: 1, Rebecca MacDonald, 2, Martin Connoughton. French Horn - Intermediate: 1, Siobhan Cameron. Euphonium - Intermediate: 1, John Robertson, 2, Katie Wrigglesworth, Keri Samson and Thomas Findlay. Tuba - Intermediate: 1, Antony Hook. Cornet/Trumpet - Advanced: 1, Sarah Johnson. Trombone - Advanced: 1, Michael Johnson. Cornet/Trumpet - Open: Niall Johnson. Brass Duets/Trios - Primary Age: 1, The UA's and The SMS Duet. Brass Ensemble - Primary Age: 1, The Spean Bridge Trumpet Collective. Brass Ensemble - Open: 1, Lochaber Community Wind Band Brass Ensemble.

**Group Music Making**  
Primary Age 1/2/3 Teacher Schools (Instruments only): 1, Invergarry Primary 4-7. Primary Age (Instruments only): 1, Spean Bridge Primary 4/5. Secondary Age (Instruments only): 1, LMS Junior Traditional Group. Primary Age 1/2/3 Teacher Schools (with voices): 1, Invergarry Primary 1-3. Primary Age (with voices): 1, Spean Bridge Primary 2/3, 2, Banavie Primary School Music Group, 3, Spean Bridge Primary 5-7.

Secondary Age (with voices): 1, Mixed Up And Confused.

**Verse Speaking**  
Girls 6 and under: 1, Zoe Hough, 2, Chloe Reynolds, 3, Elanor Littlewood. Boys 6 and under: 1, Fin O'Neill, 2, James Richmond, 3, Arran Stephen. Girls 7 and 8: 1, Keira Boyce, 2, Sophie Nairn and Rhianna MacCallum. Boys 7 and 8: 1, Jake Sessions, 2, Cameron Fraser, 3, Aidan Nielson. Girls 9 and 10: 1, Kathleen Rigby, 2, Josie Bloom and Siobhan Gordon. Boys 9 and 10: 1, Liam McCrimmon, 2, Fraser MacKintosh, 3, Joe Lennon. Girls 11 and 12: 1, Emily Clark, 2, Rachel Hain, 3, Broiny MacPherson and Emma Watchman. Boys 11 and 12: 1, Lewis MacRae, 2, Fergus Fraser, 3, Ben Johnson. Girls Secondary Age: 1, Maddie Lennon. Poems by Burns - Girls, Primary Age: 1, Natalie Burns. Poems by Burns - Boys, Primary Age: 1, Stuart Petrie, 2, Michael O'Meara, 3, Declan Aitchison. Poems by Burns - Secondary Age: 1, Lewis MacRae, 2, Jane Mustarde, 3, Sian Angus. Choral Verse Speaking - Age 12 and Under: 1, Fort William Primary 1-7, 2, Caol Primary 5. Public Speaking - Secondary Age: 1, Sian Angus.

**Bible Reading**  
Bible Reading, Age 8 - 9: 1, Struan Stephen. Bible Reading, Age 10 - 11: 1, Liam McCrimmon. Bible Reading and Dramatisation: 1, Lochside Primary 1/2.

**Scottish Country Dancing**  
Junior Organisations or Schools - Age 8 and under: 1, RSCDS Lochaber. Junior Organisations or Schools - Age 10 and under: 1, Nether Lochaber SCD, 2, RSCDS Lochaber. Junior Organisations or Schools - Age 12 and under: 1, Nether Lochaber SCD. Juniors, Boys and Girls under 14: 1, Lochaber RSCDS. Scottish Country Dancing - Mixed Non-competitive: Lochaber RSCDS. A Story in Dance: 1, RSCDS Lochaber and Nether Lochaber SCD.



## Caol primary pupils dress up for Red Nose Day

Caol Primary School pupils were among thousands of West Highland children dressing up for Red Nose Day on Friday to raise money for Comic Relief. See Red Nose West Highlands round-up, page 12. 20. f12caol01

## Skye public to get say on sports centre plans

A DUNVEGAN-based group proposing a sports and recreation centre in the village is inviting the public to discuss a feasibility study on the plans.

And North West Skye Recreational Association (NWSRA) hopes the meeting in Dunvegan Castle café on Saturday at 2pm will provide a further boost to the project.

High Life Highland chief executive Ian Murray will give his take on the scheme after playing a role in helping the association work up the concept.

Speaking ahead of the meeting, NWSRA chairman John Hermse said: 'We are excited by the proposition of creating an inspirational recreational wellness hub for multi-sports which serves the communities

## Sheriff's ruling on death collision

A CRASH on the A82 near Glencoe which left two Lochaber men dead was caused by a car partially crossing the centre line, a sheriff has ruled.

Ronald MacPhee, 44, of 7 Gordon Brown Place, Mallaig, and Stewart McGifford, 48, of 166 Kilmallie Road, Caol, both died when Mr McGifford's Ferguson Transport Volvo lorry collided head-on with Mr MacPhee's Fiat Punto at Tom Mor on March 8 2012.

A fatal accident inquiry heard Mr MacPhee's car was almost a metre over the white line, while Mr McGifford had been travelling over the speed limit.

**Blame**

Sheriff Vinit Khurana said the inquest was 'not concerned with apportioning blame.'

He said: 'This was a tragic accident in an unfortunate set of circumstances. The cause of that collision was the Fiat Punto being at least partially on the wrong side of the road.'

'I am not able to determine the reasons for the Fiat being on the southbound carriageway.'

He added: 'The outcome would have been the same had the Volvo been travelling at 40 mph.'

## Morvern trust to handle hydro cash

MORVERN residents have decided, by a two to one majority, that Morvern Community Trust should handle thousands of pounds of community benefit cash from local hydro schemes.

In a count of Highland Council ballot papers on Friday, the trust received 108 votes to 55 for Morvern Community Council, in a 65 per cent poll. Trust chairwoman, local GP Susan Taylor, pledged to hold a public meeting 'in the near future'.

She said: 'The trust was convened after a public meeting and we try to keep our actions as open as possible. For any large grant applications we would go back to the community council.'

Morvern Community Council chairman John Hodgson backed the ballot result. He said: 'I'm all in favour of the money going to the trust. I don't think it's the remit of the community council to handle quantities of money. We are there to handle day to day problems and what can benefit the community.'

# Single mum's five inch anguish over 'bedroom tax'

### Width of spare room means housing benefit will be cut

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk



If Elaine MacNeil's spare room was five inches smaller she would escape the bedroom tax 20. f12elaine01

A FORT William single mum will have to pay the 'bedroom tax' - because a spare room is five inches too wide.

Now Elaine MacNeil will have to find another £45 a month from April 1 after Highland Council wrote to say her weekly housing benefit, which previously covered the full rent, was being cut from £78.16 to £67.22.

Ms MacNeil is one of hundreds of West Highland people in social housing caught by a UK Government drive to cut the welfare bill by penalising tenants for 'under occupying' their homes.

Her Bruce Place flat had only two bedrooms when she moved in with her sons Declan and Campbell, who has severe learning difficulties.

Lochaber Housing Association created a third bedroom out of the dinette so the boys could sleep separately.

The tiny room, which has barely enough space to walk round the bed, measures seven feet five inches across. Six inches narrower, according to Ms MacNeil, and it would be too small to qualify as a bedroom under the new rules.

Campbell, now 13, attends Lochaber High School. Declan, 20, is a third year mechanical engineering student at Glasgow University, who uses the spare room on his regular trips home.

Ms MacNeil, who is a full time carer for her younger son, told *The Oban Times*: 'I think it's completely and morally wrong.

charging me for my son not being here full time.'

She added: 'I phoned the council up and they said I'm in a three-bedroom house with only two of us living here.'

'It's the fact that there's no warning and no explanation is what concerns me. They are not saying the reason they are sending these letters out is for under-occupancy.'

'There is a discretionary fund you can apply to, but that's only for three months at a time.'

'This is no April Fool - this is for real. People have to be aware these letters are coming through the door saying you have to pay the bedroom tax.'

Lochaber Housing Association chief executive Blair Allan told *The Oban Times*: 'The implications of the bedroom tax for the 10 per cent of our tenants affected are serious. It is hard to think of a more iniquitous means of squeezing the incomes of our least well off customers.'

'It is very important that any tenant that is having financial difficulties and struggling with paying the rent contacts us. We can't make the problem go away, but we can make arrangements for tenants to repay arrears by instalments as well as helping them access expert support and advice.'

**NEWSDESK**  
01631 568000

## Crumbling Oban bridge still awaits repair

NEARLY a year has passed since Argyll and Bute Council said it would be replacing a crumbling road bridge in Oban town centre - but it still hasn't completed the design.

Temporary scaffolds were erected on Soroba Lane Bridge in 2011 after the lack of a bridge parapet failed to prevent a man falling into the Black Lynn burn below, injuring himself in the process.

Last April, the authority said it had started designing a £400,000 replacement for the bridge and hoped to start construction by the start of this year, but it has admitted this week the design still hasn't been completed.

A council spokeswoman said: 'We have carried out ground investigation work and structure surveys, and are currently working on designs for a replacement bridge.'

'There will be some additional investigation work to do, but we hope to start work in the sum-



## 70-year old former regimental sergeant major honoured during his Isle of Mull birthday celebrations

A FORMER soldier was awarded the Legion Saltire Decoration of Merit during his 70th birthday celebrations on the Isle of Mull.

Regimental sergeant major, Peter Smith of Dervaig, celebrated his birthday at the MacDonald Arms in Tobermory with his family, friends, and Legionnaire comrades of 569 Squadron, Frontiersmen Yeomanry Regiment Scottish Command.

Peter, an ex-marine and active fundraiser for Help for Heroes, was presented with the award for his outstanding contribution to the 1st Highland Brigade LOF. 3rd Earl Kitchener's Own Scottish & Borders (Light Horse).

## Man arrested after allegedly assaulting girls

A MAN who allegedly assaulted two girls, aged 16 and 17, has been arrested.

The 39 year old is accused of assaulting the girls at lam on March 18 on Argyll Square.

## Police charges follow 999 call

POLICE have charged a 53 year old man after he allegedly dialled 999 and swore at call handlers.

He's been charged with using foul and abusive language and misusing the emergency service.

## Man accused of assaulting a four-year old girl

A 57 YEAR old man was due to appear in Oban Sheriff Court this week on charges alleging he assaulted a four year old girl.

He stands accused of assaulting the girl at around 8pm last Thursday on Rockfield Road in the town.



Natalie Donnelly is in the running for Miss Catsuit Live.

## Natalie sets her sights high for success at Miss Catsuit Live

A BUDDING model from North Connel is to compete in a Highland beauty pageant this Saturday, the Miss Catsuit Live in Inverness.

**Skye**

Natalie Donnelly who now lives in Broadford, on Skye, made the final 20 of the competition after organisers noticed portfolio shots she had posted online.

And the 23-year-old, who works as a waitress at her mother's restaurant, The Claymore, says she hopes success in the pageant will lead to a career in modelling.

Entrants are required to wear a uniquely-designed catsuit, which will be unveiled on the night, in one of three rounds. Swimwear and evening wear sections make up the final competition in Hush nightclub.

Natalie told *The Oban Times* this week: 'Now that I have my outfit organised I am excited, more than anything.'

'I am aiming to finish in the top six but to win it would just be the icing on the cake.'

'Regardless of what happens, it has been a great experience meeting the other girls and a fun project.'

Organiser Julia Stewart, of Platinum Productions, started the pageant last year.

She said: 'Traditional beauty pageants require entrants to pay big fees and there is nothing like this in the north of Scotland.'

'Last year a lot of the girls went on to do television appearances, some were signed by agencies and others did a variety of modelling work.'

**REMEMBER**  
x  
**Easter Weekend Holidays**

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April

Check GP surgery opening times.

If you need a repeat prescription over Easter, order only what you'll need and pick it up in plenty of time.  
Friday 29th March - Monday 1st April.  
Find out more at nhsinform.co.uk

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

FOR MANY, hearing the words 'partnership working' is enough to make the eyes glaze over; a phrase often rolled out by public bodies not willing to take the blame for something that isn't working well.

It's up there with expressions such as 'conversation dialogue' and 're-ablement' - designed to bewilder and confuse rather than actually be frank about the facts.

Reporters have long since become tired with such phrases and consign them straight to the scrap heap when writing stories. They mean nothing, after all.

However, every now and again even cynical reporters are surprised when a phrase such as 'partnership working' is used in a meaningful and accurate way. Nowhere was this more apparent than at last week's tourism summit on Bute, which left many feeling energised and positive about the future.

Organised by Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative, which is rapidly gaining respect across the industry, the event brought together 140 delegates at the spectacular setting of Mount Stuart.

The plan for the day was to help create links between businesses, share ideas and devise plans to make the visitor experience across the whole of the region more enjoyable and, ultimately, more accessible.

While the ultimate goal is simple - make more people come here and spend more money - it is the way in which this organisation is approaching it is not just refreshing, it seems to be working.

At last year's international tourism expo, links were formed with tourism buyers domestic and international alike - all thanks to being ambitious and confident about the product being offered. It could result in thousands more visitors coming to the area in the coming years.

That same confidence and determination not to let the status quo remain has now seen new and actually meaningful links formed between transport providers to make travelling in Argyll and Bute much easier. It's a huge step - but it is just one step.

There is much to be done and many other avenues to be explored. Our culture is still not exploited to its full potential, while our roads remain a bugbear for all but the most relaxed of motorists. But, if this spirit of togetherness continues, there is no limit to what can be achieved.



## Mallaig and the Island of Rum

This week's flashback photograph features Mallaig and the Island of Rum. It was submitted to us by regular contributor Colin Armstrong of Coventry who has an extensive collection of books and postcards. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Piping Competition

AS IN past years, the 2013 competition held in the College of Piping was very successful.

Pipe Major Gordon Walker swept the boards winning all the competitions - the Glasgow Highland Silver Medal and Finlay MacKenzie Challenge Trophy for Ceol Mor, The Oban Times Challenge Trophy for March, Strathspey and Reel, the Angus John MacDonald Challenge Trophy for Horn Pipe and Jig and the Charles Hepburn Rose Bowl as Overall Winner.

The event was compered by John MacPhee, committee member Margaret Campbell presented the prizes and Jeannie Campbell, from the college, was in charge of stewarding.

Results were: Ceol Mor: 1 Pipe Major Gordon Walker; 2 Jonathan Greenlees; 3 Iain Spiers; 4 Finlay Johnston; 5 David Witton. Ceol Beag: 1 Pipe Major Gordon Walker; 2 Callum Beaumont; 3 Finlay Johnston; 4 Iain Spiers; 5 William Geddes. Port Grad-charach/Port Cruinn 1 Pipe Major Gordon Walker; 2 Callum Beaumont; 3 William Geddes; 4 Iain Spiers; 5 Euan MacCrimmon.

#### Ceol's Craic

IN KEEPING with the literary theme taking place in Glasgow at this time of year, the Aye Write Festival, this month's meeting of the Gaelic Club will be Leabhar's Craic and will take place this Saturday, from 11am until late, in the CCA, Sauchiehall Street.

A summary of the day's programme is as follows: 11am-12 noon, reading and activities for children aged 5 to 10 years with Wilma Kennedy. At the same time, for adults, there will be discussion on the new literary journal Gutter. 12 noon to 1pm, readings by Maureen MacLeod, Sandy Jones and Seonaidh Charity and then discussion with Seumas Campbell. 1pm to 2pm, poetry readings with Angus Peter Campbell, Maggie Rabatski, Aonghas MacNeacall and Flora MacDonald. 2.15pm to 3.15pm, a performance of a new Gaelic drama by Maggie Smith. 3.15pm to 5pm A celebration of 10 years of Ur-Sgeul. 6pm to 7.30pm, The life and works of the Paisley Bard with Gillebride MacMillan. From 7.30pm there will be live music with Willie Campbell and this will be followed by a fitting finale to the day with Isobel Ann Martin, Calum Martin and Matheu Watson.

The Ceol's Craic menu will be available in the cafe bar from 6pm-8pm.

#### Easter tour

IT IS part of their course for the Year 2 pupils of the BA Course in Traditional Music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to participate in an Easter Tour and this year they will be performing on Monday April 1 in the National Piping Centre at 7.30pm.

Tickets will cost £7/£5 and will be available at the door. There is no significance in the date of this event for the students on this course are all first class musicians and well worth supporting.

#### Gaelic Drama at the Tron

IF YOU are in the mood for an evening of love, loyalty and loneliness coupled with sex, betrayal and a dash of religion-and murder the Tron is the place to be this coming Wednesday March 27 at either 1pm or 8.30pm.

For those of us with Lewis backgrounds the subject will be one with which we are very familiar, Mac an t-Sronaich the notorious robber and murderer of the 1830s. Tickets are £4.

#### Mod Phaislig 2013

THE LOCAL organising committee of this year's Royal National Mod to be held in Paisley have convened a meeting to take place in the Wynd Centre, Paisley, at 6.30pm on Wednesday March 27.

They hope everyone interested in the Mod will come along to hear the outline plans for the Mod so that they can give their opinions on those plans and how they as individuals may also contribute to what is hoped will be a very successful event.

Surely St Mirren Football Club having just won the League Cup will be a good omen for a wonderful Mod.

#### Diary dates

**Thursday March 21:** Concert with Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, Eastwood Parish Church, 7.30pm.

**Friday March 22:** Glasgow Skye Association Youth Concert, Sgoil Ghaidhlig Glaschu, 7pm. Deoch'n Dorus, Ceilidh Dance, St Vincent Bowling Club, St Vincent Crescent, 8.30pm, £8/£5 at the door.

**Saturday March 23:** Leabhar's Craic, CCA, Sauchiehall Street - see above. Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Ceilidh, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, Partick, 7.45pm. Traditional Music Forum Conference, Royal Conservatoire for Scotland, 11am-6pm.

**Tuesday March 26:** Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72 Waterloo Street, 7.30pm-Ian Bruce and Iain Walker.

**Wednesday March 27:** Mod Phaislig Meeting - see above. Gaelic Drama at the Tron - see above.

**Friday March 29:** Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, Partick, 9pm.

**Saturday March 30:** Scottish Piper's Association, Competition for Amateurs and Veterans, College of Piping, Ottago Street, 10am.

#### Pub scene

TRAIL West will be busy this weekend playing in the Islay Inn on Saturday and the Park Bar on Sunday. On the other nights it will be Nicky McMichan in the Park on Friday and Dodgy Ground on Saturday with the Keelies in the Islay on Friday.

Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.

## Letters to the editor

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#### Fort William needs one-way traffic

Sir,  
What a time it has taken for the penny to drop with Fort William councillors regarding the pedestrianisation of the High Street.

When this was a brilliant idea many moons back it led us to believe the town would be buzzing with tourists and locals shopping in a car-free area.

Just think now how many great wee shops have closed as the car-free High Street lost business. A few coffee shops and food outlets can never make up for what we lost.

I trust by now councillors have a better idea of what a town needs - and Fort William definitely needs one-way traffic.

**J R Reid, Rowanlea, Strontian.**

#### Small number of passengers

Sir,  
You report there has been a significant increase in passenger numbers at Oban Airport for the past year to more than 3,200.

If correct, this seems an incredibly small number of passengers to justify an airport.

You have not given us the other important figure; namely what has it cost the taxpayer to run the airport for this period?

**Professor Colin Davidson, Ardrern.**

#### Oban Airport vastly underused

Sir,  
Passenger figures for Oban Airport in 2012 are declared by Tom Eddleston to be 3,224. Airport to now work for Oban, The Oban Times, March 14).

This might look promising, but, expressed in other ways, these data reflect the fact that the facility is vastly underused.

On average, only nine

passengers passed through the airport each day. Given that traffic will be uneven, it is almost certain that there will be many days when no-one arrives or departs. If daily usage is too severe a scrutiny, the average weekly usage is 62 - a little more than could be fitted into one bus.

In this context, we need to review both why we subsidise the facility and its marketing. Providing for NHS staff transport might be eminently worthy, but we need to remember that emergency cases are, more often than not, delivered directly to and from hospital by helicopter. The air transport of "public body staff" requires a little more understanding and might need greater explanation for tax-payer approbation.

Take out these usages and the average daily arrival/departure of passengers becomes less than four per day - one taxi-full. So, the acknowledgement by Moya Ingram that attention needs to be given to marketing is rather overdue, especially given that the subsidy from public funds is generated largely by mainlanders who will never use the airport.

**Professor Ian Reid, Ardrern Road, Oban.**

#### Move police focus away from targets

Sir,  
On April 1 2013, Strathclyde Police will no longer exist, having been amalgamated into the single Scottish Police Force.

Strathclyde Police is to be commended for the excellent work it has done over the years, particularly in relation to fighting the drug and human trafficking trade.

The force's work in the field of anti-social behaviour and, in particular, domestic violence has been exemplary and an example to other forces throughout the world on how to tackle these issues.

My concern, however, is that all the excellent work it has

done is being ruined by its target driven culture as, judging by the calls I get, it has succeeded in alienating the public - its core supporters - by the blanket issuing of fixed penalty tickets.

We have an excellent police chief and officers in Strathclyde, however, the fact that centrally based targets referred to in police speak as Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are and did arguably dilute an individual officer's ability to exercise the discretion between giving a fixed penalty ticket or a warning, have resulted, in my opinion, in a divide appearing between ordinary members of the public and the police.

One can only hope that the first item in the in tray of the new Scottish Police Authority will be to review the key performance indicator culture in relation to fixed penalty tickets and ensure it does not become the working norm of the new single Scottish Police Force.

**Fred Hall, Councillor Ward 4, Oban South and the Isles.**

#### Good job on Portnahaven handrail

Sir,  
I welcome the very successful campaign by the SWRI ladies of Portnahaven to replace the handrail in the village.

Thanks must go to the local community and to The Oban Times and The Campbeltown Courier for bringing this story to light and I am glad the council has come to the correct decision on this matter.

**Alastair Redman, Islay community councillor and Portnahaven postmaster, Isle of Islay.**

#### Spend money on keeping people on islands

Sir,  
In recent reports on St Kilda being a world heritage site, I often wonder where people come into the wildlife or indeed any other equation.

Millions are being spent on buildings and museums - presumably the reasoning being to conserve everything except our indigenous human populations!

At the time of Kilda being evacuated or whatever you all like to term it, the same organisations did not give a monkey's about the people - only that it would be easier and less hassle all round to put them on a boat to somewhere else.

The very same thing is happening in our communities today, but the emphasis is not on retaining those communities by investing or introducing industry so that families can have incomes and be able to stay there.

Oh no! Lets spend and spend on museums, heritage centres, conservation areas, and any other silly do-gooders' idea of an arty nature, but let's please not spend on the indigenous communities! This is exactly what's happening.

Right now, there is talk of

building a £12 million music/heritage centre in South Uist, while meantime everyone I hear from consistently want roads repaired or ditches drained of floods.

Or an increase in the winter fuel allowance, because as we have heard recently, the electricity is going up again this year in spite of power companies making ever increasing profits.

Really, get a grip guys. Less on birds, heritage centres and museums that are keeping the dead alive. What's needed is keeping the living alive and on the islands!

Do more on roads and with families that are barely surviving and with less and less prospect as the years go by of obtaining regular employment, whether that be fishing, due to conservation, construction, due to the tendering strategy, or anything else.

**Angus Campbell, Garrynamonie, Isle of South, Uist.**

#### Rest and Be Thankful must be sorted properly

Sir  
The emergency relief road at the Rest and Be Thankful has been completed, at last, six months behind schedule.

This is a step in the right direction, but work should be going ahead quickly on a proper solution.

Unfortunately, the SNP Government have only allocated £3 million towards a permanent solution, even though their consultants advised them that the cheapest solution would cost about £10 million.

I have written to the Scottish Transport Minister complaining about this and urging him to allocate the full £10 million now so that this vital work can go ahead quickly.

**Alan Reid MP, 95 Alexandra Parade, Dunoon.**

#### Better use of taxpayers' money required

Sir,  
The letter in last week's edition from MP Alan Reid suggested the Council Tax freeze is the reason for all the country's financial problems.

Mr Reid is talking nonsense on this issue.

The Council Tax is about the only tax which hasn't gone up over the years, and well done to the SNP for giving ordinary people a wee respite in difficult times.

People pay enough tax as it is, on top of rent or mortgage payments, not to mention the cost of living being above inflation.

If Mr Reid is keen to claw back more money for councils to spend then he should ask Central Government to cut the obscene amount it contributes to the EU Budget annually or the billions given to 'International Development' countries which have no problem buying weapons for war.

I have no political affiliation to any Party, only a wish to see better use of taxes being spent.

**Peter Laing, Lochgilphead.**

## Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

THA CUIMHNE AGAM bliadhnaichean air ais nuair a bhiodh tagraidhean chun an Rìghaltas neo an Roinn Eòrpa a' sireadh taicean sònraichte airson leasachadh eaconamach air Ghàidhealtachd, a' cleachdadh faclan mar 'an eileamaid easbhaidheach' (the deprivation factor).

Gu ìre, 's ann bhon aon seòrsa feallsanachd a thàinig lomairt aig an Oir bliadhnaichean an dèidh sin, ged a bha an iomairt sin a moladh barrachd coluadar agus co-obrachadh eadar buidhnean poblach ann a bhith a' libhrigeadh sheirbheisean, gu h-àraid anns na sgìrean iomallach.

Agus ged a thàinig bliadhnaichean a' dol seachad agus innleachdan mar eadar-lìon is post-dealain a' cruthachadh dhrochaidean cudromach eadar daoine air feadh an t-saoghail, a dh'aindeoin sin tha agus bidh na sgìrean air an oir iomallach.

Chan eil an t-astar rathaid eadar Dùranais Chataibh, neo eadar Gleann Dail an Eilein Sgitheanaich agus mar eisimpleir Glaschu dol a dh'fhàs dad nas giorra! Agus bidh gnòthaichean ann a chiallaicheas gum feum daoine bho àm gu àm siubhal chun nam bailtean mòra.

Agus theagamh fìu 's nas deataiche buileach, tha goireasan bith-beò a dh'fheumar fhaotainn chun nam bailtean iomallach sin gach latha.

Tha sin a' ciallachadh gum bheil feum air rathaidean a cheadaicheas na seirbheisean sin a libhrigeadh anns an dòigh as sgiobalta agus as saoire agus ged nach gabh argamaid a dhèanamh airson rathaidean dùbailte dha gach oisean, chan eil teagamh nach eil Iain Mac a' Mhaoilein, Stiùiriche Caidreachas Ghnìomhachasan Bhreatainn ann an Alba, ceart ann a bhith ag ràdh gum bheil feum air leasachadh a dhèanamh air an A9 mar am prìomh shlighe eadar tuath agus deas.

Chan eil e luath gu leòr a bhith a' coimhead ris an rathad sin a bhith dùbailte ann an 2025 mar a tha an Rìghaltas a' gealltainn aig an ìre seo agus mar a tèid sin a thoirt air adhart mòran nas sgiobalta, dh'fhaodadh a' Ghàidhealtachd iomadh cothrom leasachaidh is cosnadh ùr a chail.

Gun teagamh, tha sin gu bhith cosgail ach air an làimh eile, tha feum air cosnadh agus far am bi daoine ag obair chan eil iad a' tarraing shochairan agus tha iad gu bhith a' pàigheadh chisean agus a' cur ris an eaconamaidh. Agus feumar cuimhneachadh gum bheil na rathaidean is na goireasan còmhdaidh de gach seòrsa deataimh ann a bhith a' leigeil le luchd-turais siubhal chun nam coimhearsnachdan air an oir, mar sin a' cur ri beartas na dùthcha.

Tha na dearbh argamaidean fìor a thaobh seirbheisean plèana dhan Eilean Sgitheanaich.

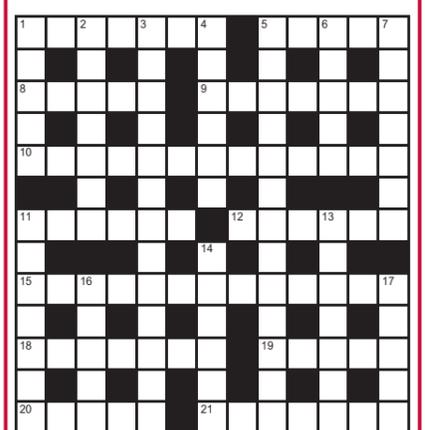
CBI DIRECTOR Ian Macmillan was right to urge the Scottish Government to speed up the dualling of the A9 which is a main link between the north and central Scotland.

While this will be costly the economy needs employment, and the Highlands and Islands risk increasing economic and social setbacks under current Government plans to complete dualling of the A9 between Perth and Inverness by 2025.

Efficient transport infrastructure is as critical to the economic future of the north as to other parts of the country!

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Across</b>                         | <b>Down</b>                              |
| 1 Shoe leathers (7)                   | 1 Projections in the small intestine (5) |
| 5 Bird on a building site? (5)        | 2 Sweet white wine (7)                   |
| 8 Flower colour (5)                   | 3 Open to disapproval (13)               |
| 9 One of two? (7)                     | 4 Subdivision (6)                        |
| 10 Unable to be kept up (13)          | 5 Fight back (13)                        |
| 11 Action to keep one moving (6)      | 6 Go off script (2-3)                    |
| 12 Forcefully (6)                     | 7 Plead (7)                              |
| 15 Cannot compete (13)                | 11 First (7)                             |
| 18 Entertainer at the circus (7)      | 13 Get it off your chest (7)             |
| 19 Bridal path (5)                    | 14 Pure (6)                              |
| 20 Short form addressed person is (5) | 16 A horn (5)                            |
| 21 With enthusiasm (4,3)              | 17 Correct text (5)                      |

Last week's solution

P	N	T	M	S	E
C	O	P	I	E	R
O	T	I	M	A	I
S	L	E	W	N	E
I	I	S	U	S	I
D	E	N	T	A	T
O	R	I	Y	U	O
U	V	U	L	A	S
I	O	A	U	E	
O	R	I	G	I	N
O	G	G	E	A	A
A	N	T	I	C	S
S	A	T	E	O	S

NEWS DESK  
Direct  
Tel: 01631 568060



# Oban born artist's fame and fortune Down Under

Gallery star Euan Heng rarely recognised on home turf

HE IS an artist whose works sell for tens of thousands, he has been exhibiting for decades and his paintings are held by museums.

Euan Heng was born in Oban - but does anyone here know that name? Heng, 67, has worked mainly in Australia since the late 1970s where his art has made him a familiar name in galleries.

Since 1973 he has held 35 solo exhibitions in Australia, Scotland and Italy and participated in more than 70 group exhibitions in Australia and internationally.

His work is represented in public and university museum collections in all states of Australia and in Scotland.

Illustrated essays, articles and reviews on his work have been published in all major Australian newspapers and fine art journals.

But the man, who left Oban while he was still a baby, is rarely recognised on home turf. Euan Heng was born to Horace Raymond Heng, known as John, and Margaret McGowan Watt in Oban in 1945.

The family lived at 34 Beecroft Road in Dunstaffnage, during which time John, now aged 94, volunteered to work at the HMS Floating Dock 19, Dunstaffnage.

He had previously worked as a ship's engineer in the Mediterranean, North and West Africa and North Atlantic convoys during the Second World War.

By FAITH ORR  
forr@obantimes.co.uk

He survived the bombing and sinking of his ship the *Faraday* in the Irish Sea on its way to West Africa in early 1941.

Heng's mother Margaret sadly passed away in 2012, at the age of 90. She grew up in Anniesland, Glasgow.

He said: 'Her father was a coal miner and her mother in service. She met and married my father in 1941 and by 1942 with a child (my older brother) in tow began a life between Glasgow and London during the blitz and ended the war years in Oban when my father was posted to the naval dockyard at Dunstaffnage.'

**Estate**

'Following the war's end my parents moved to the mining village of Bothwellhaugh, on the opposite side of the upper Clyde to the Duke of Hamilton's estate, in 1946/47 to stay with my grandmother before finally and permanently settling in Bellshill, where my other brother and two sisters were born.'

'In later life my mother became a barmaid then the manager of a pub.'

Heng was schooled at Belvidere Primary School and Bellshill Academy but found his days there 'truly boring' and left the moment he turned 15 - the day after his birthday to be exact.

'I first worked at the Glasgow Iron and Steel Company but that didn't last long and then

went to live and work on a farm in Kirkcudbrightshire in Galloway,' said Heng. 'That was an interesting experience but I very quickly moved to London. Although I loved London, the city proved much too problematic for a 15-year-old on his own and by 16 I was at sea.'

'I sailed first as a cabin boy on the Orient Liner *Orsova* on the Far East, Australian and North American mail run.'

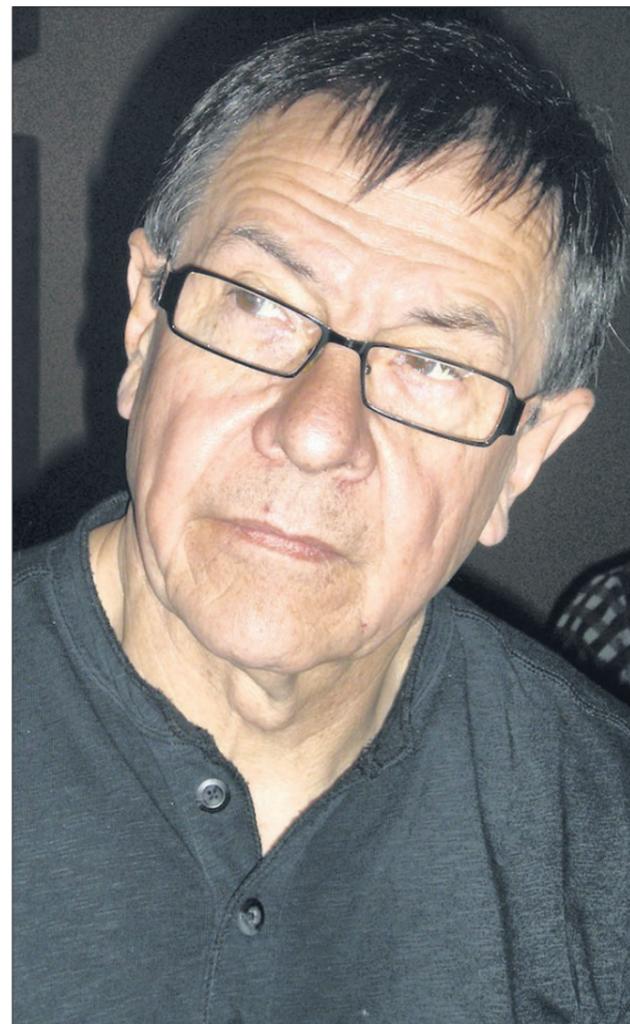
'I also sailed on her sister ship *Oronsay*. I made a single trip on the Union Castle Liner *Stirling Castle* to South Africa but hated it because of apartheid and in particular as a Eurasian.'

'I also worked for Naess Denholm on the sulphur tanker *MV Naess Texas* trading between Holland, Louisiana and Texas.'

'Following my marriage I returned to sea to work for Donaldson Black Brothers of Glasgow on the *Lismoria*, a cargo passenger vessel trading between Scotland and Canada, and my last ship was the *Corinaldo*, a 'fridge-boat' trading between London, Rotterdam and South America.'

'It was these years as a merchant seaman that gave Heng his love for Australia which would eventually see him move his family to the country.'

'I was married in 1965 to Catherine, nee Nugent, and two children followed - Lindsey and Audrey. I finally came ashore at the end of 1967, the year Audrey was born, and began preparing for art school.'



Euan Heng.

'I completed undergraduate and postgraduate studies at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee, between 1970 and 1975 and began lecturing at Clackmannan College of Further Education the same year,' added Heng.

'I had visited Australia on a number of occasions as a merchant seaman and liked it, particularly Sydney. My wife's parents had emigrated here in 1969 and settled in Canberra.'

'In 1977 we migrated with our two daughters to be near my wife's parents. Our plan was to

stay for five years and return to the UK with overseas experience but after a few years that idea appeared to evaporate.'

During the last 35 years, Heng has lived in Canberra, the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales and regional Victoria. He has lived in Melbourne since 1996.

**Qualifications**  
Heng has many art qualifications under his belt including a Research MA from RMIT University, Melbourne. He currently holds the position of adjunct associate professor

in fine art at Monash University, Melbourne. Euan Heng has participated in visiting artist/lectureships and residences in Australia and overseas including the Australia Council Residency at the British School at Rome in 1999 and a Royal Scottish Academy Residency for Scotland in 2010. In 2004 he received the Australian Council for University Art and Design Schools Distinguished Research Award.

The largest price fetched for one of Heng's works is almost £40,000.



Momento, a neon created in 2011.



Equilibrium, an oil on linen which measures 137cm x 121cm priced at £20,000.

## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

# Twenty years ago

Thursday March 25 1993



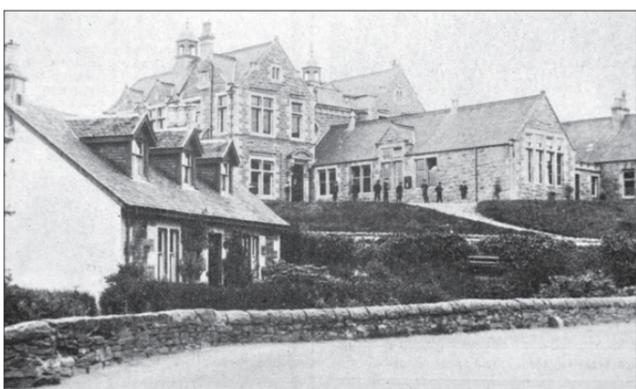
### Highland shinty teams show off their colours

Wearing their individual team colours, representatives of 23 out of the 30 shinty teams affiliated to the Scottish Camanachd Association line up for a picture commissioned specially as part of the association's centenary year which begins in April. t12wenty01

### Oban High School - the first 100 years

THE CENTENARY of Oban High School has been celebrated over the past few months and now commemorated in the publication of Oban High School - the first hundred years.

The 240-page book is edited by Dr Robert Reid who was both dux of the school and its captain in the mid 1950s.



An early view of Oban High School at the turn of the century, with the original Burnside Cottage adjacent to it. t12wenty05

### Jessie's 52 years' service to RSSPCC rewarded

Right: Fifty two years' service to the Oban and District Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was recognised when past secretary Robin Banks and chairman Angus Gillies visited Jessie Campbell at Abbeyfield House and presented her with flowers for her dedication. t12wenty02



### Lochaber festival's 19th year

Crowds packed into performances at Lochaber's 19th music festival. Judge John Burgess is pictured with Kirsteen MacColl (front), winner in the 13 and under chanter competition at Lochaber Music Festival. Also in the picture are Peter Cameron who was second and third placed Pamela Ferguson. t12wenty03



### No way through!

Oban Saints striker Andy Wilson - white jersey - tries an unorthodox method of getting past his marker during Saturday's Premier League match against Hamilton at Glencruitten. Unfortunately the Keyline-sponsored local side turned in another disappointing performance, losing 5-0. They will have to perform better this weekend when they travel to take on league leaders Clydebank College. t12wenty06

# RED NOSE DAY



Pupils at Kilchuimen Academy raised a total of £100 for Comic Relief on Friday. An inter-house relay race between Scotia and Caledonia to complete the length of Loch Ness on rowing and cycling machines organised by the geography teacher Mr Ross raised £46.95. There was a great pupil turnout and all who participated in the event did very well. A separate fundraising collection, organised by pupils Becky Hodson, Shannon Hosie and Chemistry/Guidance teacher Mr Munro raised £53.05. f12kilchuimen1no



Lochaber Rugby Club youth section enjoyed a Red Nose Fun Day at Banavie on Saturday – and treated coach Gary Hendrie to a few wet sponges! As well as rugby training, players and coaches and kids came along in fancy dress and paid £1 for the privilege. Community coach Laura Davies painted rugby balls red and organised fun games for the boys and girls. Homebaking, tea and coffee was sale in the clubhouse for their families and friends. 20\_f12rugby01



The Red Nose Day appeal at Ballachulish Primary School, including both the English and Gaelic nurseries raised £620. The school hall was full of stalls in the afternoon and the nurseries had a raffle and their own stalls. f12ballared1no



Childminders Shona Denholme and Nicola Gray led children in Fort William on a charity walk and balloon hunt in aid of Comic Relief. The fundraiser brought in over £250. f12nevis1no



P7 pupils at Banavie Primary led the school cash appeal for Comic Relief on Friday and helped raise £300. The children made special on Red Nose Day posters for each class to cover with copper coins, while pupils and staff came to lessons dressed in pyjamas. Sales of Red Nose characters also boosted the final total. Above, clockwise from top left, Orla McDougall, Donna MacLeod, Lewis Clark and Aidan Kane line up for The Oban Times with their classmates. 20\_f12banavie01



PUPILS from Dervaig Primary School were holding up traffic on a recent walk – but it was all for a good cause. The youngsters collected over £230 from passing motorists on Saturday as they carried out a sponsored walk from Tobermory to Dervaig for Red Nose Day. Sponsor money still has to be collected for the event, their third sponsored walk, and the children will let everyone know the final total as soon as possible. The youngsters wanted to say an 'enormous' thank you to all the parents and grandparents who helped and especially to The Bellachroy Hotel who supplied soup and sandwiches at the end of the long walk. f12dervaig1no



Barcaldine and Ardchattan primary schools got together for Red Nose Day with the theme being Red Head Day. Lots of toys, games and books were up for grabs and a cake stall featured a variety of treats. Together Barcaldine and Ardchattan's 20 children raised £93.15. f12barrednose1no



Elgol Primary School pupils turned up for school on Friday really looking the part for Red Nose Day! After fun activities in the classroom, the children enjoyed a Red Nose party in Elgol Hall at 6pm organised by former Elgol pupils Fiona Lamond and Molly Carter. Both girls now attend Portree High School. f12elgol1no



YOUNGSTERS at Tobermory High School raised £1010 for Comic Relief from a Red Nose Day packed with fun filled activities. f12tobermory1no



Primary 2/3 at Upper Achintore Primary, supported by fellow pupils, parents, staff and playgroup raised around £400 for Comic Relief. As well as selling red noses, the children really rose to the challenge by almost matching the height of Ben Nevis at the Ice Factor in Kinlochleven. Demi-Leigh MacKenzie, above, was among those scaling the vertical wall. Class teacher Alyson Hyde said: 'A big thank you to the Ice Factor for helping them get within 300metres of the summit by climbing up and abseiling on the walls.' f12upper1no



Staff at Jewson in Oban helped to build Comic Relief's record-breaking total by using its Charity Trade Day as a fundraiser. A raffle and putting competition took in £202, which will be split between Comic Relief and the company's charity Barnardos. The company also gave away over £2,000 in prizes and thanked Trinity hairdressing and Oban Steakhouse for their generous prizes. Getting into the spirit of Comic Relief were Jewson's staff Rosalyn Holland, Brian MacInnes and Kirsteen Lawrie. 15\_f12jewson01



Kilmuir Primary School and Sgoil Araich pupils took part in a variety of activities on Red Nose Day to raise money and promote the ethos of Comic Relief. Children donated £1 to come to school in their pyjamas and donated money to take part in a big, healthy breakfast which was organised by parents. Sgoil Araich staff led an assembly highlighting work done by Comic Relief in Africa. So far in excess of £180 has been raised. f12kilmuir1no



Kyleakin Primary School's Comic Relief Day fundraiser on Friday featured a 'mad hair day' and the children wearing red clothes. The school and the nursery raised £35. f12kyleakin1no



A BIG hearted 10-year-old girl organised a soup lunch in Connel Church Hall to raise money for children less fortunate than her. Emma Hill, a pupil at Park Primary School, was inspired to contribute to Comic Relief after a discussion in her primary six class. She said: 'I have never really done it before and I just wanted to raise money to help kids in other places.' Emma, who organised the event in a mere two weeks, said the generous help of locals had assisted her greatly – after she had 'gone around asking everyone'. The day was a success with the hall packed with people enjoying their lunch to music and a total of £670 raised. Emma Hill, 10, organised a soup lunch to raise money for Red Nose Day. 16\_f12rednose01



**Gaelic murder mystery weekend at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig**

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig's 40th anniversary celebrations will take a new twist next month – a first murder mystery weekend in Gaelic.

Guests will be invited to the 'wedding of the year' at the college only for events to take a sinister twist.

The event, 'That Wedding was Murder' takes place on April 5-6. College drama artist in residence Arthur Donald is organising the weekend.

He said: 'It will be a great opportunity full of fun, laughter and high jinks in an informal Gaelic atmosphere.'

**Town hosts first netball festival**

FORT William hosts its first netball festival at Lochaber High School (LHS) on Saturday as seven primary teams from Lochaber and Dingwall take to the newly laid-out court.

Events start from 9.30am with a junior tournament and skills session led by LHS pupils. The final will be played around 11.30am.

The main event of the day features Fort William Falcons taking on the Fyrish Flyers from Dingwall in a Highland Netball League encounter at 1pm.

Active Schools co-ordinator Lia Hunter said: 'We are hoping as many spectators come along to the adult match as possible.'

**Runners set for Leanachan Challenge**

THE ANNUAL Leanachan Challenge – a series of cross-country runs through forest trails – will be staged tomorrow at Torlundy.

The race for senior school pupils will start and end at the Lochaber Rural Complex with teams from Glenurquhart, Fort Augustus, Portree, Mallaig, Lochaber and Kinlochleven high schools expected to take part. The event is organised by Active Schools co-ordinator Emma Walters. Highlife Highland in partnership with Lochaber Rural Education Trust and the Forestry Commission.

The challenge is run in memory of the late Professor Peter English, who organised the first family event in 2008.

**West coast FilmG Award hopes**

A GROUP from Comunn na Gàidhlig's West Side of Lewis Gaelic initiative and Ardnamurchan High School senior pupils will attend the 2013 Glasgow FilmG awards ceremony at the Arches in Glasgow tomorrow (Friday) night after being nominated for awards.

The Comunn na Gàidhlig group's short film 'Developing Gaelic in the Community', produced by Shawbost lad Mark Smith, 16, is shortlisted for 'best community project of the year'.

Alex John Morrison and Lauren Anne MacLean, who were involved in the project, are also making the trip.

Mark said: 'I am really looking forward to going to Glasgow and especially to the awards ceremony.'

The film can be viewed on the Shawbost Gaelic Forum website at www.siabost.co.uk.

Ardnamurchan High School's film 'Na Scallops' has been shortlisted for 'Best Drama' while Duncan Foxley has made the shortlist for his performance in 'Criochnachdair'. The school scooped 'best film' with 'An Teacsan a' tilleadh dhachaigh' in 2010. Teacher Colm O'Rua said: 'Here's hoping that Ardnamurchan High can bring back an award to the west coast.'



Local people take in the exhibition at Caol Youth Centre.

**Caol Youth Centre Room 13 portrait exhibition opens**

A NEW exhibition from Room 13 Community Studio at Caol Youth Centre featuring portraits of local people opened on Monday night.

The black and white photos, part of global project Inside Out, capture a range of emotions and feelings to convey vibrancy of local life, equality and community spirit. Young volunteers

took the portraits, which were sent off to Inside Out project HQ in the USA. There they were printed in large scale and sent back to Caol Youth Centre for display.

The exhibition is Scotland's first for Inside Out, which has similar photos displayed in more than 100 countries. Room 13 artist in residence Sarah

Hughes co-ordinated the project with support from Caol Youth Centre Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme volunteers.

She said: 'It's terrific for these young people to be the first to bring the Inside Out project to Scotland.'

'We've had fantastic support from the local community and lots of people volunteered to have their photos taken.'

'The portraits really capture the richness and diversity of the community in Lochaber.'

'I would urge people to go along to one or all of the exhibitions to see these inspiring portraits for themselves.'

Sarah thanked Allround Signs and the Framing Place for their help with the presentation.

**Accused: 'Water was running down the hill and it was red with blood'**

FIVE days of evidence have been heard in the trial of a Fort William man accused of hitting a cyclist while driving at more than twice the speed limit in the town.

Graham Douglas, 29, denies driving his Subaru Impreza dangerously and at grossly excessive speeds of up to 67mph on Lundavra Road and colliding with Andrew MacLeod at the junction with Connachie Road, severely injuring and permanently disfiguring him.

The alleged incident, which led to the lower part of Mr MacLeod's right leg being amputated, happened on March 7 2011.

**Day one – Wednesday March 13**  
EYEWITNESSES spoke of seeing Mr MacLeod's severed leg lying a distance away from him immediately after the crash.

Alan Moir and Carla Robertson, who live near the junction, both said they heard a 'loud bang' and

went outside. Mr Moir, 28, said: 'There was a man lying on the road, his leg was about three feet away from him.'

He said Douglas appearing to be 'disorientated' and was phoning 999 for help.

Miss Robertson, 27, said Mr MacLeod was not wearing a helmet and there was 'quite a heavy flow' of blood from his leg.

Under questioning from defence lawyer Donald MacLeod QC, Mr MacLeod admitted having no lights or reflectors on his bike.

He said he had no memory of the night but the junction was one he would 'normally come to a full stop at'.

**Day two – Thursday March 14**  
GRAHAM Douglas' brother Kenneth - who was a passenger in the Subaru - told the court he thought the car was travelling at around 30mph when it hit Mr MacLeod.

Mr Douglas said: 'We were

driving up the hill and a black thing came out of nowhere. My brother tried to swerve to avoid it but we collided with it.'

'I didn't know what it was until I got out the car and saw it was someone on a bike.'

PC Chris MacLeod was the first officer on the scene and described the damage to the car - the left side of the bonnet was smashed, the windscreen shattered and there was a large dent on the roof.

**Day three – Friday March 15**  
POLICE crash investigator Scott Lemmon said analysis of skid marks and gouges left on the road after the crash showed the Subaru was doing 'an absolute minimum speed of 67mph'.

PC Lemmon arrived at the scene within hours to examine the tyre marks.

He said: 'There is a grass embankment which does restrict the view, but 67mph is 30 metres per second. At that speed the car is pretty much going to appear out of nowhere.'

'The overall picture all ties in with the car travelling significantly in excess of 30mph.'

He added: 'The cyclist must take some of the blame for this because he emerged from the give way junction onto Lundavra Road, but because of the grossly excessive speed the Subaru is grossly more to blame.'

Elvis Stipniks was outside his Lundavra Road flat smoking when the accident happened and estimated the Subaru was travelling at about 60mph.

Speaking through an interpreter, the Latvian said he saw the collision and said he thought the bike had tried to stop after coming down the steep Connachie Road.

**Day four – Monday March 18**  
GRAHAM Douglas described being in shock as he tried to get help for Mr MacLeod.

He said: 'I ran down and the injured boy was there. I

remember shouting for help and speaking to the woman on the 999 call. She told me to take my jumper off and use it to stop the bleeding.'

'Where Mr MacLeod was lying there was yellow lines. Water was running down the hill and it was red with blood. I don't remember ever feeling like that.'

Fiscal Alison Wylie asked him why the car had taken more than 60 metres to stop if he was only doing 30 mph.

He said: 'I was frightened that much I didn't realise what was going on.'

'I have no recollection of braking, I can remember the car gradually coming to a halt.'

Douglas said he has suffered depression, nightmares and flashbacks and is on a waiting list for counselling.

'Sometimes I have a good week with only two or three nightmares; other times it's six or seven.'

The jury heard Douglas passed a breathalysers test after the incident.

**Day five – Tuesday March 19**  
TRAFFIC accident investigator John Marshall doubted the police estimates of how fast the car was travelling, saying the tyre marks may not have been left during braking.

PC Lemmon earlier described the tyre marks as skid marks, and used them to estimate the speed of the car.

But Mr Marshall, a former chief inspector, said they may have been left by a burst tyre rather than caused by skidding.

He said: 'The wheel hit the kerb and is likely to have deflated almost instantaneously.'

'In my opinion none of the marks can clearly be said to be brake marks. They are more likely to be the marks of the tyre moving against the rim of the wheel.'

Mr Marshall said it was likely the Subaru had been travelling at more than 30mph, but could not say by how much.

**First Minister to be keynote speaker at land conference**

FIRST Minister Alex Salmond is to be keynote speaker at Community Land Scotland's (CLS) annual conference on Skye in June.

The event at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on June 7-8 falls shortly after the interim report of the Land Reform Review Group is due to be published.

CLS chairman David Cameron said: 'His attendance symbolises the growing recognition within the Scottish Government of community land ownership as a key driver in regenerating communities. We are already looking forward to what he will have to say.'

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**Rescue team's weather warning**

March 2013 opposite of last year's warm, sunny early spring

LOCHABER Mountain Rescue team has issued a warning to climbers and walkers to take extra care as winter maintains its grip in the run up to Easter.

The call comes after three men were plucked from Ben Nevis early on Sunday after huddling together overnight on a rocky outcrop near the summit in whiteout conditions.

Team leader John Stevenson described the weather on the Ben just now as 'evil' - with March 2013 the exact opposite of last year's warm and sunny early spring.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We would ask people to be very aware that it's still full-blown winter conditions with a lot of fresh new snow.'

'Anybody going up in the mountains needs to be aware of shifting snow in the wind and to check on avalanche conditions before they go out.'

Sunday's rescue operation saw Stornoway Coastguard rescue helicopter fly 18 Lochaber MRT members up the Ben in three relays from 7am.

The team waded through two feet of powder snow carrying

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

heavy ropes to reach the edge above Tower Ridge, where the three climbers, a father and son and a friend from the Central Belt, were marooned.

Mr Stevenson said: 'They had called in on Saturday night to say they were stuck on the top of the Great Tower because they could not do the gap.'

'We told them to dig in for the night because the weather was so bad and went up to them in the morning.'

'The chopper brought us up to 2,500 feet and we walked up to the summit. We lowered three boys down on a rope and they fixed a safety rope to help them get across the gap. They were a wee bit cold - it was -12°C with the windchill - but they were pretty well-equipped.'

Both rescuers and climbers were airlifted out from further down the hill. One of the climbing party suffered mild hypothermia but after examination at the Belford Hospital no further medical treatment was required.



The Grimsay Isle alongside Mallaig lifeboat after being towed back to port on Saturday.

**Three fishermen rescued off Skye**

THREE crew members from a Mallaig prawn trawler took to a life raft after the boat struck rocks at the Point of Sleat early on Monday morning.

Stornoway Coastguard received the distress call from the *Amethyst* at 5am and Mallaig lifeboat and Stornoway coastguard rescue helicopter were launched.

Fish farm vessel *Ronja Pioneer* and fishing boats *Ocean Trust*, *Santa Maria* and *Silver Dawn* responded to the call, while Mallaig Coastguard Rescue Team and the Mallaig Fishermen's

Mission were alerted. The *Ronja Pioneer* recovered the men who were transferred to Mallaig lifeboat. No medical attention was required.

The rising tide floated the boat free and the *Amethyst* skipper, assisted by two lifeboat crew with an emergency pump, brought her back to Mallaig under her own steam. The 15-metre vessel is not believed to be badly damaged.

Stornoway coastguard watch manager Carol Collins said: 'We are grateful to the local vessels that responded immediately

to the *Amethyst's* call for assistance, and for keeping us informed throughout.'

'We would also like to acknowledge the work of the Mallaig Fisherman's Mission, who set up a reception for the three crew men.'

Meanwhile, Mallaig lifeboat launched on Saturday afternoon to tow the *Grimsay Isle* back to Mallaig.

The small fishing boat's propeller became fouled on a rope and got stuck on a rock a mile out of port. Two people were aboard the fishing vessel.

**MSP to vote against same-sex marriage legalisation**

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch SNP MSP Dave Thompson has announced he intends to vote against the Scottish Government's Bill to legalise same-sex marriage.

Mr Thompson sees 'no reason' to re-define marriage as proposed in the draft Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill and will seek to ensure 'certain safeguards' are contained within it. He said: 'I do not believe this is an equality issue, as civil partnerships provide nearly all of the legal rights and obligations of marriage and

can easily be adjusted to make the two forms of union equal in every way, including allowing faith bodies which wish to carry out and bless civil partnerships the right to do so.'

'I do believe that marriage is different to civil partnership which I support. Essentially, it is all about the meaning of a word, a word that means the union of one man and one woman in a committed loving relationship for the procreation of children.'

'On the other hand, civil partnership means

the union of two people of the same sex in a committed loving relationship. These definitions are as equal as it is possible to be but highlight the difference between the two types of union.'

Mr Thompson said limited freedom of speech and freedom of belief. 'There is a real danger that celebrants, teachers, registrars and others will fall foul of the Equality Act 2010 unless there is an opt-out on conscience grounds,' he said.

MSPs will have a free vote on the issue.

**Hinds killed by poachers**

By STEPHEN NORRIS

A LOCHABER deer farmer has stepped up security after two of his heavily pregnant hinds were killed by poachers in a night-time raid.

Kingsley Crawford heard the shots from his house and was on the scene in half an hour - but the venison thieves had gone.

All that remained of the animals, which had been expertly galloched and skinned, were the heads and feet.

Mr Crawford, of Holly Hill deer farm at Leanachan near Spean Bridge, estimates the deer and their unborn calves were worth £700.

Now he is determined to ensure his 100-strong herd of pregnant hinds is not targeted a second time by poachers sneaking up the two-mile single-track road into the forest.

The 55-year-old Northern Irishman, formerly from Derry, told *The Oban Times*: 'I went on to Highland Council and told them I had to shut the road completely.'

'We have had the gates locked and are patrolling the road regularly at night at different times. If I see anything unusual I'll be phoning the police right away.'

Mr Crawford reckoned the herd was probably singled out because the hinds are hand-fed and quite tame.

He said: 'The poachers came through the wee gate and shot them about 50 yards inside it.'

'I think myself they had probably been watching the place for a while.'

'I honestly think they had been waiting for us to put the lights out in the stables about 8.30pm and just sitting there the whole time.'

'There must have been two or three of them.'

He added: 'I had the hinds valued at £350 each because the price of venison has shot up because of the horsemeat scandal.'

'We are quite willing to offer a good reward to anybody with useful information about it. At the very least it might stop this happening again.'

A Northern Constabulary spokesperson said inquiries into the February 18 incident were 'ongoing'.

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# EASTER Activities

**SPRING has finally sprung and Easter is just around the corner. With Argyll gearing up for the start of the tourist season why not enjoy some of the wonderful Easter activities that are right on your doorstep...**

The next couple of weeks offers everything from Easter egg hunts, to holiday camps and fun runs. You could even enjoy an Easter lunch. Keep children entertained by taking them to one of the many fun days taking place. There is a grand march starting at Bunessan School on the Isle of Mull

tomorrow (Friday) at 1pm. Saturday sees an Easter Fayre in Tobermory Scout Hall from 2pm until 4pm. There will be Easter crafts in Tobermory Fire Station on Wednesday, March 27 from 12pm until 2pm and an Easter market in Bunessan Hall on Saturday March 30 from 7.30pm. Easter Sunday and Monday sees a variety of Easter egg hunts on the go with one of the biggest at the Sea Life Sanctuary at Barcaldine. There will also be an Easter bonnet competition and jewellery and craft making workshops over the two days. There is also an Easter egg hunt taking place in Craignure Village Hall, Mull on Easter Sunday from 2pm until 4pm and for the more energetic a fun run is available in Bunessan. If you prefer to spend a lazy Sunday why not pop along to The Pierhouse in Port Appin which is offering three course Easter lunches. To keep children entertained during the holidays there is a camp running in Lorn during April. Activities include stories, games and crafts. The free events will take place from 2pm until 4pm from April 8 until April 12. Craignish Village Hall plays host on Monday, Luig Cullipool Hall on Tuesday, Kilmelford Village Hall on Wednesday and Friday and Seil Island Hall on Thursday.

You'll find plenty of free parking, a warm welcome and a great day out for everyone. A new play park is being installed for children to enjoy as well as the annual Easter egg hunt which runs from Friday March 22, in the country park with its ancient woodlands and magnificent views of Cruachan. The café has barista-style coffees, teas and home cooking along with free Wi-Fi and the shop sells a huge selection of Inverawe produce, with special multi-buy prices. Don't forget to pick up your locals' card to get an extra five per cent off. The shop also stocks an excellent range from the best artisan producers in Scotland to delight all food lovers along with some very special gifts. New this season is a range of country clothing for children. The fly-fishing ponds have been stocked and Inverawe's instructors are on hand to give lessons, with rod hire, both best booked in advance, or offer advice at the fishermen's bothy. Pop in for a coffee and pick up a pack of smoked salmon or stay for the day and discover the magic of Inverawe.

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Easter seems to mark the start of the holiday season no matter when it falls. You will generally find, this is the weekend that holiday attractions and places of interest that have been closed all winter, open up once again to the public.

What this means in essence is, after long months when there was comparatively little to see or do, there is suddenly a very great deal. Because Easter weekend is also an official holiday weekend, it's an ideal opportunity to get out and about, shake off the doldrums of winter and prepare to welcome spring and summer with widely open arms.

And the best way to do this is to head out to some of the events taking place, or newly opened attractions, and really get into an early holiday mood.

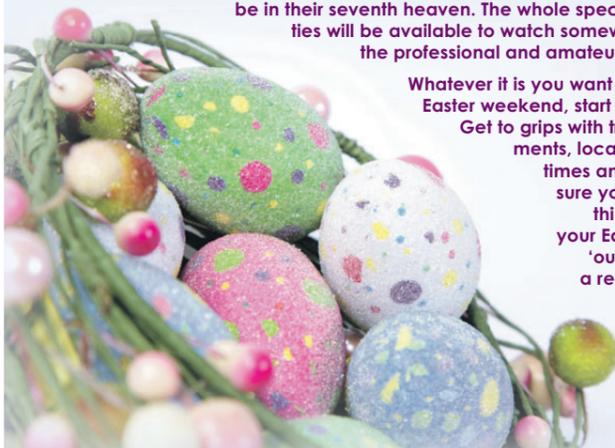
The first step is to peruse your local paper to see just what is on in your locality - there is probably a great deal. Car boot sales are sure to abound and there may also be the odd antiques fair. There might be an Easter parade or a charity spring fair or two.

If the weather is cooperating, why not head for a family barbecue in perfect countryside, there will be many parks and gardens just waiting to display their flowers and blossoms and museums and art exhibitions often hold special spring displays and events at Easter.

If you have something more practical in mind, your local garden centres will be packed full of wonderful ideas for improving your slowly awakening garden. And if your home is in need of a face lift, DIY stores will certainly be open for business with all the tools, materials and inspiration necessary for turning your humble home into a 'stately palace'. And these are not the only shops and stores that will be open this weekend, so if your idea of heaven is a day at the shops, you can probably satisfy your every wish in this respect.

Of course, this is a big weekend for sport, sports enthusiasts will be in their seventh heaven. The whole spectrum of activities will be available to watch somewhere, both on the professional and amateur sports scene.

Whatever it is you want to do over the Easter weekend, start planning now. Get to grips with travel arrangements, locations, opening times and costs. Make sure you don't miss a thing and ensure your Easter weekend 'out and about' is a real weekend to remember.



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# Charity sports dinner raises nearly £8,000



The top table at the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Dinner, from left, local councillor Roddy McCuish, Alan Rough, Ryan's father Alan MacPhail, Bill Barclay and Ted Heath. t11macphail1

HILARIOUS tales from former Scotland goalie Alan Rough and comic Bill Barclay helped raise nearly £8,000 for the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund.

Despite a dip in numbers on previous years, Oban's flagship charity fundraiser still hit £7,700, with signed shirts from football stars Lionel Messi and Vinnie Jones subject to lively bidding wars.

Ted Heath joined regular speaker Roddy McCuish in sitting at the top table - and had the audience in stitches with their own tales.

Ryan's mum, Amanda said the speakers were the best the dinner has welcomed to the Argyllshire Gathering Halls and was delighted with the response from those in attendance.

However, it is hoped more will be raised next year when former Motherwell star and Scottish Sporting Speaker of the Year

2001 John Gaghan and Rangers legend Derek Johnstone will sit at the top table.

Ryan's mother, Amanda, said: 'The speakers were very good - the best combination yet - they went down very well.'

'Walker Owens from Oban Express bought the Messi strip - there was a good bidding war on for it so Alan Rough is sending up another signed strip and the opposition bought that one at the same price. Ewan MacPherson bought the two Vinnie Jones shirts.'

'We usually aim to raise nearer £10,000 but the numbers were down on the previous year so a wee bit disappointing.'

'Hopefully all the others that didn't manage this year will make it next year.'

'However it is still a good amount, it will do some good.' Next year's dinner will be held on March 15.



## Mull youngsters produce CD to celebrate anniversary of Mòd club

YOUNGSTERS on the Isle of Mull have been busy in the recording studio, producing their first CD to mark the 10th anniversary of their Mòd club.

Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile (CGM), the Isle of Mull Junior Mòd Club, travelled to Watercolour Studios near Ardgour on March 1, 2 and 3 to record the album.

Thirty past and present members of CGM took part in the project, recording Gaelic songs and discovering the intricacies of the recording process, with renowned broadcaster and musician, Mary Ann Kennedy and her husband Nick Turner.

CGM is led by Riona Whyte, who has recently been voted Gaelic Singer of the Year at the Scots Traditional Music Awards, and includes children and young people from Mull, Morvern and Kilchoan.

Riona said: 'It does not seem like 10 years since members of

Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile first competed at local and national level.

'It has been a pleasure to see the children develop over the years and welcome new members joining annually.'

'I was very proud to see the first of the original members graduate to the senior sections of the Royal National Mòd last year in Dunoon.'

'I am delighted that the BBC Performing Arts Fund has given us this opportunity to showcase the hard work and commitment of these young people to their language, culture and music.'

Mary Ann added: 'Working with the next generation of young musicians, whether they go on to make music their life or just learn to appreciate their own culture, is a vital part of our work at Watercolour.'

'We were delighted to welcome CGM to the studio, from the very youngest singers to

the more experienced teenagers that we've watched developing their skills over the years. We wish them all the best with this special album.'

The recording was made possible by a generous grant from the BBC Performing Arts Fund.

Miriam O'Keefe, director of the fund, said: 'The BBC Performing Arts Fund is delighted to support Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile on their exciting project.'

'We are funded by the phone voting on shows like The Voice and it's really great to see the money going back into community singing. We can't wait to hear the final product.'

CGM would like to say a huge thank you to the BBC PFA for the funding, and also to Maryann and Nick for producing the CD and making us all so welcome. The CD which will be available later this year.



Above - Willie McPhee, left, and George McGhee of Strathclyde Scaffolding attended the charity dinner. t11macphail2



Oban's firefighters were among the liveliest tables at the dinner. t11macphail5



Below - Oban firm RA Clements took a table at the dinner. t11macphail3



Oban Saints old boys: Davy Thomson, Frank Beaton, Robbie Johnston and Hamish Matheson. t11macphail6



Oban Saints table were, from left, Malcolm Croarkin, Neil Allan, Gordon Munro, Gus MacPherson and Mark Welsh. t11macphail4

## Glasgow Chamber Choir return to Oban

GLASGOW Chamber Choir returns to Oban this weekend to perform at St John's Cathedral, having previously brought choir, soloists and orchestra to perform Bach's St John Passion in 2007.

### The Bach family

This time, it's not just the famous Bach who features in the programme - but some of his relatives too.

Seven generations of Bachs were professional musicians, and this programme covers four of these. Choral music will be coupled with instrumental music provided by two soloists from beyond Scotland: virtuoso Italian harpsichordist Ugo Mahieux and Belfast-born cellist Elias Rooney will perform alongside the singers.

Glasgow Chamber Choir's musical director Michael

Bawtree said: 'Whilst none of the Bachs ever visited Scotland, their music continues to travel across the globe over 200 years after it was composed and we look forward to bringing this engaging programme to Oban.'

The choir greatly enjoyed its previous visit to Oban in March 2007 and performing in its beautiful cathedral and is delighted to be making this repeat visit.'

With a current membership of around 30 singers, Glasgow Chamber Choir was founded in 1994 and has developed into one of Scotland's finest amateur choirs.

The group has appeared regularly on BBC Radio and collaborations with European groups have taken the choir to France, Holland and Sweden. The performance will be at 4.30pm on Sunday.

## Lochaber Youth Theatre take show to Eden Court

LOCHABER Youth Theatre's new play 'Ailie and the Alien' proved a big hit with audiences at the Nevis Centre in Fort William last Thursday and Friday.

Now the ambitious group will take their production to Eden Court in Inverness for the regional heat of the project 'National Connections' from April 2-4.

Lochaber Youth Theatre and seven other theatre companies from the north and northeast of Scotland will take the stage aiming to be one of 10 UK-wide winners selected to perform at the National Theatre in London in July.

## Chamber Philharmonic Europe to play at Kilmallie Hall

LOCHABER Music for All has invited Chamber Philharmonic Europe to play at Kilmallie Hall next Monday.

The chamber orchestra will be performing a varied programme, baroque to modern, including pieces by Vivaldi, Ponchielli, Bach, Corelli, Faure and Grieg.

The ensemble has performed in many top concert halls and opera houses across Europe.

Lochaber Music for All's Zafira Clark said: 'These professional musicians are very accomplished and have toured extensively in the last couple of years.'

'Lochaber is fortunate to be welcoming them as part of their current tour of England and Scotland.'

Tickets will be available on the door on the night. Demand is likely to be high so early arrival is advised.

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Oban High School Pipe Band showcased their talent at a sell-out concert in Oban last week  
Picture - Kevin McGlynn

# Young Oban pipers play to sell-out concert

A SELL-out crowd in the Corran Halls saw nearly 100 young pipers, drummers and chanter players showcase their skills at the second annual Oban High School Pipe Band concert.

The youngsters were joined last Thursday by a collective of successful local musicians, including Finlay Wells, Sileas Sinclair and Becky Hill. Singers Mary Catherine MacNeill and Peter Sinclair also performed with the pupils.

The school's two pipe bands, led by pipe major Angus MacColl, were also joined on the programme by Oban High School Choir and 20 of Angus' young chanter players as they entertained a very appreciative audience.

Angus told *The Oban Times*: 'The pupils get experience and hopefully a lot of enjoyment from these concerts. For the band, they are used to playing together and playing set tunes but when you get them on stage playing alongside different instruments and musicians, it is a great experience. They learn to make the performance a visual one too and discover the impact that can make.'

Proceeds from the concert will be used to help fund the bands for the coming competition season.

<b>Oban Phoenix Cinema</b>	<b>This is 40</b>	Thurs 21st, 20.45
	<b>Les Misérables</b>	Thurs 21st, 17.30
	<b>Some Like It Hot</b>	Thurs 21st, 14.00
	<b>Argo</b>	Fri 22nd, 17.30 • Sat 23rd, 20.30 • Sun 24th, 17.30 Mon 25th, 17.30
	<b>Cloud Atlas</b>	Fri 22nd, 20.00 • Sat 23rd, 17.00 • Sun 24th, 14.00, 20.00 Mon 25th, 20.00 • Tues 26th, 20.00 • Wed 27th, 20.00 Thurs 28th, 20.00
	<b>Sword in the Stone</b>	Sat 23rd, 13.00
	<b>Toy Story</b>	Sat 23rd, 15.00
	<b>Fergully</b>	Sun 24th, 12.00
	<b>Song for Marion</b>	Tues 26th, 18.00 • Wed 27th, 18.00 • Thurs 28th, 18.00

**This is 40 (15)**  
In his fourth directorial outing, Apatow's new comedy captures what it takes for one family to flourish in the middle of a lifetime together.

**Les Misérables (12A)**  
Based on the novel by Victor Hugo and set against the backdrop of 19th-century France, *Les Misérables* is a musical phenomenon that tells an enthralling story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption.

**Some Like It Hot (12)**  
When two Chicago musicians, Joe and Jerry, witness the St. Valentine's Day massacre, they want to get out of town and get away from the gangster responsible.

**I Give it a Year (15)**  
Since they met at a party ambitious high-flyer Nat and struggling novelist Josh have been deliriously happy despite their differences. Their wedding is a dream come true but family, friends and even the minister who marries them aren't convinced that they can last.

**Argo (15)**  
Directed by and starring Ben Affleck the film portrays the true story of the American embassy in 1979 Iran which was invaded by Iranian revolutionaries and where several Americans are taken hostage.

**Cloud Atlas (15)**  
*Cloud Atlas* explores how the actions and consequences of individual lives impact on one another throughout the past, the present and the future. Consisting of six loosely interconnected stories *Cloud Atlas* is based on the 2004 multi-award winning novel by David Mitchell.

**Sword in the Stone (U)**  
This Disney Classic is a humorous take on the legends of King Arthur of Camelot, great fun for all the family.

**Toy Story (PG)**  
Family animation from Pixar starring Woody, Buzz and the rest of Andy's toys

**Fergully (U)**  
*FernGully* is a rain forest that is home to a race of fairies who have never seen humans and believe that they only exist in stories.

**Song for Marion (PG)**  
London-set comedic drama about shy, grumpy pensioner Arthur who is reluctantly inspired by his beloved wife Marion to join a highly unconventional local choir.

## Home success at North Lorn Drama Festival

THERE was plenty home success at this year's North Lorn Drama Festival held over two nights in Appin Village Hall.

The far travelled Dalmally and Lochawe Drama Society won the top award in the adult section for its production of *Mother Figure* but Appin-based group, *The Leftovers*, were named runners up by adjudicator Dr Russell Boyce for their play *That'll Do Nicely*.

**Moment in comedy**  
The *Leftovers*' Trish MacKay, who played 'the lady who needed a pee' was given the Rab MacDonald Trophy for a moment in comedy and Jenny Iris Lawrie won the adjudicator's award for the adult section for her portrayal of Lily.

Strath of Appin Primary School's play, *A Suitably Happy Ending*, won them the Duncan Sutherland Trophy for the primary section and Linda MacLeod, who made the costumes for the children was given the Special Endeavour Award.

The adjudicator's award for primary and youth sections was jointly awarded to Cameron Allen of Appin Primary School



Prizewinners and special guests at this year's North Lorn Drama Festival in Appin. 15\_12northlorn01

## 'Likely Lad' Bewes tours Mull and Skye

AN ACTOR with more than 60 years experience is bringing his new one man show to Scotland - stopping on Mull and Skye during the tour.

Rodney Bewes, 75, is possibly best remembered for his role in 'The Likely Lads'.

He will be performing *A Boy Growing Up*, an entertainment from the stories of Dylan Thomas.

Bewes is keen to stress the show is 'not serious Dylan Thomas poetry'.

He said: 'A boy from Bradford doing Dylan Thomas in the Scottish isles is already funny. It is funny stories done by an actor who should've given up 20 years ago - but I love it.'

He decided to visit Mull after a woman handed him a postcard of the island when he was in Edinburgh. 'She said 'you have to go to the theatre in Mull', so I'm making it happen this year,' Bewes said.

If you want to see Bewes live in his one man show he will be in the Mull Theatre (01688 302828) on March 29 or The Stables in Skye (01471 844207) on March 31.

## Oban tradesmen ensure Oban ceilidh house doors open on time

Aiming to be best nightclub and wedding venue on west coast and best traditional music venue in the country

OBAN tradesmen were called in at the 11th hour to make sure the re-opening of the town's Skipinish Ceilidh House took place - after the company carrying out the refurbishment went bust.

Describing an 'extremely difficult' past 18 months, ceilidh house co-owner Angus MacPhail praised the workmen who helped make sure the venue was ready for its re-opening last Friday.

Angus said: 'We had the funding to renovate the place two years ago but on December 8, 2011, high winds ripped off part of the roof and trashed everything.'

'The subsequent repair work has been an ongoing saga and the past year and a half has been extremely difficult.'

'The venue was damp, smelly and horrible but people still came to support us.'

'Then, the building firm that the insurers got to do the work, Blackstock, went into administration three weeks before re-opening.'

The ceilidh house now has a new stage, dance floor, sound system and has been completely refurbished inside with television screens, new furniture and modern lighting among the most striking changes.

New nightclub lights, DJ equipment and air conditioning will be welcomed by weekend revellers. Angus said: 'We want to be the very best nightclub and wedding venue on the west coast and the best traditional music venue in the country.'



Co-owners Angus MacPhail, left, and Andrew Stevenson

## Tarbert folk group play final Taynuilt winter ceilidh

TARBERT folk group Na Seudan and Mod gold medallist Catriona Watt brought the curtain down on this season's winter ceilidhs in Taynuilt.

At the final ceilidh of the winter programme, piper Donald Morrison started off proceedings with a rousing selection of tunes.

To his great credit, James MacPherson stood in as an accordionist at the last minute and, despite feeling unwell himself, James gave an impressive performance.

Eilidh MacInnes dancer, Katie MacPherson, took to the floor on three separate occasions and produced excellent displays of highland dancing.

During the ceilidh, Meur Chruachain committee member Caroline Jamieson presented seven year-old Ealasaid MacLean with the Angus Henderson Memorial Cup for achieving the highest aggregate mark in children's oral competitions at last year's Mull Mod. Before returning to her seat, Ealasaid beautifully performed one of her songs.

Na Seudan (Hannah Prill, Niamh MacKaveny, Emma MacFarlane, Naomi Stanesby and Emma Kok) delighted the audience with a wonderful selection of songs in both Gaelic and English.

The five girls, who won the folk group competition at last year's Royal National Mod in Dunoon, are all pupils at Tarbert Academy.

Mod gold medallist Catriona Watt and Mod silver pendant winner Dr Neil MacDonald also gave first class solo singing performances.

Morag MacNeil, Bean an Taighe for the first time, kept proceedings flowing smoothly throughout the evening and amused the audience with her stories.

## New book on shipwrecks

FIVE Argyll shipwrecks and one off the coast of Lochalsh feature in a book detailing the history of the sunken vessels around the UK.

Great British Shipwrecks, a Personal Adventure, by Rod Macdonald, provides details on four boats submerged in the Sound of Mull, the SS Shuna, Thesis, Hispana and Rondo, with details also provided on the SS Breda in Ardmucknish Bay.

HMS Port Napier, off Lochalsh, also features in the book, which describes how the vessels came to be sunk and photographs or paintings of how they look now. The book is published by Whittles Publishing.

## Gaelic kids' game show

PORTREE Primary School and Lochdar Primary School form South Uist will appear in the last of the Gaelic kids' game show *Ghuesta* on BBC ALBA on Tuesday.

The Lochdar team are Catherine MacDonal and Mary Rose MacIsaac with James MacParland, while Portree team have Rachel MacKinnon and Hallie Miles-Shinnie with their guest Rachel Kennedy.

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your essential guide to live music in argyll

Saturday 23 March > Lorne Bar	SIGNAL FIRES
Sunday 24 March > Markie Dans	POOL COMPETITION STARTS AT 12PM
Friday 29 March > Markie Dans	TRAIL WEST
Saturday 30 March > Markie Dans	AMY BELLE
Sunday 31 March > Markie Dans	KENNY PEARSON
Sunday 31 March > Markie Dans	EASTER QUIZ 7.30PM-10PM

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Tallaichean a' Chorrain, An t-Òban, 11.30m, Diciadain 27 Màrt  
Corran Halls, Oban, from 11.30am on Wednesday 27 March  
Dealbhan-cluiche bho sgoiltean Gàidhlig Earra-Ghàidheal is Loch Abar  
Gaelic plays from Argyll & Lochaber Gaelic primary schools

**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

<b>Annual Boat Jumble &amp; Car Boot Sale</b> In Craignish Village Hall, Ardferrn Saturday March 23rd from 10.15am - 2pm Nautical & non-nautical bargains; new and nearly new items. Bring all the family for a great day out! Entry - £2 (includes refreshments) Details - 01852 500689	<b>NETHERLORN PIPING SOCIETY</b> Guest Player Champion Piper <b>Willie MacCallum</b> Thursday 28th March 2013 In the Argyllshire Gathering Halls at 7.30pm Entry: Adults £3; Children Free	<b>Lorn Agricultural Society Family Ceilidh</b> With <b>The Gunna Sound Ceilidh Band</b> Saturday 23rd March North Connel Hall, 8pm Licenced, Buffet Tickets £10 Available from Oban Music Under 14's free of charge & must be accompanied by an adult
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**All you have to do**  
We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.  
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The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.  
If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**  
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**  
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.  
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.  
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# Business

## Gaelic Business of the Year

GAELIC language development group Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG) is seeking nominations for the 2013 Gaelic Business of the Year award.

They are looking for businesses that use Gaelic as an asset and that can best demonstrate a strong use of Gaelic among staff and with customers, which has a high level of visibility of the language within the company and which uses Gaelic in branding/marketing of the company or its products. Businesses making strong progress towards these objectives are also eligible.

The competition is run by CnaG as part of its development contract with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and this is the fourth year the competition has been held.

The competition is open to businesses based within the HIE area which operate on a stand-alone basis rather than as part of a wider group and should not be part of the operation of local authorities, enterprise companies or organisations funded by public agencies.

Last year's winner was Acair Ltd, a Gaelic books publisher based in Stornoway.

As well as the status that comes with the award, there are also prizes with £3,000 going to the winner and £1,500 and £500 going to second and third places respectively.

Agnes Rennie, manager of Acair Ltd, said: "We were delighted to learn that Acair had been successful in last year's competition. As a small company the prize money was extremely helpful and we used it to purchase a new computer for our designer."

"I think it also gave us all a confidence boost to think that organisations such as CnaG and HIE valued the work being undertaken by us, and had recognised this by awarding the 2012 Gaelic Business of the Year title to Acair Ltd."

Neil Ross, Head of Community Growth at Highlands and Islands Enterprise, said: "HIE recognises that Gaelic is at the very heart of the majority of communities across our network area."

"We are delighted to be working with CnaG to identify and celebrate businesses already powerfully using and benefiting from Gaelic as an asset."

Nominations must be in by June 28.

## Knoydart firm awarded Mallaig ferry contract

HIGHLAND Council has awarded a new contract for the lifeline Mallaig to Knoydart/Tarbet passenger ferry service.

From April 1, Sundaig Limited of Knoydart will run four return sailings on weekdays and two at weekends on its winter timetable from October until April.

Six return sailings on weekdays and four at weekends will be scheduled from May until

September. The contract runs until March 2018 and allows the council to extend the arrangement by a further two years. Up to four boats will be used during peak season.

The current contract, operated by Mallaig businessman Bruce Watt, provides two return journeys on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, extended to every week-day during summer. There are no sailings at weekends. Tarbet will be

served on the same basis as the current contract. Councillor Graham Phillips, chairman of Transport Environmental and Community Services, hailed the 'much-extended' service.

He said: "It is good for businesses to access the remote community daily and it is good for the community. Importantly, in these challenging times, the contract represents extremely good value for money for the council."



Gerald Michaluk of Arran Brewery has become Scotland's first certified sake professional.

## Island brewery to produce Japan's national drink

AN ISLAND brewery is to become the first in Scotland to produce Japan's national drink when it launches a new range at the end of the year.

Gerald Michaluk, Arran Brewery's managing director, has successfully completed a course and examination in Japan to become Scotland's first certified sake professional.

Gerald said: "The course was eye opening and I learnt a great deal about sake and how it is made as well as being given the opportunity to taste some of the world's best sake."

"I am grateful to Business Gateway for its support and I hope to put this training to good use over the coming months."

"The course was excellent but I was surprised to find brewers from Norway actively making sake and successfully selling it to Japan."

"Sake is the national drink of Japan and as they now make some very acceptable whisky which they sell here, I felt it was time for us in Scotland to make some Sake and sell it in Japan."

"There is room for more sake breweries and Arran will be happy to fill this gap in the Japanese market."

## Argyll and Bute could gain from wildlife tourism

Scottish Natural Heritage 'Big Five' – all found in Argyll and Bute

ARGYLL and Bute could be set for an influx of wildlife visitors this year thanks to a national marketing campaign and a boom in nature tourism.

Scottish Natural Heritage will next week announce its 'Big Five' for wildlife tourism – and Argyll and Bute is one of the only areas in the country where all five can be readily found.

**Bigger slice of market**

The campaign comes on the back of Wild Scotland's 'Wee Six' campaign, which highlights some of the most spectacular creatures to be seen in the British Isles – again all of which can most easily be spotted in Argyll and the Isles.

Caroline Warburton, who runs Wild Scotland, believes the area is best placed to take a bigger slice of a tourism market worth £1.4 billion to the Scottish economy.

She said: "Nature-based tourism is massive. Of all the tourists that come to the UK, 56 per cent spend some time watching wildlife."

"Wildlife tourism is reckoned to be one of the fastest growing sectors of

tourism in the UK and there's been a 200 per cent increase in adventure tourism."

"We have Scotland's 'Wee Six', those key animals being red deer, cetaceans such as dolphins, otters, seals, seabirds and birds of prey. They can all be seen in Argyll and Bute."

"Scottish Natural Heritage is also to announce its 'Big Five' in an national campaign and all five are in Argyll. It is something to take advantage of."

"We have to recognise that some things we see as fairly ordinary can be exotic to people from other areas and countries. For example, there is an Atlantic puffin colony in America but the waiting list to see them is three years. Someone here can see them that afternoon. It's a big draw."

Caroline started Wild Scotland as the Scottish Wildlife Association 10 years ago after being inspired by a spell working on Mull. She urged businesses to work to take advantage of the area's natural assets.

She said: "We have to spread the message - why travel round the world to see dolphins or basking sharks when they're all right here?"

## Tourism director says never be afraid to steal a good idea

A SENIOR director at VisitScotland has told delegates at Argyll and Bute's tourism summit to 'steal' ideas, adding: "I've never had an original idea in my life."

Urging west coast tourism businesses to look

around and see what other areas are doing to promote themselves, Riddell Graham told delegates at Argyll and the Isles Tourism summit: "Look outside your area. I've always stolen someone else's ideas."

"The best campaign I've done was a shameless steal from Aberdeen."

"You need to look outside look to see what people are doing better than you. Just steal the best of what you see and apply it here."

## First timber goes through £37 million sawmill at Corpach

THE FIRST logs have been processed at BSW Timber's new state-of-the-art mill at Corpach under a £37 million expansion to create one of the largest and most advanced sawmill sites in the UK.

The mill, designed for an annual production of 300,000 cubic metres of sawn and treated timber, will become fully operational later this year.

Infrastructure and plant investment since 2008 includes new kilns, pressure treatment vessels and a high-speed planing and grading line.

In the final investment phase last year, a cutting-edge saw line with sorting and stacking equipment was installed with an automated

horizontal saw later added later to give maximum flexibility.

Tony Hackney, Chief Executive Officer of BSW Timber, said: "These are exciting times for BSW Timber and everyone involved in creating a sawmill of genuine world-class standing at Fort William."

"Great credit must be given to the management team at the mill who have worked tirelessly to make this happen."

"Strategic investments, such as Fort William, are a sign of the confidence in the medium-term that BSW has in the UK market."

The expansion is a major part of BSW's £50million company-wide investment programme over a five-year period to 2015.



Chief Executive Officer of BSW Timber Tony Hackney believes that these are exciting times at BSW Timber as they create a world-class sawmill at Corpach.

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A full job description is available on request. Applicants should apply in writing including their CV, preferably online to [Julie.Lockhart@dawson-energy.co.uk](mailto:Julie.Lockhart@dawson-energy.co.uk) or by post to J.Lockhart at the address below. Closing date for applications is 28th March 2013.

**Dawson Energy Limited, Glenshellach House, 7e Glengallan Road, Oban, PA34 4HG**

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Closing date for applications: 8th April 2013

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You will bring experience of project appraisal and development together with a strong interest in community-led development. Ideally, you will have experience or knowledge of community ownership and/or the social enterprise sector.

You will actively promote the Scottish Land Fund throughout your area and adopt a client-focused approach that is both responsive and proactive with high standards of customer care. You will have excellent communication and interpersonal skills and will be able to travel extensively with some overnight stays away from home.

Closing date: 7 April 2013.

Interview dates: 16th April 2013 – Glasgow  
 17th April 2013 – Lochgilphead

If you are interested in being considered for any of these positions, please apply online by visiting our website at [www.hie.co.uk](http://www.hie.co.uk). For a hard copy application pack, e-mail: [recruitment@hient.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@hient.co.uk) or call 01463 244 414 quoting the reference number.

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For more information and an application pack please email [admin@kilmartin.org](mailto:admin@kilmartin.org) or phone Claire on 01546 510 278.

Closing date 02.04.13, interviews will be held on 09.04.13.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
 Glasgow and Oban  
 Argyll and the Islands

**Business reporter:**

**Steven Flanagan**

sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568021



The first log goes through the newly installed cutting edge kit at BSW Timber's new plant at Corpach, near Fort William.

# Tagging technology may be used as guide to Marine Protected Area

## West coast basking shark project to be repeated in 2013

A PROJECT which saw giant sharks tagged so their progress could be followed online is to be repeated for a second year.

Eight basking sharks were tagged off the west coast of Scotland in July last year with two of the huge fish travelling much further than expected.

**Africa**

One reached the west coast of Portugal and the other the Canary Islands, just off Africa, a distance of more than 3,000 kms.

Scientists have now decided to extend the project, which was started by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the University of Exeter (UoE), for another year.

They hope to find out more about the life cycle of basking sharks that gather in large numbers around the islands of Coll, Tiree and Canna every summer.

Another 29 sharks will be tagged in the summer of 2013, using a range of tracking devices, to gather more information on how the sharks use the area and where they go in winter.

The work is part of a wider programme of marine research led by SNH and Marine Scotland, to help Government and others plan for the sustainable management of the sea.

**Reward**

Results from the tagging project will help the Scottish Government decide whether a Marine Protected Area (MPA) should be put in place to safeguard the sharks and balance environmental interests with industry and recreation.

Dr Suzanne Henderson from SNH, who is managing the project, said: 'We're getting some fascinating insights into the behaviour of the sharks from the tagging work carried out last year - it was a surprise to see one swim as far south as Africa.'

'Another year of tagging will build



There is a reward if you find a satellite tag. Photograph by University of Exeter.

on the work we've already done, increasing our confidence in the results and giving us more information on which to base decisions.'

**Tag technology**

In addition to the eight sharks tagged with real-time satellite transmitters last year, a further 12 sharks were tagged with technology that stores data on the tag for transmission at a later date.

Researchers are looking forward to analysing the data from these over the next few months, once all the tags have detached from their sharks.

SNH and UoE are appealing to anyone who finds a tag around the shores of the UK to get in touch. The

tags are grey-black, torpedo shaped, 15 to 18 cm in length with a small antenna and may still have a wire tether attached.

If found please pick it up and contact the SNH office in Oban on 0300 244 9360 or email baskingsharks@snh.gov.uk There is a reward available for each tag returned.

Basking sharks are most often seen in coastal areas in the summer and autumn when their food, plankton, is abundant at the surface. This is how they get their name - still apparently 'basking' at the surface in calm, sunny weather. Basking sharks in the North East Atlantic are recognised as endangered.

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

The Highland Council  
Cunbhalte as Gàidhealtachd

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/00572/FUL	Oak Cottage, Onich Fort William	Erection of sunroom
13/00825/FUL	Seaview Cottage, Stronitlan Acharacle	Alterations and extension to house
13/00886/FUL	Garage 234 & 235 Camesky Road, Caol Fort William	Erection of double garage
13/00910/FUL	Site 250m South East of Hillview, Banavie, Fort William	Erection of house
13/00932/FUL	Land 170m N of Morven View, Kilchoan	Erection of single storey house

Time period for comments is 14 days.  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [epanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:epanning@highland.gov.uk)

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003**  
**WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011**  
**APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION**  
**MUCK MARINE CAGE FISH FARM, ISLE OF MUCK**

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited for authorisation to carry out a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Muck Marine Cage Fish Farm Isle of Muck, namely:- SEPA considers that the above controlled activity may have an impact on the water environment. Other activities are included in the application that are considered not likely to have such an impact and are not listed here. Details of all the activities applied for can be seen in the application

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Discharge of trade effluent from a new marine cage fish farm.	Coastal waters of the Isle of Muck - Sound of Eigg	NM 432 805

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: [www.sepa.org.uk/water/water\\_regulation/advertised\\_applications.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/water_regulation/advertised_applications.aspx)

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CARL/1109999:

**Registry Department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB.**

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

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61 Renault Grand Modus 1.6 Dyn Auto, Silver 13,000 miles.....	£8,750
11 Renault Megane exp 1.6, 5 door, Ruby Red, 14,500 miles.....	£9,250
11 Renault Clio Extreme 1.2, 3dr, Grey, 12,000 miles.....	£8,250
60 Renault Clio Dyn, 1.5 DCI Sport Tourer, Black, 11,000 miles.....	£9,250
60 Renault Clio 1-Music 1.2, 5 door, Grey, 12,500 miles.....	£7,950
10 Renault Clio Dyn, tom tom, DCI, 5dr, Beige, 9,400 miles.....	£9,550
10 Peugeot 207 Sport, 1.6 Auto, 5dr, silver, 13,650 miles.....	£8,450
10 Renault Clio Dyn, TCE estate, 1.2, 5 door, blue, 18,000 miles.....	£8,250
10 Ford Focus Zetec 1.6, 5 door, Blue, 18,500 miles.....	£7,995
10 Renault Twingo 1.2 Exp, 3 door, Black, 21,000 miles.....	£5,500
59 Peugeot 207s SWHDI Estate, Silver, 22,000 miles.....	£8,950
59 Renault Clio Dyn 1.5DCI, 3dr, Red, 10,750 miles.....	£8,450
05 Renault Clio Dyn 1.2, 3 door, Blue, 76,000 miles.....	£2,495

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60 Renault Kangoo ML19 DCI White 43,000 miles.....	£6,650 plus VAT
08 Renault Master, SWB, white.....	£8,000 plus VAT
57 Renault Traffic SL27+, DCI 115, Silver.....	£7,000 plus VAT
56 Citroen Berlingo, 1.9D, 50,000 miles, Blue.....	£3,250 plus VAT
06 Peugeot Partner, 600LD, White, 23,500 miles.....	£3,250 plus VAT

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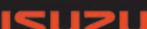


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# Business

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan

sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568021

## Scottish shellfish group appoint new chairman

MICHAEL Tait, of Shetland Mussels, has been appointed the new chairman of the Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group.

After taking over from Michael Laurenson, of Blueshell Mussels, he said: 'I am delighted to get this opportunity to carry on the work done so far to build up the business to where we are today so we can keep on delivering benefits to all our members while continuing to deliver the quality and service our customers have come to expect.'

## London showcase for Highlands' food and drink

HIGHLAND Smoked Salmon of Fort William and Stornoway-based Stag Bakeries were among eight food and drink companies from the Highlands and Islands displaying their wares at IFE 2013 in London this week.

The three-day international food and drink event is the UK's largest.

## Gamekeepers welcome drop in illegal bird poisonings

GAMEKEEPERS have welcomed news that cases of wild bird poisoning dropped by 70 per cent in 2012.

The reduction comes after 2011 saw a then-record 42 per cent decline on during the previous year.

Alex Hogg, chairman of the Scottish Gamekeepers Association, said: 'This is testimony to the hard work being done on this issue. The illegal poisoning of birds of prey has no place in wildlife management and the Scottish Gamekeepers Association and other partners will continue to do everything possible in the hope that this practice can be eradicated completely.'

## Clean Up Scotland wins council backing

HIGHLAND Council is backing Clean Up Scotland, a national campaign to raise awareness of the harmful effect of litter.

The Keep Scotland Beautiful initiative aims to encourage one million people across the country to get involved in the anti-litter drive.

# Demand for salmon brings jobs boost to West Highlands

## Haulage and distribution jobs for Corpach, Kishorn and Mallaig as local company signs deal with Marine Harvest Scotland

BOOMING demand for Scottish salmon has brought a major jobs boost to the West Highland's biggest haulage and distribution company.

Ferguson Transport and Shipping are to create more than 20 new posts after signing a deal to deliver fish feed by sea and road to Marine Harvest salmon farms on the west coast.

**New vessels**  
The new contract will bring much-needed employment to Kishorn, Corpach and Mallaig, as well as securing existing jobs.

Sea deliveries will provide additional work for Ferguson's vessels at Kishorn Port, which is currently being refitted to service offshore renewable energy developments.

Two more vessels will be added to the fleet as a result of the new contract with further insulated fish tanks, vehicles and vessels planned as salmon production expands.

The smaller vessels have roll-on, roll-off ramps for easy loading at slips and on-board cranes for loading at piers and ports.

The larger bulk vessel will have mechanical self-load and discharge on board along with a blowing discharge system specifically for the fish feed deliveries.

Alasdair Ferguson, Managing Director of Ferguson Transport, said: 'We've been working alongside Marine Harvest for more than 30 years, taking fish and fish feed around the region by both sea and road.'

'We're proud of our roots in Lochaber, the home of salmon farming in the UK, and proud of the part we continue to play in the success of Scottish salmon.'

'Our further planned investments have also been supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise through grant funding.'

Marine Harvest operates 28 fish farms across the Highlands and Western Isles, as well as harvesting and processing sites at Mallaig and Fort William.

Growing demand for Scottish



Jack Ferguson, left, and Alasdair Ferguson, right, of Ferguson Transport sign the contract with Marine Harvest Scotland managing director Alan Sutherland.

salmon, especially in the Far East, has prompted the company to expand its operations in recent years.

Two new sites opened in 2012 and a major salmon smolt and fry plant at Lochailort is due to start production shortly.

Alan Sutherland, Marine Harvest Scotland managing director, said:

'Ferguson Transport has been a trusted partner of Marine Harvest for many years, working with us to develop new vehicles and vessels adapted to meet the requirements of our business.'

'We have great confidence in the professionalism and expertise of the Ferguson Transport staff and I'm

delighted they're continuing to work with us.'

Helen Cameron of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) added: 'The expansion of the company in recent years is testament to the capabilities of the family group who are passionate about seeking new ventures.'

## Argyll tourism promo one of the best in UK

### AIT hosts summit in the Isle of Bute

A CAMPAIGN to promote Argyll and the islands as one of the UK's best tourist destinations is being held up as one of the best in the country.

Just three years after its inception, Argyll and the Isles Tourism (AIT) finds itself repeatedly held up as one of the finest examples of how to promote an area, with an unforgettable debut at VisitScotland's international tourism Expo last year regarded as the organisation's coming of age.

Its Argyll and the Isles corridor marked the start of a frantic 12 months for the organisation, which has now unveiled a new website and campaign to help draw tourists to Scotland's finest natural beauty spots.

However, the organisation has vowed not to rest on its laurels and has urged businesses that rely on tourism to match their ambition and drive.

Speaking at the AIT Tourism Summit at the spectacular Mount Stuart on Bute last Wednesday, the organisation's executive director Mike Story said: 'When we went to Expo we set a target of speaking to 40 buyers. By lunchtime on the first day we spoke to more than 150. In the end we talked to more than 200 buyers so it was a huge success.'

'The message was clear - Argyll and the Isles is open for business.'

'Three years ago I spoke to the chairman of VisitScotland, Mike Cantlay, and he asked 'who are you?' Now I get him on the phone saying 'We need someone for an event and you guys are really good at this so can you help us out?' We've since at-



Riddell Graham, VisitScotland's director of partnerships, said the Argyll and the Isles campaign 'stood out a mile'.

tended events all across the UK. This is not where it begins and ends - we need to keep going back and selling Argyll and the Isles.'

Riddell Graham, VisitScotland's director of partnership working, told the conference: 'Mike is dead right - they really did make a massive impact at Expo. The Argyll corridor stood out a mile. Speaking to them on the first day they'd already decided to come back for 2013 - but that's testament to the people running the stand.'

But he urged hoteliers, restaurateurs and other tourism businesses not to rely on extra trade coming to them.

'If I have one message about 2013/14 it is, don't wait for it to happen. Nothing ever got done by someone waiting for something or for somebody else to do it for them.'

## Increase in frequency and fares from Western Ferries

FROM next Monday Western Ferries, which serves the Cowal peninsula, will be increasing the number of morning sailings from Hunter's Quay and McInroy's Point - but fares will also be increasing.

The company's managing director Gordon Ross announced this week that Western Ferries will increase fares in line with inflation from April 1. There will be no fare increase for those travelling under the SPT Ferry Concessionary scheme.

The new timetable will see the three vessel service start from 7am in the

morning, Monday through Friday, giving 7am, 7.20am and 7.40am departures from Hunter's Quay.

The corresponding departures from McInroy's Point will be 7.30am, 7.50am and 8.10am. Mr Ross said: 'These additional early morning sailings have been introduced to reflect a change in our commuters' preferences, as it would seem that they now want to leave Dunoon slightly earlier than they did before.'

Western Ferries' new vessels are scheduled to be in operation before Cowal Games weekend.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

### APPOINTMENT OF GRAZINGS COMMITTEE

Grazing: Corpach, Banavie, Camaghael & Lochside Common Grazings

A meeting of shareholders for the above Common Grazings will be held for the purpose of electing a new Grazings Committee.

Venue: Corpach Hotel  
Date: Monday, April 8, 2013  
Time: 8pm

Signed: M Dennison (Grazings Clerk) 15/3/13

### Argyll Animal Aid Annual General Meeting

To be held On Tuesday 26th March 2013 At The Community Fire Station, Oban At 7.30pm

### OBAN HOSPICE LTD Annual General Meeting

15th April 2013 Glencruitten Church Centre Undercroft 7.30pm



Scottish Natural Heritage  
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba  
All of nature for all of Scotland  
Nàdair air fad airson Alba air fad

### INFORMATION NOTICE NATURE CONSERVATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004

Kentallen

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Scottish Natural Heritage gives notice that on 21 March 2013 it intends to notify Kentallen SSSI, located in Lochaber at NN010579. The boundary map, description of the land and the reasons why SNH considers it to be of special interest can be inspected and obtained free of charge at the address below, together with clarification of any aspects of the notification.

SNH will consider any written representations received at the address below by 21 June 2013.

This new notification will cease to have effect if SNH withdraws it, or does not confirm it by 20 March 2014.

George Hogg, Unit Manager, The Governor's House, The Parade, Fort William, PH33 7PE



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Nàdair air fad airson Alba air fad

### INFORMATION NOTICE NATURE CONSERVATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004

Ardsheal Peninsula

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Scottish Natural Heritage gives notice that on 21 March 2013 it intends to notify Ardsheal Peninsula SSSI located in Lochaber at NM976560. The boundary map, description of the land and the reasons why SNH considers it to be of special interest can be inspected and obtained free of charge at the address below, together with clarification of any aspects of the notification.

SNH will consider any written representations received at the address below by 21 June 2013.

This new notification will cease to have effect if SNH withdraws it, or does not confirm it by 20 March 2014.

George Hogg, Unit Manager, The Governor's House, The Parade, Fort William, PH33 7PE

### CHARLES AND BARBARA TYRE TRUST SCHEME 1979

In implementation of the objects of the above Trust, the Governing Body may, in each financial year, award grants to assist applicants -

- (a) to obtain a qualification additional to a qualification of a University or other institute of higher education already obtained.
- (b) to train in a trade or profession other than in which they are at present trained.
- (c) to undertake a course provided by the Open University for which they have registered.
- (d) to undertake training in leadership and initiative.
- (e) to benefit from recreational holidays in cases of physical or mental disability.

In accordance with the wishes of the donors, the Governing Body shall:-

- (a) satisfy themselves that the applicant is a Protestant, has completed school education, but is not, at the time of award, more than 25 years of age, and is ordinarily resident within the area of the former County of Argyll.
- (b) Associate the names of Charles and Barbara Tyre with each award made under the scheme. Further details and an application form may be obtained online at [www.charlesandbarbaratyretrust.org.uk](http://www.charlesandbarbaratyretrust.org.uk). Completed applications must be received no later than 31 May 2013, and applications received after the closing date will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances. Please note application forms will be accepted before examination results are received.

Clerk to the Governors, Charles and Barbara Tyre Trust, Loch Awe House, Barmore Road, Tarbert, PA29 6TW  
Tel: 01880 820 277 Fax: 01880 820 722

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)



### PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00182/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land North East of Drumling Lodge Grouline Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
13/00246/PP	Demolition of existing lean to, erection of extension for biomass boiler/fuel store and associated external flue	Inniemore Lodge Carsaig Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA70 6HD	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull
13/00272/PP	Demolition of dwellinghouse and erection of replacement dwellinghouse	Foehan Eleraig Kilniver Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4UX	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
13/00341/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse	Allbheath Kilmore Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4XK	Oban Area Office
13/00376/PP	Demolition of existing derelict storage building and erection of letting unit and workshop	North Achinduin Isle of Lismore Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5UH	Sub Post Office Lismore
13/00428/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 10/00126/PP (Run of river hydro electric scheme comprising intake, buried pipeline, powerhouse and access tracks)	Achallader Bridge of Orchy Argyll and Bute PA36 4AG	Sub Post Office Dalmally
13/00479/PPP	Site for erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment system	Land North of Campbell Hill Cottage Ledaig Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1RT	Sub Post Office Ledaig
13/00492/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 15 Aldersyde Taynult Argyll and Bute PA35 1AG	Sub Post Office Taynult

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00247/LIB	Demolition of existing lean to, erection of extension for biomass boiler/fuel store and associated external flue	Inniemore Lodge Carsaig Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA70 6HD	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull
13/00425/LIB	Internal alterations including installation of biomass boiler and associated water tanks and external flue	Old Clachan Farmhouse Clachan Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4RH	Sub Post Office Balvicar
13/00504/PP	Demolition and redevelopment of ancillary accommodation	Garden Ground of The Shelling Mannaal Isle Of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Tiree Area Office
13/00513/LIB	Installation of replacement windows and doors to the south west elevation	Bellachroy Hotel Dervaig Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6WU	Sub Post Office Dervaig

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Andriushaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00312/PP	Change of use from existing conference facility to bistrot/cafe within the distillery grounds	Morrison Bowmore Distillers Ltd School Street Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7JS	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

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## Mixed trade at Stirling sale

UNITED Auctions sold 796 store and breeding sheep, plus 2,506 store cattle and young bulls at Stirling last Wednesday.  
Bullocks averaged 223.52p (-11.95p) and sold to 298.30p per kg for a 300kg Limousin cross from High Unthank and £1650 for a 675kg Charolais cross from Muirland.  
Heifers averaged 223.45p (+9.75p) and sold to 270.20p per kg and £1270 for a 470kg Limousin cross from Drumalbin.  
Forward cattle averaged 177.80p and sold to 216.50p for a Simmental cross from Westfield and £1210 for a Simmental cross from Lochlea.  
Cast cows averaged 155.21p and sold to 205.70p per kg for a Limousin cross from Hermitage and £1450 for a Limousin cross from Herries Farms.  
Young bulls averaged 213.06p and sold to 244.0p per kg for a 332kg Charolais cross from Millhole and £1420 for a 636kg Limousin cross from Buteland.  
Cross lambs from Harelawside sold to £83 with Putechan selling Charollais crosses to £70 and Mules to £69.  
Blackfaces from Tombreck sold to £54.

## Native breeds stay in demand

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd saw the trade for store cattle rise on Monday despite having a larger number forward than the corresponding sale last year.  
Bullocks averaged 233p per kg and sold to 271p per kg for a 210kg Limousin from John Provan, Upper Inchwood, Kilsyth and to £1420 for three 615kg Simmentals from David Smith, Peacockbank, Stewarton.  
Heifers averaged 224p per kilo and sold to 265.5p per kilo for two 290kg Charolais from Jim and David Mitchell, Offers, Gargunock and to £1290 for a 570kg Charolais from Duncan MacGregor, Burnhead, Kilsyth.  
The demand for native bred cattle remained strong and sold to £1270 for a pen of 530kg Aberdeen Angus bullocks from David Ralston, Castlehill, Torrance and to 248p per kilo for six 345kg Aberdeen Angus bullocks from D T Shanks & Sons (Soils) Brackenhist, Glenmavis.  
Bulls averaged 223p per kg and sold to 316p per kg for a 250kg British Blue from Christopher Dick, Taylorton, Stirling and to £830 for a 430kg Simmental from Andrew Duncan, Easter Dullatur, Kilsyth.

## Mull farmer says young farmers should share in new £2 million government funding package

A MULL farmer has told new entrants to the farming industry in Scotland they should share a pot of £2 million.  
Iain Mackay, from Torloisk, Mull, is the spokesman for the New Generation group – part of NFU Scotland – which is working with Scottish Government on its newly announced funding package.  
Mr Mackay said: 'To ensure effective delivery of the £2 million announced by the Scottish Government, monies should be allocated to new entrant businesses who have been excluded from SFP.  
'Without access to direct support, those businesses will be struggling to survive at the moment with the prospect of remaining excluded from any new SFP arrangements until 2015.  
'Targeting this money at the most deserving recipients will be a challenge. However, it is something we must get right and views are welcome on how this can be achieved.  
'As a group, we will also work with NFU Scotland's officeholders as the debate around CAP Reform intensifies.  
'With a CAP deal still likely this summer, we want to ensure the



Iain Mackay, from Torloisk, Mull says lessons need to be learned

new arrangements learn lessons from the past scheme and that those entering our industry don't immediately find themselves at a competitive disadvantage.  
'We also want to help shape the replacement rural development plan for Scotland. That plan should have scope for a new entrant/young farmers scheme to support those building up their business.  
'Those formative years of any business are crucial and we want to help set them off on as strong a footing as possible.  
'It is clear that the many of the challenges faced by New Gen-

eration farmers in Scotland are shared with others in the UK.  
'This May will see NFUS New Generation members travel to Wales to meet the Welsh Assembly and discuss its young farmers scheme as well meeting our counterparts in NFU England and Wales.  
'That trip, part financed by our award from the Tennents Seed Fund, will be a very useful information sharing exercise.'

## Prime sheep trade rises at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 8019 prime sheep including 7041 hogs avg 207p (+15.10p/wk) and 978 cast ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.  
Belted cross hogs from Easter Ouchtermuthill sold to £123 and 280p per kilo, with Texel crosses from Boghall selling to £122.  
Blackface hogs from Merkins sold to £108, with Upper Kisdie selling Cheviot crosses to £107.  
Texel cross from Stonachullin sold to £115.50 with Townhead selling Bluefaced Leicesters to £112.50; and Mules to £77.50.

## Ardachy to host plough test this weekend

MORE than 30 competitors including three pairs of horses are expected to take the field on Saturday for this year's North Lorn Ploughing Match, which will this year be held at Ardachy Farm, North Connel.  
Entrants will come from as far afield as Fife, Angus, the Isle of Bute and Campbellton to compete in the various classes, including trailing ploughs and mounted ploughs.  
There are a variety of cups and trophies on offer, including The Oban Times Trophy for the best rig.  
There are lots of prizes too for spectators in a raffle and donations towards Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease are welcomed.  
The competition, which was resurrected in the millennium year, starts at 10am.  
The day's entertainment continues at 8pm when the Lorn Agricultural Show committee hosts a fundraising ceilidh and dance in North Connel Village Hall with Gunna Sound providing the music.

## Market reports

### STIRLING

#### United Auctions

Bullocks  
Up to 250kg - Lorn £550, 268.30;  
251-300kgs High Unthank £850, 283.30p;  
301-350kgs Lawriesmuir £910, Kilbucho Place 266.70p;  
351-400kgs Whitsome Laws £970, Lawriesmuir 269.90p;  
401-450kgs Low Boydston £1100, Titwood 246.10p;  
451-500kgs Barfillan £1190, 242.90p;  
501-550kgs Glenfermate £1280, 236.20p;  
551-600kgs Muirland £1380, 238.80p;  
601-650kgs Corston £1450, 230.20p;  
651-700kgs Muirland £1650, 243.40p;  
701-750kgs Corston £1510, 210.90p.  
Heifers  
Up to 250kg - Silverhill £540, Lorn 229.40p;  
251-300kgs Dyke £700, Lanehead 246.10p;  
301-350kgs; Greenside £920, 269.0p;  
351-400kgs Greenside £1090, 299.50p;  
401-450kgs Kipperoch £1030, 236.20p;  
451-500kgs Kilbucho Place £1160, 240.70p;  
501-550kgs Muirland £1240, 234.0p;  
551-600kgs Muirland £1340, 223.30p.  
OTM Cows  
Herries Farms (Lim) £1450, Hermitage 205.70p; Traprain (Sim) £1430, Chapel 195.20p; Herries Farms (BB) £1415, 187.70p; West Lethens (AA) £1270, Meikle Camoquhill 204.30p; Meikle Camoquhill (Mo) £1250, 169.80p; West Muirhouse (CH) £1250, 177.10p; Harehead (Lui) £1230, 149.30p; Old Cambus (Gall) £1170, Meallagie 160.90p; Knochroyd (Her) £1110, 155.30p.  
Young Bulls  
Up to 250kgs - Bankfoot £515, 233.0p;  
251-300kgs Muirpark £650, 221.80p;  
301-350kgs Millhole £810, 244.0p;  
351-400kgs Langbank £850, Wee Carlton 224.50p;  
401-450kgs Gateslack £980, 224.50p;  
451-500kgs Cast £1010, 202.0p; 501-550kgs Airthrey Kerse £1140, 213.0p;  
551-600kgs Buteland £1290, 217.20p;  
601-650kgs Buteland £1420, 223.30p.

## Spean Bridge lambs sell well at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 86 prime cattle and 2,491 prime sheep at Dingwall on Tuesday.  
Lambs averaged 216.4p (+6.3p) and sold to 243.9p per kg for a pen of 41kg Texels from Groam, Kirkhill, and £104 for 56kg Suffolks Suffolk from Balmagaster, Spean Bridge.  
Bullocks averaged 216.1p (-2.1p) and sold to 233p per kg for a 7605kg Limousin cross from Findon Mains, Culbokie, to John M Munro Ltd, Dingwall, and £1,597.50 for a 710kg Charolais cross from Kindeace, Alness.  
Heifers averaged 219.9 (+4.2p) and sold to 240p per kg twice for a 520kg Limousin cross and a 500kg Limousin cross from Udale, Poyntzfield, and £1,376.00 for a 640kg Charolais cross from Mains of Croy, Inverness.  
OTM cattle sold to 199p per kg and £1,671.60 for a 840kg Charolais cross from Pithogarty, Tain.

## Islay Suffolk hogs lead Stirling trade

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 894 store hoggets and breeding sheep at Stirling on Monday when hogs sold to £77 (twice) for Suffolks from D G Archibald, Craigen, Isle of Islay and Texels from K Jackson, Port Stanley House.  
Suffolk hogs from Balliemartin sold to £75 with Texels from the same home to £74.  
Blackfaces sold to £72.50 from Invernoaden, with Mules from the Couston Farming Co, Colintraive to £67.50 and Suffolk crosses from Graigen to £66.  
Texel gimmers sold to £78 from High Linthills, with the same home selling Texel ewes to £72. Texel feeding ewes from Craigmaddie sold to £63.50.  
Blackfaces sold to £77.50 from Kinrara Estate, Aviemore, with Suffolks from Couston to £72.50.

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 With much love from Fiona, Alison, Colin, Denver, Laura, Derek, Christopher, Rowan and Ross.

**DEATHS**

**CAIRNS** - Margaret aged 80 years, beloved wife of James, dear mother of Ann and Douglas and loving grandmother of Fiona, Christopher and Catriona, died peacefully at home on Thursday, March 14, 2013. The funeral will be held at Inverness Crematorium on Saturday, March 23, at 10.30am.

**CARMICHAEL** - Sadly on March 5, 2013 Annie Carmichael in her 94th year passed away peacefully at the Lynn of Lorn Care Home, Benderloch. Wife of the late Nicol Carmichael and mother to Pamela, and grandmother to Kyle, Jacqueline, and Eilidh and great grandmother to Sebastian James.

**HOWARD** - Peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness on March 18, 2013, William Allen, husband of the late Marjorie and father to John, Gillian and Graeme. A funeral service will be held at Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Tuesday 26 March at 1.30 pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Alzheimer's Scotland.

**MACDONALD** - Very peacefully at home, 18 Castle Road, Dunbeg on March 14, 2013, Catherine (Cathie) MacPherson, beloved wife of the late Donald, dear sister to Annie, the late Alistair, Hugh and Iona, beloved Aunt, neighbour and friend to many.

**MACKINNON** - Peacefully after a short illness and with his family at his side, at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on March 19, 2013, Norman (Norrie) of Eriskay, beloved son of Angus and the late Mary, a dear brother and uncle. He will be desperately missed by all. Rest In Peace.

**MACNEILL** - Suddenly but peacefully at the home of his son in Roy Bridge, on Wednesday, March 13, 2013, Hugh aged 91 years, beloved husband of the late Annie MacNeill and father to Lachie and Hugh. Funeral service held in the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church on Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

**MACPHERSON** - Sandra (née MacKenzie), Roaring Mill, Fort William, formerly Lochaline, passed away on Sunday, March 17, 2013 after a long illness. The funeral is to be held at 12 noon on Saturday March 23 at St Mary's Church, Fort William. Beloved wife, mother and granny. Donald, Stephen, Cara-lyn and families.

**STEWART** - John Alexander (John Alick), ex policeman, Culcabock, Inverness, died peacefully at Raigmore Hospital on March 4, 2013 in his 95th year. Loving husband of the late Ruth MacTaggart, dear father to Donald, Ian and Duncan, cherished grandfather of ten and great grandfather of four. Funeral service will take place at St Mary's Church, Glencoe, March 22 at 2pm, thereafter to St John's Cemetery, Ballachulish. Family flowers only. Enquiries to John McLellan Funeral Directors Tel. 01397 702128.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**CARMICHAEL** - The family of the late Annie Carmichael wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy extended to them personally, by cards, and telephone calls in their recent sad bereavement. Sincere thanks to Dr Mary Drijfhout and Dr Stuart Cairns and the staff at Port Appin Surgery, to doctors and nurses in Ward I at Oban Hospital, to the staff of the Lynn of Lorn Care Home at Benderloch, and to all the local carers who all helped in making her final days more comfortable. Special thanks to Rev. Roderick Campbell for a comforting and moving service, to Duncan Gunn for the funeral arrangements, to the ladies of Appin Community Hall for their lovely spread. Thank you for donations which raised £276.00 for the Appin Medical Fund and Alzheimers.

**CLARK** - Alice's family would like to thank everyone for their support over the last ten years, the Lynn of Lorn staff for going beyond the call of duty. Also Owen, Catriona and Martin from Hoesys, and the Rev. Dugald Cameron. To friends and neighbours for cards, visits and floral tributes, but mostly to everyone who attended the graveside. Rest in Peace our precious wee lady. Loved always XxX

**FENTON** - Lucita apologises for the delay in thanking family, friends and neighbours for their kindness, help and support following David's death. It was good to see so many of you at his funeral service and your generous contributions to the charities in his memory were much appreciated. Thank you all - David would have been delighted by your kindness.

**MALLOY** - The family of the late James Malloy would like to thank the doctors and staff at Tobermory Surgery for the exceptional care given to him during his illness, especially the Community Nurses; Moira, Mhairi, Charlotte, and Fiona (Seannair's Angels). We thank the people of Tobermory for their remarkable kindness and support during this difficult time, and give a big shout out for Neil MacInnes for all his help with the boat. The wonderful turn out for the funeral walk to the cemetery was very moving, and much appreciated. Thanks to Calum the Piper for his beautiful playing, and Billy and John for their efficient and caring service. The sum of £665 was raised for Mary's Meals.

**MEMORIAMS**

**ARMSTRONG** - In loving memory of my dearest mother who passed away March 23, 1975, also remembering dear friends Tootsie and Marie Campbell, Mrs Madge MacIsaac and Rev John MacLeod and his dear wife Dolina, also Donnie Ferguson a very kind and caring vet and remembering also John Alan MacNeil, Barra and dear friend Nancy Duffy.  
 - Inserted by Mrs Mary Lamont.

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of my dear mother and grandmother, Betty Lyall, who died on March 10, 1979. Never a day but in our thoughts.  
 - Inserted by her loving daughter Ann, Angus, Lorne, Gordon, Gillian, Ardness, Tirahoiil, Bunessan, Mull.

**HAY** - In loving memory of James who died March 18, 2006.  
 Always in our thoughts,  
 Forever in our hearts.  
 - Joan, Donald, Anthea, Iain and families

**LAFFERTY** - In memory of my mother Isobel who passed away March 23, 2006. Always thinking of you.  
 - Love Isobel x

**LAFFERTY** - In memory of my mother Isobel who passed away March 23, 2006. You are always in our thoughts.  
 - Love Kathleen, Jessica and Juliette x

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Lachie, a dear husband, dad, father-in-law and papa who passed away March 21 2002. Loved and remembered today and always  
 - Effie and family.  
 Also remembering Neil a dear brother, uncle and great uncle who passed away January 14, 2006 and Bella, a dear sister-in-law, aunt and great aunt who passed away March 29, 2010.  
 Always in our thoughts.  
 - Effie and family

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Ian, a dear brother, brother-in-law, uncle and great uncle, who died March 24, 2012.  
 Always in our thoughts.  
 - Christine, Donald and family, Strowan Road, Comrie.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Ian, a dear brother, brother-in-law, uncle and great uncle, who passed away March 24, 2012.  
 Loved and remembered always.  
 - Ethel and Gilbert, John, Cath and family, Carol and Hugh and family.

**MACGREGOR** - In loving memory of Annie Mac who died March 23, 2000. A dear friend and godmother. Sadly missed.  
 Always in my thoughts.  
 - Archie.

**McCLOUNNAN** - In loving memory of my son Calum who died March 27, 2007. A leaf in the book of memories is gently turned today. Loved and missed always.  
 - Your mum, Balephuil, Tirez

**MORRISON** - In fond memory of Findlay Morrison, one year has passed, we miss not seeing you and you are always in my thoughts from the real Johnny Cash and all your friends from Seil Island. Remembered and never forgotten Fin.

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
 Sunday 24th March 2013  
 Palm Sunday  
 St John's Cathedral, Oban  
 Holy Communion.....08.00  
 Sung Eucharist.....10.15  
 Sunday School and Creche  
 Loop System  
 Large Print Hymn Books  
 All Welcome  
 Nicki McNeilly, Provost.  
 (01631) 562323

**St Columba, Gruline, Mull**  
 Holy Eucharist.....11.00

**St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona**  
 Holy Eucharist.....09.30  
 Advance Notice

**Thursday 28 March 2013**  
 Maundy Thursday  
 St John's Cathedral, Oban  
 Morning Prayer and Eucharist.....09.30  
 Sung Eucharist.....19.30  
 with Washing of Feet, and Watch

**St Columba, Gruline, Mull**  
 Holy Eucharist.....19.00

**Friday 29 March 2013**  
 Good Friday  
 St John's Cathedral, Oban  
 Children's Service.....10.00  
 Three-hour vigil with reflections and Eucharist.....12.00

**St Columba, Gruline, Mull**  
 "An Hour by the Cross".....14.00

**Saturday 30 March 2013**  
 Easter Eve  
 St John's Cathedral, Oban  
 The Easter Vigil.....20.00

**WEDDING**



**MACINNES-ROWAN**  
 married on September 28, 2012 at Strathpeffer Free Church followed by a reception at the Strathpeffer Pavilion. Iain MacInnes, son of Donnie and Cathy MacInnes (Donnie Gazette), Coll. Isle of Lewis and Eileen Katie Rowan, daughter of Douglas and Effie Rowan, Old Craigton Road, North Kessock and granddaughter of William and Eileen Rowan, Cornaigmore, Tirez.

**GRADUATIONS**



Stephen MacKinnon recently graduated from Reid Kerr College, Paisley with an HNC in Electrical Engineering. Stephen is the eldest son of Angus and Elaine MacKinnon, Oban, grandson of William and Anne Ritchie, Alberta, Canada and the late Peter and Annie MacKinnon. Stephen is now living and working in Alberta, Canada.



Lynne Rennie recently graduated from the University of the West of Scotland, Paisley, with a BSc in Adult Nursing.



Fiona Stephen graduated from James Watt College in Greenock with a PDA in Childhood Practice. Fiona is the youngest daughter of Janet Stephen and the late Bill Stephen (formerly North Connel) and is currently working as a Childcare and Education worker in Taynuilt (Nursery) School.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

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 The Easter Vigil.....20.00

**Thought for the week**

**Prayer and President Lincoln**

A CLERGYMAN from New York, during a call on President Lincoln at the White House, said: 'I have not come to ask any favours of you, Mr. President; I have only come to say that the loyal people of the North are sustaining you and will continue to do so.'

'We are giving you all that we have, the lives of our sons as well as our confidence and our prayers.'

'You must know that no boy's father or mother ever kneels in prayer these days without asking God to give you strength and wisdom.'

His eyes brimming with tears, Mr. Lincoln replied: 'But for those prayers, I should have faltered and perhaps failed long ago. Tell every father and mother you know to keep on praying, and I will keep on fighting, for I know God is on our side.'

As the clergyman started to leave the room, Mr. Lincoln held him by the hands and said: 'I suppose I may consider this as sort of a pastoral call?'

'Yes,' replied the clergyman. 'Out in our country,' replied Lincoln, 'when a parson makes a pastoral call, it is always the custom for the folks to ask him to lead in prayer, and I should like to ask you to pray with me today. Pray that I may have the strength and the wisdom.'

The two men knelt side by side, and the clergyman offered the most fervent plea to Almighty God that ever fell from his lips.

As they arose, the President clasped his visitor's hand and remarked in a satisfied sort of way: 'I feel better.'

How often in our walk through life has God sent some of His people to be alongside in prayer and we have echoed 'I feel better.'

There is great power in prayer made in Jesus name.

**Bill Harvey, Church of Scotland.**



Linda (centre) celebrates her retirement with her students. 16\_112retirement01

**Ecologist ends 42 years at SAMS**

FORTY-two years and 24 days - that's precisely how long Linda Robb had worked at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) until her retirement last week.

Linda, 65, started at SAMS, in Dunstaffnage, as a marine ecologist before turning her hand to teaching when undergraduates arrived in 2000.

Latterly she spent three years as the programme leader for the marine science degree.

'I think my biggest ambition in life is to never be bored and I was never bored, so I never had five extra years because I was enjoying it so much.'

Linda celebrated her retirement with colleagues and students at a ceilidh in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls last Friday night.

She now plans to get 'stuck into' her family history research and has plans to write plays, short stories and maybe even a novel - the resolution not to get bored remains.

Linda, who was also involved with the recompression chamber for the last 24 years, said the best bit of her job was field work - and working with the students.

'There isn't a single-track road on the west or north coast of Scotland that I haven't been down.'

'It has been a rollercoaster ride and it has been wonderful, there have been more ups than downs. They are a fantastic bunch of people to work with,' added Linda.

**Mourners mark passing of clan chief**

MOURNERS lined the streets of Killin on Friday to pay tribute to James Charles Macnab, the 23rd Chief of the Clan Macnab.

A popular figure, he died in St Andrews Community Hospital on January 11 after a short illness. He was 86.

The procession moved from Killin Kirk to the clan burial island Innis Bhuie on the falls of Dochart, where two caskets containing the ashes of the chief and his wife, Diana Mary Macnab of Macnab, who died a year ago.

A major fire at A and B Services on Main Street caused the march to be diverted, but without much delay.

After the service, James' eldest son Jamie was interred as clan chief.



James' eldest son Jamie, left, leads the funeral procession through Killin on Friday. Photos by The Studio, Killin.

**Church praises fundraising success in big-hearted Ballachulish**

BIG-HEARTED Ballachulish residents raised £1,319 at a daffodil tea on Saturday in aid of roof repairs and a new heating system for St Mun's Church.

Organiser Mary MacPherson said: 'It's a great start to our fundraising campaign.'

The Parish Council, Bishop Joe, Deacon Stan and everyone from St Mun's Ballachulish and The Good Shepherd Kinlochleven, would like to express their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone who came along to support the event.' 20\_112tea01



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John Binnie overtakes Craig MacLean on his way to victory in Saturday's Glen Nevis 10k. 0121a001



Lochaber Athletic Club members after the presentation of trophies in the Nevis Centre.

## Youth against experience in Lochaber Athletic Club's Glen Nevis 10k

LOCHABER Athletic Club's Glen Nevis 10k on Saturday matched youth against experience right from the start - with under 18 runner Craig MacLean setting a fast pace, closely followed by last year's winner John Binnie and Steve MacDonald. At the halfway point Craig was still leading the men, but John Binnie was beginning to cut into his lead. John's experience eventually told and he pushed Craig into second place with two miles to go. Craig couldn't quite hold off Steve MacDonald but still finished

third in a time of 38.11, with John and Steve posting 36.56 and 37.55 respectively. Joseph Tangey (under 18) broke the 40-minute barrier with 39.53, while Allan Lamont continued his recent fine form to finish in 41.27. **Male vet** First male Vet 50 was Owen Bass of Deeside in 41.36 and first male Vet 60 was Jim Treasurer in 44.36. In the woman's race Diane Baum, who has shown great form

in recent weeks, quickly established a big lead and looked comfortable throughout, finishing in 42.51. Susan Jane Ross was looking to secure third overall in the Winter League and put in a solid run to finish second in the race with 47.18. Lisa Conlon and Emma Britton, running their first Winter League race, claimed third equal, breaking 50 minutes with a time of 49.50. First Female Vet 60 was Elma Murdoch in 55.53. There were

also impressive performances from the two Aileens, Kitson and Duncan, and from Andy McHale and Eileen MacKenzie both competing in the Winter League for the first time. Thanks to Raymond for marshalling at the halfway point, Jim and Cammy for the timing and results, Pamela, Elaine and Bruce for marshalling at the Nevis Bridge and 'Big John' for once again being race photographer. Meanwhile, the club celebrated another successful season at its awards presentation in the Nevis Centre on Saturday night.



Ballachulish Primary School dodgeball team proudly show off their medals after winning the South Lochaber primary schools competition. Duror, Glencoe, Kinlochleven and St. Brides also took part.

## Lucky ball as John hits two holes-in-one

'I can't say the conditions were right, or anything like that. It was just sheer luck.'

GLENCRUITTEN golfer John Plunkett has a new addition to his trophy cabinet at home - his lucky golf ball. Sitting among the silverware, John's lucky ball will tell the story from a Stableford competition on March 9 when he carded two holes-in-one on the Oban course, becoming only the third player to do so. John, a club member of 31 years, said: 'I can't say the conditions were right, or anything

like that. It was just sheer luck. 'I had played with that ball all day and got two holes-in-one, so after putting out on the 18th I put it in my pocket and took it home to put in the cabinet.' **Par three holes** John's aces came at the par three holes, five and 17. He used an eight iron at the 150-yard fifth hole and he achieved his second hole-in-one at the 180-yard 17th with a four rescue wood.

John, who plays off a six handicap, follows in the footsteps of Dougie MacIntyre senior and the late Mark Stevens, who also achieved the feat. John, aged 64, said: 'I now have 10 holes-in-one but Dougie senior has 21. 'I'm catching up with him but I don't think time is on my side!'



John Plunkett with his lucky ball.

### Women's shinty season gets underway

#### WOMEN'S SHINTY

LAST weekend saw women's shinty get underway with action across their three Marine Harvest leagues. In National Division One, current champions Glengarry saw off their Highland counterparts Badenoch and Strathspey 4-2 with goals from Ashley Fraser (2), Laura Gallacher and Laura MacKay while Sarah Caird and Rona Stewart bagged Badenoch and Strathspey's two. In the league's other encounter, Aberdour succumbed to the might of GMA with a final scoreline of 8-1. Five of GMA's goals came from Joan Nicolson with Rachel McCafferty, Siobhan Martin and Lisa Norman getting the rest. In North Division Two, Strathgully defeated Lovat 4-1 and Lochaber had an emphatic 15-0 victory over Ardnarmurchan. In South Division Two Cowal and Bute suffered a 10-1 loss at the hands of GMA's second team.

### Atlantis Leisure 5-a-side league

#### INDOOR FOOTBALL

THE Handy Men secured the bottom half league title on Sunday with a win over OES, who must beat The Royal Hotel by the wooden spoon. In the top half, Atlantis Leisure extended their lead by beating Oban High School. Results: RM Builders v Carpet Fitters postponed; OES 2, The Handy Men 14, MOTM Martin Bonar; Atlantis Leisure 21, OHS 6, MOTM Neil Frazer; Glenorchy 5, Hotels 3, MOTM Stuart Twort. Fixtures: 5.10pm Atlantis v RM Builders; 6pm OES v The Royal Hotel; 6.50pm The Oban Times v The Carpet Fitters; 7.40pm Glenorchy v The Handy Men. Oban High School have a free week.

## Some 'shambolic' refereeing decisions take the shine off impressive cup win for Oban Athletic

Straight red card and six yellows for Oban side

#### Thompson Trophy Helensburgh 2 Oban Athletic 5

OBAN Athletic had a comfortable win over the home side on Saturday but manager Calum Fox was not a happy man at full time after a refereeing display he described as 'shambolic'. A red card and six bookings, including one for Fox himself, overshadowed a fine display by Athletic, who went ahead through a Colin Carswell header early on. This was quickly followed by a left foot volley from Kris Gillies beyond the diving Helensburgh goalkeeper. His equally deadly strike partner Dean Smith got in on the act on 10 minutes, twisting and turning the Burgh defence before executing a shot in off the post to seemingly put Athletic on easy street. On the half hour, it got even better for the visitors when the impressive Stephen Kelly got forward from the back with a lung bursting run before firing across goal where Gillies stroked home from close range. However, what was to follow for the next hour was an array of inconsistent refereeing decisions that frustrated the Oban side. Minutes later, Helensburgh were thrown a lifeline; a penalty was awarded after a cross hit the arm of Athletic defender David MacPhee, although his arms were tight to his body. Craig

#### FOOTBALL

Maitland performed his usual party piece by saving the penalty but Burgh got a goal from a rare foray forward soon after. Athletic's nerves were settled five minutes before half time when Scott Maitland smashed home a 25-yard shot to make it 5-1. With minutes remaining in the first half, the referee awarded a second penalty after a Helensburgh player was adjudged to have been tripped in the box, despite Athletic's protests that he simply fell over the ball. This penalty was scored. The second half was a non event as almost every Athletic attack was met with an offside call and the only talking point was a straight red card to Kris Gillies for swearing. Manager Fox said after the game: 'I should be talking about another impressive and convincing victory for our team, however, the referee has totally ruined the game in every way he could. 'The standard of refereeing in this league is not always the best but it was shambolic today. 'In Oban we are lucky we can provide referees that are impartial and fair.' Oban Athletic take on CORKERHILL this weekend in the 16th of the Challenge Shield competition.

## Geo beats brother-in-law in final

BROTHERS in law Geo Adam and Gordon McKenzie brought a change to the predicted SEPP Region 5 final line up last Saturday. Oban's finest 32 players battled to get their hands on the cash, the trophy and raise their Scotland ranking points. So far, six of the eight finals have seen Adam go head-to-head with four-time winner Jim

Muir but with a shock early exit by Muir, Adam was set to meet a different opponent for the first time in the final. With strong competition from players just back from competing in the European Championships, both men played extremely well to get to the final, with Adam a convincing winner at 6-1. McKenzie, who missed half of last year's events following a

#### POOL

family bereavement, said 'I am extremely happy getting to my first final but it didn't look like anyone could stop Geo today.' Semi-finalists Peter MacDougall and tour newcomer Arvid Fagerbold also took home a trophy and £25 each.

## Kintyre Way entries close

THE TWO trail-running events on the scenic Kintyre Way, which this year take place on May 11 will be closing for standard entries on March 31. Runners start from either Tarbert at 6am or Tayinloan at 9.30am, to make their way southwards along hill paths, forest trails and seaside beaches, with views alternating between the hills of Arran to the east and Islay and Jura to the west.

#### TRAIL-RUNNING

This year's field reflects the recent rapid growth of 'ultra' running - any race longer than a standard 26-mile marathon - and a total of 22 runners are already signed up to attempt the full 67-mile course in one day, twice the number in any previous year, and a further 18 are entered for the 35-mile option.



The victorious Argyll under-15 girls.

## Argyll girls win Brewin Dolphin Bowl final at Murrayfield

WHILE the national men's team ran out of steam in Paris, Argyll under-15 girls powered their way to glory at Murrayfield in the final of the Brewin Dolphin Bowl final. The team, made up of girls from Oban and Mull comfortably beat Gordon Schools, Huntly, 95-0 last Friday. Player of the match, Oban's Emma Thompson, got

on the score sheet, as did Hannah MacKenzie, Brooke Nisbet, Olivia Nisbet, all Oban, and Mull girls Eilidh Mitchell and Charlotte Peacock. Olivia kicked the converted points. **Proud** Coach Karen MacCorquodale said: 'I am so proud of the girls. They haven't had much competitive action, al-

#### WOMEN'S RUGBY

though they have been training hard, so to win by such a convincing scoreline is a tremendous achievement.' Argyll's under-18 girls team will be in action in the shield final equivalent in less than two weeks.



Results

**Saturday 16 March**  
**Orion Group Premiership**  
 Inveraray 2 - 2 Lovat  
 Kinlochshiel 2 - 1 Glenurquhart  
 Kyles Ath 4 - 0 Fort William  
 Newtonmore 5 - 1 Lochaber  
 Oban Caman 3 - 1 Kingussie

**Marine Harvest**  
**North Division 1**  
 Caberfeidh 2 - 3 Beaulie  
 Inverness 4 - 2 Strathglass  
 Kilmallie 3 - 1 Skye

**Marine Harvest**  
**South Division 1**  
 Aberdour 5 - 4 Bute  
 Glenorchy 3 - 1 Taynuilt  
 Kilmory 1 - 3 Oban Celtic  
 Strachur 0 - 6 Glasgow MA

**Marine Harvest**  
**North Division 2**  
 Beaulie 1 - 1 Lovat  
 Fort William 2 - 1 Glengarry  
 Glenurquhart 4 - 1 Kinlochshiel  
 Kingussie 1 - 1 Aberdeen Uni  
 Skye 3 - 2 Newtonmore

**Marine Harvest**  
**South Division 2**  
 Bute 0 - 2 Kyles Athletic  
 Col Glen 1 - 3 Inveraray  
 Glasgow MA 1 - 6 Ballachulish  
 Tayforth 3 - 0 Aberdour

**Marine Harvest**  
**North Division 3**  
 Boleskine 5 - 1 Caberfeidh  
 Lochroom 3 - 5 Lochaber  
 Lochcarron 1 - 1 Lewis  
 Strathglass 0 - 3 Kilmallie  
 Strathspey 2 - 1 Inverness

Fixtures

**Saturday 23 March**  
 All throw-ups 2.30 unless stated  
**Orion Group Premiership**  
 Fort William v Oban Caman  
 Graham Cameron  
 Kingussie v Inveraray  
 Innes Wood  
 Kyles Athletic v Newtonmore  
 Colin MacDonald  
 Lochaber v Glenurquhart  
 Robert Baxter  
 Lovat v Kinlochshiel  
 Deek Cameron

**Marine Harvest**  
**North Division 1**  
 Beaulie v Strathglass  
 John Angus Gillies - 3pm  
 Kilmallie v Inverness  
 Daniel MacRae  
 Skye v Caberfeidh  
 Donald MacRae - 3pm

**Marine Harvest**  
**South Division 1**  
 Lochside Rovers v Glenorchy  
 Ted McDonald  
 Oban Celtic v Glasgow MA  
 Lachie Wood  
 Strachur v Bute  
 David Mitchell  
 Taynuilt v Kilmory  
 Billy Wotherspoon

**Marine Harvest**  
**North Division 2**  
 Aberdeen Uni v Fort William  
 Neil Ferguson  
 Beaulie v Kingussie  
 Al Hunter - 12noon  
 Glenurquhart v Skye  
 John Matheson  
 Kinlochshiel v Lovat  
 Ronnie Campbell  
 Newtonmore v Glengarry  
 Dunkie Kerr

**Marine Harvest**  
**South Division 2**  
 Aberdour v Ballachulish  
 Neil MacDonald  
 Bute v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
 Euan Pearson  
 Col Glen v Kyles Athletic  
 Dougie Cameron  
 Inveraray v Tayforth  
 Alex MacVicar

**Marine Harvest**  
**North Division 3**  
 Caberfeidh v Strathglass  
 Calum Girvan  
 Inverness v Boleskine  
 Willie MacRae  
 Lochaber v Lochcarron  
 John MacGregor  
 Lochroom v Kilmallie  
 John Slaggie  
 Strathspey v Lewis  
 John MacLeod - 1.30pm

**Womens Camanachd Association**  
**Fixtures: Sunday 17 March**  
 Marine Harvest  
 National Division 1  
 Glasgow MA v Aberdour  
 Glenurquhart v  
 Badenoch & Strathspey  
**Marine Harvest**  
**North Division 2**  
 Lochaber v Ardnamurchan  
 Strathglass v Lovat  
**Marine Harvest**  
**South Division 2**  
 Glasgow MA v Cowal & Bute

**you will find**  
**SPOT**  
**THE**  
**BALL**  
**on page 17**  
**this week**

# Title favourites go head-to-head at Tighnabruaich

## Oban Camanachd defeat Kingussie

THIS weekend will provide an early test for the two title favourites as NEWTONMORE and Kyles Athletic go head-to-head in Tighnabruaich.

Regining champs 'More sit in second place, one point behind Kyles who have a 100 per cent record after three games.

'More manager PJ MacKintosh told *The Oban Times* he expected the game to be 'crucial' for the title race, even at this early point in the season.

He said: 'They're one point ahead just now. If they go three points ahead we're relying on someone else to take points off them.

'It's all about us; Kyles are a good attacking team but so are we so we'll just be concentrating on ourselves.'

The Badenoch side had a morale boosting 5-1 win at home to Lochaber last weekend, with Danny MacRae doing most of the damage with four goals.

MacKintosh said: 'It's always nice to score a few goals. It may be a bit tighter than the scoreline reflected, but Danny was on form and scored four lovely goals.'

Glen McIntosh missed the game with a broken collar bone, but may be fit for the Kyles tie.

**KYLES ATHLETIC** trainer James Perlich says the result of this weekend's crunch tie with Newtonmore will not have a bearing on the league title.

The Tighnabruaich men could open up a three-point lead on the title holders with a home win this weekend.

But Perlich claims the game between the two title favourites had come too early to be of much significance.

He said: 'Newtonmore is a team we enjoy playing against because there is nothing between the two teams.'

'I don't think the result will have any bearing on the title race because the league is so tight and teams can take points off each other.'

'So far we are the only team not to drop points, so there is no pressure on us. The pressure is all on them.'

Kyles have injury concerns ahead of the game and could be missing Calum Miller, Andrew King and David Zavaroni through injury.

However, the Argyll side seems to have found a new position for defender Cammy Keith, who excelled at full forward last Saturday in a 4-0 victory over Fort William.

Talisman Roddy MacDonald scored a double and Thomas Whyte and Duncan Kerr added late goals to secure the points.

Undefeated **LOVAT** welcome Kinlochshiel to Kiltarlity on Saturday looking to build on the solid early season form that has seen them draw with champions Newtonmore and Camanachd Cup finalists Inveraray in their last two matches.

Coach Allan MacRae, who will have captain Calum Cruden and Lorne MacKay at his disposal again following their return from suspension, anticipates a free-flowing game.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We had some good encounters with Kinlochshiel last season in the league. They were always close



Shiel defender Graham Morrison clears from Glenurquhart dangerman Neale Reid. Photo: Lorraine MacDiarmid.

games with never more than a goal in it.

'They are a good attacking team and the MacRae boys are good up front so I'm sure there will be goals. I don't think it will be a low scoring affair.'

MacRae added: 'The good thing this year is that we have a more powerful squad and more bodies at our disposal. That means that even with a few out we are still competitive.'

'The way things are going with the bookings I think it will be the teams who have the biggest squads who will have an advantage later in the season.'

**OBAN CAMANACHD** recorded their first points of the season last Saturday but manager Gussie Campbell will be doing his best to keep his players' feet on the ground for this weekend's trip to Fort William.

An early goal from Iain 'Gussie' Campbell helped to settle the home side against Kingussie last weekend and, despite a cracking equaliser from Thomas Borthwick, Camanachd went into the break 2-1 up through a first half injury-time strike from Iain 'Scally' MacMillan.

An Andrew MacCuish strike in the second half sealed the win.

Campbell said: 'The boys were excellent but they must remember that it is only two points. This weekend they have to go out and prove that wasn't a one off. Fort William will be expecting to beat us up there and will be smarting from their defeat last week. I don't think the Kingussie result has given the boys the belief to play in this league; they always had that.'

Leading 3-1 after the hour mark last Saturday, Camanachd had to stave off a desperate Kingussie. A good save from Robert Dunning with 18 minutes to play was welcome relief to his teammates and Campbell praised veteran defender Gareth Evans who came into the team to play 'a general's role' in guiding his younger teammates.

The manager said: 'I just had a feeling a win would come. We had been creating chances in our previous games but just didn't get the luck.'

James MacMillan is available for selection again after missing last week's win, however, half forward Scott MacMillan is an injury worry.

Goal-shy **LOCHABER** welcome Glenurquhart to Spean Bridge this Saturday, with both sides hoping to kick start their season with a win.

The teams occupied the bottom two spots in the Orion Group Premiership and both will be looking at this weekend as a chance to get a first win of the season.

Lochaber manager Michael Delaney said he was confident his side would be able to find the net regularly.

He said: 'We've got goal scorers in the squad. It's not like we're not creating chances, we just need to be a bit sharper. We've got four or five natural goal scorers up front.'

'The goals will come when the confidence comes and vice versa.'

'Glenurquhart would have earmarked Lochaber away as a game they could win, so we've

got to make sure it's not a nice place for them to come to.'

Lochaber lost 5-1 away to Newtonmore last weekend, with Stuart Callison's first goal of the season proving a mere consolation as Danny MacRae struck four times.

Delaney said: 'If Danny was playing for us we would have won that game. We were always in the game, but we could have played better in phases.'

**KINLOCHSHIEL** take on Lovat at Balgate Park buoyed by the 2-1 win over Glenurquhart which lifted them up to sixth in the Orion Group Premiership table.

The sides served up some thrilling shinty in their league duels last season with a 3-3 draw at Kiltarlity and a 4-3 win for Lovat at Kirrton - and Saturday's encounter could be another cracker.

A knee and ankle strain could again rule out Duncan 'Ach' MacRae, but 'Shiel' coach Johnston Gill is not giving up hope that the talented young forward could shrug off the injury.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'He is in with a chance of playing and we will give him to the last minute, but I would say he is doubtful. David Glass came on for the second half against Glenurquhart with Neil MacVicar and both played very well. They will be there or thereabouts on Saturday.'

Against Glenurquhart, 'Shiel' went 1-0 down to a 45th Neale Reid goal but in a frantic finish Gordie MacDonald levelled before Keith MacRae scored the winner with a minute left.

Gill said: 'I knew it was going to be a difficult one. It was a very hard game but we prevailed. The win gave us a boost and hopefully we can push on from that against Lovat.'

**INVERARAY** player-manager Garry MacPherson has only seen his team win in Kingussie once in the history of the premier league but admits the current side is an unknown quantity.

The Royal Burgh travel to Badenoch without the suspended Allan MacDonald, who has been a standout performer this season but was dismissed in last weekend's home draw with Lovat.

MacPherson said: 'I don't know what to make of Kingussie this season. I noticed they had two good results at the start of the season but the report I got from Mossfield last week wasn't very favourable towards them.'

Inveraray were boosted last week by the signing of ex-Kilmallie player Peter MacIntyre, who almost scored a debut goal last Saturday against Lovat at Winterton Park.

Chris Crawford opened the scoring for Inveraray against the run of play but it was cancelled out by Ryan Ferguson.

As the game approached stalemate at full time, MacDonald was sent off for two bookings and Lovat's Greg Matheson popped up to score what looked the winner.

But Inveraray's decorated veterans revel in high-pressure situations and David 'Bingo' Robertson - a Camanachd Cup winning captain - scored an equaliser with virtually the last chance of the game.

MacPherson explained: 'At the end of the game we got a corner and everyone went up for it. It just fell for Bingo and he hammered it home, on his weaker side. When we went 2-1 up it looked as though there was no way back for us but they played their spare man in defence, so they weren't all over us and that gave us the chance we needed.'

**SKYE CAMANACHD** take on Caberfeidh at Pairc nan Lochs keen to get their title challenge back on track after the 3-1 defeat to leaders Kilmallie last weekend.

Wing centre Sean Hedley will make a return to the squad, but the fisherman is unlikely to start the game as work commitments have meant he has spent limited time on the shinty field so far this season.

Policeman Ian Nicolson may also feature in the Skye defence at some stage against Cabers.

The islanders, who matched Kilmallie in every department and were only denied by a virtuoso performance by goalkeeper Kevin Toye, should have too much firepower for their opponents who have lost quicksilver forward Kevin Bartlett to premiership club Lochaber this season.

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He said: 'It's a difficult pitch to go to. Lochaber are a good team, especially at home. They've got a good home support.'

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Glen should have a full squad, with McNeill saying he was keen to put out the same line up again.

Last weekend Glen conceded two late goals to lose 2-1 away to Kinlochshiel. Neale Reid had given the away side the lead, but strikes from Gordie MacDonald and Keith MacRae in the last 15 minutes meant 'Shiel' took both points.

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'We have made one other signing with Ewan Campbell from Kyles Athletic, who has moved back up from Dunoon to Fort William. If the Camanachd Association can process the paperwork he will be in the squad. He is quite a strong player and won the Camanachd Cup with Kyles last year.'

Robertson remains upbeat following the Kyles game, in which Fort made a rod for their own back by failing to convert scoring opportunities.

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The away side have scored 14 goals in their past two games and are being tipped as early title favourites by those who have seen the young hotshots in action.

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Last weekend Lee Askew was instrumental for the visitors but it was talisman David Hill (2) and Kenny Wotherspoon who got the goals.

Hamilton added: 'Lee had one of his better games and Kenny worked hard in the centre and then up front.'

'If you had told me at the start of the season we would have four points from three games I would have taken that, so it is a good start to the season.'

And with this bedrock to work from, Ballachulish eventually found their stride on 20 minutes when Duncan MacDonald showed his skill to equalise and he put his side into the lead three minutes later, pouncing on a rebound after John Clark's long ranger was saved.

A Lorne Brown goal gave the visitors a 3-1 lead at half time.

Into the second, half Brown scored his second and then turned provider for Scott Henderson to make it 5-1.

The game finished with a trio of thunderous shots at the GMA goal, which produced brave steps from the goalkeeper, who was helpless with the third as Duncan Macdonald unleashed an unstoppable shot to complete to his second hat-trick in three games.

Balla head to the Kingdom of Fife this Saturday to play Aberdour.

**BUTE** were the victims of arguably the most surprising result of last weekend when they went down 5-4 at Aberdour.

And manager Graham Fisher has told his players he expects a much improved performance and attitude for the visit to Strachur on Saturday.

The islanders, who were expected to be Marine Harvest South Division One title challengers this season, were 4-0 down at half time last Saturday but almost snatched a draw after Fisher's frank half-time team talk.

The manager told *The Oban Times* this week: 'We were simply overrun in the first half. I think a few of the boys maybe thought we would get an easy ride.'

'This result is maybe the wake up call some of the players needed and I am expecting a reaction this Saturday.'

'I am fortunate enough to have a full squad available this weekend, so I will be making changes. It's fair to say I am not happy!'

Aberdour, who have been boosted by the signing of three ex-Lochcarron players, took advantage of good pitch conditions in the Bute half to race to a strong lead.

In the second half Iain MacDonald (2), John MacCallum and Fisher, who had to list himself among the weakened playing squad, got on the score sheet.

Aberdour had few chances but John MacCallum despatched one of these for the winning goal.

**LOCHSIDE** Rovers will still be hurting from an 8-0 defeat at the hands of GMA when they line up to play another title contender, Glenorchy, this weekend.

Ewan MacCorquodale will be suspended for the game but manager Andrew Pearson should otherwise be able to call on a full squad.

The Oban side had no game last weekend.

SHINTY

The Dell suits them. This is a home game for us so if we're going to do ok this season we'll have to win. We'll be going out for the win and we know if we play well we can do it.'

Kingussie's strong start came to a shuddering halt in Oban, with Iain Campbell and Iain MacMillan scoring for the home team either side of a Thomas Borthwick strike in the first half.

As Kings pushed for an equaliser, Andrew MacCuish scored on the hour mark to seal the victory - Kings' first defeat of the season. We're very young and very inexperienced and we're going to be up and down this season. We got caught on a bad day.'

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Oban Camanachd's Iain MacMillan shields the ball from Kingussie's Louis Munro during last Saturday's Orion Premiership match at Mossfield Stadium. Photo: John MacFavish

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Hamilton added: 'Lee had one of his better games and Kenny worked hard in the centre and then up front.'

'If you had told me at the start of the season we would have four points from three games I would have taken that, so it is a good start to the season.'

And with this bedrock to work from, Ballachulish eventually found their stride on 20 minutes when Duncan MacDonald showed his skill to equalise and he put his side into the lead three minutes later, pouncing on a rebound after John Clark's long ranger was saved.

A Lorne Brown goal gave the visitors a 3-1 lead at half time.

Into the second, half Brown scored his second and then turned provider for Scott Henderson to make it 5-1.

The game finished with a trio of thunderous shots at the GMA goal, which produced brave steps from the goalkeeper, who was helpless with the third as Duncan Macdonald unleashed an unstoppable shot to complete to his second hat-trick in three games.

Balla head to the Kingdom of Fife this Saturday to play Aberdour.

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## Saints battle through in West Cup tie

**West of Scotland Cup 3rd Round Oban Saints 1 Pollok 0**

POLLOK were the visitors to Glencruitten for this West of Scotland Cup third round tie and as in previous meetings between the teams over the years the game was very close with the Oban side just edging it by the only goal of the game.

With manager Iain Jackson away on a scouting mission at the Nou Camp watching Barcelona v Rayo Vallecano, the team was run on the day by David Buchanan and coach Peter MacCallum.

The home side started well and took the game to their Glasgow opponents and Marc MacCallum had a spectacular effort sail just over the top in the seventh minute.

Saints were playing some good one touch football in the opening period of the game and Donald Campbell came close with another good effort.

The visitors were finding it hard to get going as the eager home side closed them down quickly at every opportunity, although Pollok striker David Murdoch cut inside his marker before firing in a fine effort that went inches over the top.

Although having most of the territorial advantage, the Oban side needed a goal while they were on top and this they got in the 16th minute when Donald Campbell was fouled 25 yards from goal. Willie Gemmell stepped up and sent a great free

kick past the helpless Pollok netminder Matt Lynch into the postage stamp corner of the net.

The visiting strikers were finding it hard going against the hard tackling Saints defence but Steven Williams made space and fired in a good shot, but thankfully for Saints it flew over the top.

Pollok, who had been under pressure for the opening period of the half came back into the game, but the Saints defence looked pretty solid.

The match was developing into a full blooded cup tie with no quarter being asked or given by either team and referee Jim Laird from Prestwick had to have eyes in the back of his head when tempers got a bit frayed at times, but thankfully the players saw sense and the game settled down.

Both teams were going hell for leather, but there was no more scoring with Saints just about good value for their narrow half time lead, although Pollok had come back into the game as the half wore on.

The home side thought they had increased their lead in the 57th minute when they were awarded another free kick just outside the Pollok penalty area. Willie Gemmell stepped up, but this time the ball hit the crossbar with the keeper stranded in no man's land.

Saints took off Eddie Swift, who had been suffering from flu all week, replacing him with new Japanese signing Sonin Kurishita and the youngster

### FOOTBALL

showed some good touches on his club debut.

Saints had another great chance when a Willie Gemmell corner flew across the face of the Pollok goals, but it was just too far in front of Alex Craik who made a desperate lunge to try and poke the ball home.

Minutes later Donald Campbell sent a clever ball inside full back Darren Carroll for Sonin Kurishita to run in on goals, but the young striker's shot was well saved by Matt Lynch.

With ten minutes to go the visitors thought they had equalised when a good header looked to be creeping just under the crossbar, but up stepped Saints skipper Keith Millar to head the ball off the line.

Pollok threw everything at Saints in the final few minutes and forced three corners, but the local side defended these well and ran down the clock to win a hard-fought match with the only goal of the game.

David Buchanan said: 'It was a typical cup tie with no quarter asked or given. We knew it would be tough as Pollok are a good side. It was close but we created more goal-scoring chances so I think we edged a tight game on the day and deserve to be in the fourth round.'

This Saturday the Oban side stay on West of Scotland Cup duty when they travel to take on Kilmarnock team Shortlees in the fourth round. The match will be played at Burn Park,



Oban Saints new Japanese signing Sonin Kurishita, who came on as a second half substitute, gets a header on target during last Saturday's West of Scotland Cup win over Pollok. Inset: Pollok keeper Matt Lynch can only look on as Willie Gemmell's free kick sails over his head and into the roof of the net. Photos: Stephen Lawson

## Markie Dans 'A' team win Oban Filling Station Cup

### POOL

CONGRATULATIONS to Markie Dans 'A' on winning The Oban Filling Station Cup for the first time.

It may have let the league championship slip from its grasp, but there was never any doubt come the end of Thursday night what team name was getting engraved on the knock-out cup.

Unfortunately for the Lochavullin on this occasion they could only play a cameo role in proceedings as Markies ploughed through its singles conceding only one match en route to a 5-1 victory.

Unselfishly Markie Dans captain Paul Kersley elected to remove himself from the starting line-up in favour of players on form which proved to be a tactical master-stroke and possibly the biggest call of the season to date.

The only other match last Thursday was the re-scheduled Lancaster derby league clash played to a packed crowd as regulars made room in their social calendar to attend. When all was said and done a draw was just about what the fair result.

This week's fixtures: Lancaster 'B' v Lochmell; Gluepot v Clarendon; Lochavullin v Markie Dans 'A'; Kelvin v Lancaster 'A'; Markie Dans 'B' v Cellar

Player of the year standings:  
1 Jim Muir - Markie Dans 'A'  
2 Barry Clark - Lancaster 'A'  
3 Geo Adam - Cellar  
4 Laura-ann Sneddon - Lancaster 'B'  
5 Colin Maxwell - Cellar  
6 Peter MacDougall - Cellar  
7 Richard MacDougall - Lancaster 'A'  
8 Gordon McKenzie - Cellar  
9 Donnie MacLean - Lochmell  
10 Michael MacQueen - Cellar

## Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Under-13s 1; Westerton 8. On target for Saints was Daniel McCuish. Goldenhill 1, Under-14s 3. Jay Cooper netted a hat-trick for the Oban boys. Milngavie v Under-15s, postponed. Allander 1, Under-16s 2. Saints scorers were Matty Kelly and Duggie MacLeod.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Under 14s v Antinore; Under 15s v Dalmar Park; Under 16s v Ardencaple.

## Stableford at Tobermory

### GOLF

THE last Winter 9 Hole Stableford produced really good golf from Iain Wilshire who had three twos on his card for his magnificent 24 points, with his father coming a distant second with 20 points.

Results: 1 Iain Wilshire 24 points; 2 John Wilshire 20 points; 3 Ewan MacCron 19 points. Junior March Medal: 1 Ross MacCron 37-07-30; 2 Lewis Wilshire 39-05-34; 3 William MacCron 38-03-35.

Oban failed to build on this score for the remainder of the game and were also hindered with the sin-binning of captain Robin MacQueen with 10 minutes to go.

This Saturday's home match against Clydesdale kicks off at 3pm.

Follow us on facebook

## SAFL results and upcoming fixtures

### FOOTBALL

LAST Saturday's results: West of Scotland Cup, 3rd Round - Oban Saints 1, Pollok 0; Division 1A - Eaglesham 'B' 5, Dunoon Athletic 5. Division 1B - Lochgilphead Red Star 1, Jamestown 3.

This Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup, 4th Round - Shortlees v Oban Saints; Premier Division Two - Campbeltown Pupils v Paisley; Port Glasgow OBU v Dunoon; Division 1A - Dunoon Athletic v Millbeg; East Kilbride v Tarbert; Division 1B - Lochgilphead Red Star v Inverkip Thistle.

## Islay Golf Club

### GOLF

RESULTS from the Foreland Trophy played on Sunday March 17 at Islay Golf Club: 1 David Johnston 79 Less 12 Net 67; 2 Sam Johnston 2 less 4 Net 68; 3 David Livingstone 75 Less 6 Net 69. C.S.S 71

## Narrow win for Oban Hockey Club

OBAN Hockey Club's men's team got off to a winning start in its first match on Monday night in Fort William.

Team captain Mark Scott led his team out for its first match against Lochaber High School senior pupils.

The Lochaber boys hadn't played since they had to pull out of the leagues in 2009 so both teams were feeling anxious about playing as a team.

After a tense first half, which ended 0-0, both teams settled into their game and within minutes of the second half Mark Lockhart had scored Oban's first goal.



Hosts Lochaber High School and Oban Hockey Club line up ahead of the visitors' first game.

### HOCKEY

The pace picked up and after a few good saves from Oban goalkeeper David Love, Lockhart made sure of the win with his second goal.

Both teams played incredibly well with a limited amount of experience but lots of enthusiasm.

Oban Hockey Club train on a Wednesday night indoor from 8pm-9pm and a Thursday night outdoor, both at Oban High School.

For more info contact Tara Pollock at t.pollock@hotmail.co.uk

## Simple march to the title looks a little bit more difficult now

### RBS West Division Three Loch Lomond 17 Oban Lorne 15

OBAN Lorne is in danger of taking its eye off the ball in the race for promotion, as the excitement of the National Bowl semi-final builds.

Back-to-back losses in West Division Three, including last weekend's defeat to rival Loch Lomond, have made a seemingly simple march to the title seem much more difficult.

Oban Lorne could go top with a home win next weekend against Clydesdale but, although it has a game in hand, the Green Machine currently sits three points behind Loch Lomond.

The league leaders welcomed Oban Lorne to Bonhill last Saturday and a strong Oban line-up was feeling confident, having beaten its hosts twice already this season: a 18-17 win at Glencruitten in October and a 22-21 success in the West Bowl only three weeks previously.

Oban made a good start to the game. Aided by the Lomond defence giving penalties away at the breakdown, Oban found themselves pressurising the home tryline. The men in green were rewarded for their efforts with a try from Lorne MacLachlan, the second row touching down in the middle of an impressive driving maul to score his first league try of the season, converted by Craig Wright.

But Loch Lomond hit back with two tries, gifted by the Oban defence. The first was from a charged-down kick only a few metres out, then a dropped ball from the Oban fullback allowed the hosts to again score to lead 12-7.

Oban replied with a Craig Wright penalty to narrow the gap to 12-10 but the hosts scored again before the break to lead 17-10.

Oban made some tactical changes at halftime allowing Fergus Matheson to move to

### GOLF

scrum half and Dougie Pender to 10. Craig Wright slotted in at fullback for MacLachlan.

With the weather conditions deteriorating, both teams became victims of their own downfall with poor kicking, inconsistent scrums and lineouts and giving away a large number of penalties.

When Oban did have a rare visit to the Lomond 22, it was clinical enough to take its chance and score a well worked try. Dougie Pender touched down after good forward play to reduce the score to 17-15 with 20 minutes remaining.

Oban failed to build on this score for the remainder of the game and were also hindered with the sin-binning of captain Robin MacQueen with 10 minutes to go.

This Saturday's home match against Clydesdale kicks off at 3pm.

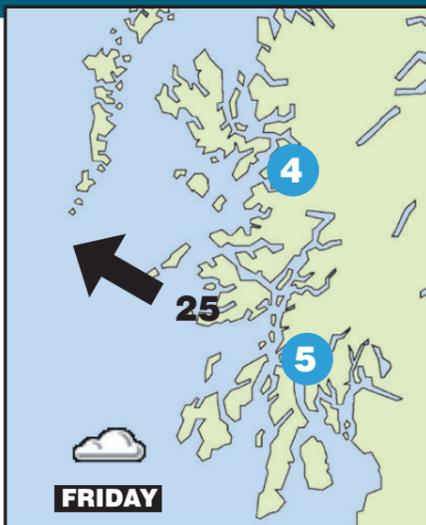
## Weather

**Thursday** Sunny intervals  
Winds moderate, east south easterly  
Temperatures 1C to 4°C

**Friday** Cloudy  
Winds strong, east south easterly  
Temperatures 3°C to 5°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy  
Winds moderate east south easterly  
Temperatures 2°C to 5°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 21, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	am	pm
Thur	06.54	2.1	14.17	2.7
Fri	02.08	2.8	09.23	1.9
Sat	03.09	3.1	10.02	1.7
Sun	03.50	3.3	10.32	1.4
Mon	04.27	3.6	11.02	1.1
Tues	05.03	3.8	11.32	0.9
Wed	05.36	4.0	12.02	0.7

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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# **The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.**

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

First timber through £37m sawmill at Corpach **Page 18**



Lochaber Music Festival photos and results **Page 8**

**Sports news**

Lochaber has new boxing champion



### Caol primary pupils dress up for Red Nose Day

Caol Primary School pupils were among thousands of West Highland children dressing up for Red Nose Day on Friday to raise money for Comic Relief. See Red Nose West Highlands round-up, page 12. 20\_1212a0101

## Single mum's five inch anguish over 'bedroom tax'

Width of spare room means housing benefit will be cut

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk



If Elaine MacNeil's spare room was five inches smaller she would escape the bedroom tax 20\_1212a1e01

A FORT William single mum will have to pay the 'bedroom tax' - because a spare room is five inches too wide. Now Elaine MacNeil will have to find another £45 a month from April 1 after Highland Council wrote to say her weekly housing benefit, which previously covered the full rent, was being cut from £78.16 to £67.22. Ms MacNeil is one of hundreds of West Highland people in social housing caught by a UK Government drive to cut the welfare bill by penalising tenants for 'under occupying' their homes. Her Bruce Place flat had only two bedrooms when she moved in with her sons Declan and Campbell, who has severe learning difficulties. Lochaber Housing Association created a third bedroom out of the dinette so the boys could sleep separately. The tiny room, which has barely enough space to walk round the bed, measures seven feet five inches across. Six inches narrower, according to Ms MacNeil, and it would be too small to qualify as a bedroom under the new rules. Campbell, now 13, attends Lochaber High School. Declan, 20, is a third year mechanical engineering student at Glasgow University, who uses the spare room on his regular trips home. Ms MacNeil, who is a full time carer for her younger son, told *The Oban Times*: 'I think it's completely and morally wrong,

charging me for my son not being here full time.' She added: 'I phoned the council up and they said I'm in a three-bedroom house with only two of us living here. 'It's the fact that there's no warning and no explanation is what concerns me. They are not saying the reason they are sending these letters out is for under-occupancy. 'There is a discretionary fund you can apply to, but that's only for three months at a time. 'This is no April Fool - this is for real. People have to be aware these letters are coming through the door saying you have to pay the bedroom tax.' Lochaber Housing Association chief executive Blair Allan told *The Oban Times*: 'The implications of the bedroom tax for the 10 per cent of our tenants affected are serious. It is hard to think of a more iniquitous means of squeezing the incomes of our least well off customers. 'It is very important that any tenant that is having financial difficulties and struggling with paying the rent contacts us. We can't make the problem go away, but we can make arrangements for tenants to repay arrears by instalments as well as helping them access expert support and advice.'

### Skye public to get say on sports centre plans

A DUNVEGAN-based group proposing a sports and recreation centre in the village is inviting the public to discuss a feasibility study on the plans. And North West Skye Recreational Association (NWSRA) hopes the meeting in Dunvegan Castle café on Saturday at 2pm will provide a further boost to the project. High Life Highland chief executive Ian Murray will give his take on the scheme after playing a role in helping the association work up the concept. Speaking ahead of the meeting, NWSRA chairman John Hermes said: 'We are excited by the proposition of creating an inspirational recreational wellness hub for multi-sports which serves the communities

### Sheriff's ruling on death collision

A CRASH on the A82 near Glencoe which left two Lochaber men dead was caused by a car partially crossing the centre line, a sheriff has ruled. Ronald MacPhee, 44, of 7 Gordon Brown Place, Malllag, and Stewart McGifford, 48, of 166 Kilmallic Road, Caol, both died when Mr McGifford's Ferguson Transport Volvo lorry collided head-on with Mr MacPhee's Fiat Punto at Tom Mor on March 8 2012. A fatal accident inquiry heard Mr MacPhee's car was almost a metre over the white line, while Mr McGifford had been travelling over the speed limit. **Blame** Sheriff Vinit Khurana said the inquest was 'not concerned with apportioning blame'. He said: 'This was a tragic accident in an unfortunate set of circumstances. The cause of that collision was the Fiat Punto being at least partially on the wrong side of the road. 'I am not able to determine the reasons for the Fiat being on the southbound carriageway.' He added: 'The outcome would have been the same had the Volvo been travelling at 40 mph.'

### Morvern trust to handle hydro cash

MORVERN residents have decided, by a two to one majority, that Morvern Community Trust should handle thousands of pounds of community benefit cash from local hydro schemes. In a count of Highland Council ballot papers on Friday, the trust received 108 votes to 55 for Morvern Community Council, in a 65 per cent poll. Trust chairman, local GP Susan Taylor, pledged to hold a public meeting 'in the near future'. She said: 'The trust was convened after a public meeting and we try to keep our actions as open as possible. For any large grant applications we would go back to the community council.'

## Horror crash 'changed everything'

A FORT William cyclist who lost his lower right leg in a horror crash with a car allegedly doing more than twice the speed limit has told how the accident 'changed everything' for him. Student Andy MacLeod has no memory of being hit by Graham Douglas' Subaru Impreza - allegedly being driven at up to 67 mph - at the junction of Connachie Road and Lundavra Road in Fort William at around 9pm on March 7 2011. Mr MacLeod, 21, told a 15-person jury at the town's sheriff court the month he spent in hospital recovering is also completely blank. He said: 'I don't remember anything at all about that day or the two days prior. The following two months are incredibly hazy and even now I'm having memory problems. Chunks of my memory are missing from when I was growing up.' Mr MacLeod, who arrived at court on crutches, spent 10 months in rehab to recover from brain injuries and get used to his artificial limb. The jury was shown photos of extensive damage

to the bonnet, windscreen and roof of the Subaru and heard Mr MacLeod was found nearly 60 metres from the junction after the collision with the severed limb nearly half a metre away from him. Mr MacLeod regularly competed in cycling events in the past, but now pays a painful price for using his bike. The West Highland College adventure tourism management undergraduate said: 'If I go out on the bike I have to pay for that by not wearing the prosthetic leg for a day or two. It's tough, it's not nice at all. 'But this is what I have to do to enable myself to do what I love. 'I had to take a year out of my course and even now I need a lot of help because I have problems

with attention and concentration. It's changed everything.' Douglas, 29, suffered post traumatic stress disorder and said two years of nightmares and flashbacks has left his memory of the crash 'fuzzy'. He said: 'I remember driving up Lundavra Road with my brother. I saw a rapidly approaching black shadow coming from the left and I swerved to avoid it. I thought it was a wheelie bin at first.' Douglas said he felt Mr MacLeod had come out directly into his path, making the collision unavoidable and he didn't think he had been speeding in the 30mph zone. 'I believe I had been driving at a reasonable speed,' he said. 'I know for a fact I wasn't doing speeds anywhere near that. 'I did feel responsible at the time, but I don't feel I'm entirely to blame for this.' Douglas, of 12 Linnhe Road, denies dangerous driving. The trial continues today (Thursday). **Day by day account of trial, see page 3.**

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**Gaelic murder mystery weekend at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig**

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig's 40th anniversary celebrations will take a new twist next month – a first murder mystery weekend in Gaelic.

Guests will be invited to the 'wedding of the year' at the college only for events to take a sinister twist.

The event, 'That Wedding was Murder' takes place on April 5-6. College drama artist in residence Arthur Donald is organising the weekend.

He said: 'It will be a great opportunity full of fun, laughter and high jinks in an informal Gaelic atmosphere.'

**Town hosts first netball festival**

FORT William hosts its first netball festival at Lochaber High School (LHS) on Saturday as seven primary teams from Lochaber and Dingwall take to the newly laid-out court.

Events start from 9.30am with a junior tournament and skills session led by LHS pupils. The final will be played around 11.30am.

The main event of the day features Fort William Falcons taking on the Fyrish Flyers from Dingwall in a Highland Netball League encounter at 1pm.

Active Schools co-ordinator Lia Hunter said: 'We are hoping as many spectators come along to the adult match as possible.'

**Runners set for Leanachan Challenge**

THE ANNUAL Leanachan Challenge – a series of cross-country runs through forest trails – will be staged tomorrow at Torlundy.

The race for senior school pupils will start and end at the Lochaber Rural Complex with teams from Glenurquhart, Fort Augustus, Portree, Mallig, Lochaber and Kinlochleven high schools expected to take part. The event is organised by Active Schools co-ordinator Emma Walters. Highlife Highland in partnership with Lochaber Rural Education Trust and the Forestry Commission.

The challenge is run in memory of the late Professor Peter English, who organised the first family event in 2008.

**West coast FilmG Award hopes**

A GROUP from Comunn na Gàidhlig's West Side of Lewis Gaelic initiative and Ardnamurchan High School senior pupils will attend the 2013 Glasgow FilmG awards ceremony at the Arches in Glasgow tomorrow (Friday) night after being nominated for awards.

The Comunn na Gàidhlig group's short film 'Developing Gaelic in the Community', produced by Shawbost lad Mark Smith, 16, is shortlisted for 'best community project of the year'.

Alex John Morrison and Lauren Anne MacLean, who were involved in the project, are also making the trip.

Mark said: 'I am really looking forward to going to Glasgow and especially to the awards ceremony.'

The film can be viewed on the Shawbost Gaelic Forum website at www.siabost.co.uk.

Ardnamurchan High School's film 'Na Scallops' has been shortlisted for 'Best Drama' while Duncan Foxley has made the shortlist for his performance in 'Criochnachdair'. The school scooped 'best film' with 'An Teacsan a' tilleadh dhachaigh' in 2010. Teacher Colm O'Rua said: 'Here's hoping that Ardnamurchan High can bring back an award to the west coast.'



Local people take in the exhibition at Caol Youth Centre.

**Caol Youth Centre Room 13 portrait exhibition opens**

A NEW exhibition from Room 13 Community Studio at Caol Youth Centre featuring portraits of local people opened on Monday night.

The black and white photos, part of global project Inside Out, capture a range of emotions and feelings to convey vibrancy of local life, equality and community spirit. Young volunteers

took the portraits, which were sent off to Inside Out project HQ in the USA.

There they were printed in large scale and sent back to Caol Youth Centre for display.

The exhibition is Scotland's first for Inside Out, which has similar photos displayed in more than 100 countries.

Room 13 artist in residence Sarah

Hughes co-ordinated the project with support from Caol Youth Centre Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme volunteers.

She said: 'It's terrific for these young people to be the first to bring the Inside Out project to Scotland.'

'We've had fantastic support from the local community and lots of people volunteered to have their photos taken.'

'The portraits really capture the richness and diversity of the community in Lochaber.'

'I would urge people to go along to one or all of the exhibitions to see these inspiring portraits for themselves.'

Sarah thanked Allround Signs and the Framing Place for their help with the presentation.

**Accused: 'Water was running down the hill and it was red with blood'**

FIVE days of evidence have been heard in the trial of a Fort William man accused of hitting a cyclist while driving at more than twice the speed limit in the town.

Graham Douglas, 29, denies driving his Subaru Impreza dangerously and at grossly excessive speeds of up to 67mph on Lundavra Road and colliding with Andrew MacLeod at the junction with Connachie Road, severely injuring and permanently disfiguring him.

The alleged incident, which led to the lower part of Mr MacLeod's right leg being amputated, happened on March 7 2011.

**Day one – Wednesday March 13**

EYEWITNESSES spoke of seeing Mr MacLeod's severed leg lying a distance away from him immediately after the crash.

Alan Moir and Carla Robertson, who live near the junction, both said they heard a 'loud bang' and

went outside. Mr Moir, 28, said: 'There was a man lying on the road, his leg was about three feet away from him.'

He said Douglas appearing to be 'disorientated' and was phoning 999 for help.

Miss Robertson, 27, said Mr MacLeod was not wearing a helmet and there was 'quite a heavy flow' of blood from his leg.

Under questioning from defence lawyer Donald MacLeod QC, Mr MacLeod admitted having no lights or reflectors on his bike.

He said he had no memory of the night but the junction was one he would 'normally come to a full stop at'.

**Day two – Thursday March 14**

GRAHAM Douglas' brother Kenneth - who was a passenger in the Subaru - told the court he thought the car was travelling at around 30mph when it hit Mr MacLeod.

Mr Douglas said: 'We were

driving up the hill and a black thing came out of nowhere. My brother tried to swerve to avoid it but we collided with it.'

'I didn't know what it was until I got out the car and saw it was someone on a bike.'

PC Chris MacLeod was the first officer on the scene and described the damage to the car - the left side of the bonnet was smashed, the windscreen shattered and there was a large dent on the roof.

**Day three – Friday March 15**

POLICE crash investigator Scott Lemmon said analysis of skid marks and gouges left on the road after the crash showed the Subaru was doing 'an absolute minimum speed of 67mph'.

PC Lemmon arrived at the scene within hours to examine the tyre marks.

He said: 'There is a grass embankment which does restrict the view, but 67mph is 30 metres per second. At that speed the car is pretty much going to appear out of nowhere.'

'The overall picture all ties in with the car travelling significantly in excess of 30mph.'

He added: 'The cyclist must take some of the blame for this because he emerged from the give way junction onto Lundavra Road, but because of the grossly excessive speed the Subaru is grossly more to blame.'

Elvis Stipnis was outside his Lundavra Road flat smoking when the accident happened and estimated the Subaru was travelling at about 60mph.

Speaking through an interpreter, the Latvian said he saw the collision and said he thought the bike had tried to stop after coming down the steep Connachie Road.

**Day four – Monday March 18**

GRAHAM Douglas described being in shock as he tried to get help for Mr MacLeod.

He said: 'I ran down and the injured boy was there. I

remember shouting for help and speaking to the woman on the 999 call. She told me to take my jumper off and use it to stop the bleeding.'

'Where Mr MacLeod was lying there was yellow lines. Water was running down the hill and it was red with blood. I don't remember ever feeling like that.'

Fiscal Alison Wylie asked him why the car had taken more than 60 metres to stop if he was only doing 30 mph.

He said: 'I was frightened that much I didn't realise what was going on.'

'I have no recollection of braking, I can remember the car gradually coming to a halt.'

Douglas said he has suffered depression, nightmares and flashbacks and is on a waiting list for counselling.

'Sometimes I have a good week with only two or three nightmares; other times it's six or seven.'

The jury heard Douglas passed a breathalyser test after the incident.

**Day five – Tuesday March 19**

TRAFFIC accident investigator John Marshall doubted the police estimates of how fast the car was travelling, saying the tyre marks may not have been left during braking.

PC Lemmon earlier described the tyre marks as skid marks, and used them to estimate the speed of the car.

But Mr Marshall, a former chief inspector, said they may have been left by a burst tyre rather than caused by skidding.

He said: 'The wheel hit the kerb and is likely to have deflated almost instantaneously.'

'In my opinion none of the marks can clearly be said to be brake marks. They are more likely to be the marks of the tyre moving against the rim of the wheel.'

Mr Marshall said it was likely the Subaru had been travelling at more than 30mph, but could not say by how much.

**First Minister to be keynote speaker at land conference**

FIRST Minister Alex Salmond is to be keynote speaker at Community Land Scotland's (CLS) annual conference on Skye in June.

The event at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on June 7-8 falls shortly after the interim report of the Land Reform Review Group is due to be published.

CLS chairman David Cameron said: 'His attendance symbolises the growing recognition within the Scottish Government of community land ownership as a key driver in regenerating communities. We are already looking forward to what he will have to say.'



The Grimsay Isle alongside Mallaig lifeboat after being towed back to port on Saturday.

**Three fishermen rescued off Skye**

THREE crew members from a Mallaig prawn trawler took to a life raft after the boat struck rocks at the Point of Sleat early on Monday morning.

Stornoway Coastguard received the distress call from the Amethyst at 5am and Mallaig lifeboat and Stornoway coastguard rescue helicopter were launched.

Fish farm vessel Ronja Pioneer and fishing boats Ocean Trust, Santa Maria and Silver Dawn responded to the call, while Mallaig Coastguard Rescue Team and the Mallaig Fishermen's

Mission were alerted. The Ronja Pioneer recovered the men who were transferred to Mallaig lifeboat. No medical attention was required.

The rising tide floated the boat free and the Amethyst skipper, assisted by two lifeboat crew with an emergency pump, brought her back to Mallaig under her own steam. The 15-metre vessel is not believed to be badly damaged.

Stornoway coastguard watch manager Carol Collins said: 'We are grateful to the local vessels that responded immediately

to the Amethyst's call for assistance, and for keeping us informed throughout.'

'We would also like to acknowledge the work of the Mallaig Fisherman's Mission, who set up a reception for the three crew men.'

Meanwhile, Mallaig lifeboat launched on Saturday afternoon to tow the Grimsay Isle back to Mallaig.

The small fishing boat's propeller became fouled on a rope and got stuck on a rock a mile out of port. Two people were aboard the fishing vessel.

**MSP to vote against same-sex marriage legalisation**

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch SNP MSP Dave Thompson has announced he intends to vote against the Scottish Government's Bill to legalise same-sex marriage.

Mr Thompson sees 'no reason' to re-define marriage as proposed in the draft Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill and will seek to ensure 'certain safeguards' are contained within it. He said: 'I do not believe this is an equality issue, as civil partnerships provide nearly all of the legal rights and obligations of marriage and

can easily be adjusted to make the two forms of union equal in every way, including allowing faith bodies which wish to carry out and bless civil partnerships the right to do so.'

'I do believe that marriage is different to civil partnership which I support. Essentially, it is all about the meaning of a word, a word that means the union of one man and one woman in a committed loving relationship for the procreation of children.'

'On the other hand, civil partnership means

the union of two people of the same sex in a committed loving relationship. These definitions are as equal as it is possible to be but highlight the difference between the two types of union.'

Mr Thompson also expressed concerns the legislation could limit freedom of speech and freedom of belief. 'There is a real danger that celebrants, teachers, registrars and others will fall foul of the Equality Act 2010 unless there is an opt-out on conscience grounds,' he said.

MSPs will have a free vote on the issue.

**Hinds killed by poachers**

A LOCHABER deer farmer has stepped up security after two of his heavily pregnant hinds were killed by poachers in a night-time raid.

Kingsley Crawford heard the shots from his house and was on the scene in half an hour - but the venison thieves had gone.

All that remained of the animals, which had been expertly galloched and skinned, were the heads and feet.

Mr Crawford, of Holly Hill deer farm at Leanachan near Spean Bridge, estimates the deer and their unborn calves were worth £700.

Now he is determined to ensure his 100-strong herd of pregnant hinds is not targeted a second time by poachers sneaking up the two-mile single-track road into the forest.

The 55-year-old Northern Irishman, formerly from Derry, told The Oban Times: 'I went on to Highland Council and told them I had to shut the road completely.'

'We have had the gates locked and are patrolling the road regularly at night at different times. If I see anything unusual I'll be phoning the police right away.'

By STEPHEN NORRIS

Mr Crawford reckoned the herd was probably singled out because the hinds are hand-fed and quite tame.

He said: 'The poachers came through the wee gate and shot them about 50 yards inside it.'

'I think myself they had probably been watching the place for a while.'

'I honestly think they had been waiting for us to put the lights out in the stables about 8.30pm and just sitting there the whole time.'

'There must have been two or three of them.'

He added: 'I had the hinds valued at £350 each because the price of venison has shot up because of the horsemeat scandal.'

'We are quite willing to offer a good reward to anybody with useful information about it. At the very least it might stop this happening again.'

A Northern Constabulary spokesperson said inquiries into the February 18 incident were 'ongoing'.

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## Companies fined after Argyll pollution court case

THE DIRECTORS of two companies were fined on Tuesday for polluting waters in Argyll and Perthshire and killing a protected population of freshwater pearl mussels.

At Perth Sheriff Court Alan Smith and Charles Kippen were fined a total of £11,000 for offences under water environment regulations. Both had pled guilty to the offences at an earlier hearing on December 6 last year. The men were directors of A and C Construction (Scotland) Limited and Kippen was also a director of Chic Kippen and Son.

Both companies failed to ensure effective silt mitigation measures were in place between May 26 and October 1, 2010 at the Inverin Hydro Scheme site, near Aberfeldy.

Their construction activities at the Perthshire site, including the building of a pipeline, a ford and an access track, caused pollution of the surrounding watercourses and extensive environmental damage to the river bed of the River Lyon, killing and injuring rare freshwater pearl mussels.

In addition, Alan Smith admitted a failure to ensure effective silt mitigation measures by A and C Construction (Scotland) Limited between August 4 and October 4, 2010 at the Castles Estate Hydro Project, Lochawe, Argyll. The construction of ford crossings, an access track and coffer dam there permitted the pollution of local watercourses, namely the Allt Coire Ghlais, Allt Coire Chrechainn and Allt Mhoille.

At an earlier hearing at Perth Sheriff Court on February 18 Shawwater Limited, the company that provided the engineering design for the Perth site, was fined £4,000 after pleading guilty to permitting employees of A and C Construction and Chic Kippen and Son to carrying out the activities that caused the pollution of the watercourses in Perthshire.

Prosecutor fiscal Craig Harris said: 'I hope the successful prosecution will act as a warning to others that such reckless pollution of Scotland's natural environment won't be tolerated.'



An employee of A and B Service makes an important phone call shortly after the fire broke out on Friday. Picture - The Studio, Killin

## Fire closes Killin's Main Street

RESIDENTS had to be evacuated from the centre of Killin on Friday after a major fire engulfed the premises of a local engineering firm.

The blaze broke out in the workshop of A and B Services shortly before 3pm, spreading quickly through the building.

So intense was the blaze that Main Street had to be closed, causing mourners at the funeral of the 23rd Chief of the MacNab clan to be diverted.

Fire crews were concerned that welding equipment close to the seat of the fire could cause an explosion and ordered an evacuation of neighbours of

the building, including elderly residents of the Glen Dochart residential home.

The fire was extinguished and the roads in the surrounding area reopened at 5pm.

There was considerable damage to the engineering workshop but nobody was injured as a result.

# Travel firms simplify ticketing

## West coast ferry and bus companies to agree travel links throughout the region

UNPRECEDENTED co-operation between ferry and bus companies will see travel throughout the region simplified thanks to Argyll and the Isles Tourism's (AIT) 'Better Together' campaign.

Mike Story, chief executive of tourist body AIT, has confirmed that, as a result of talks during last week's tourism summit at Mount Stuart on Bute, work is progressing between Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) and West Coast Motors to introduce a simplified unified ticketing system.

Further links are being forged between CalMac, West Coast Motors, the Kintyre Express, Western Ferries and others as part of a unified move forward to further develop the west coast's reputation as a world-class tourism destination.

Mr Story, who welcomed 140 delegates to Mount Stuart for AIT's flagship tourism conference, said the moves were encouraging and augured well for the future.

'What the summit did bring out was a new sense of partnership working between a selection of companies and not just for the

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.

**"Visitors will buy one ticket and be delivered to their desired destination."**  
chief executive AIT **Mike Story**

day, all these people are now working together.

'CalMac and West Coast Motors are now working on selling destination tickets, such as to Mount Stuart. Other attractions are looking at the same thing.

'Visitors will be able to buy one ticket and be delivered to their desired destination, by bus and ferry along the way.

'It's very encouraging and makes the process very simple - that's something visitors want. It removes the headache of

booking multiple tickets.'

Speaking at the event, CalMac's managing director Martin Dorchester urged companies to work together in a bid to improve the region's tourism fortunes.

He said: 'The internet has revolutionised the way customers identify and research possible destinations; how they purchase accommodation and ferry, air or rail tickets; and raised expectations of what to expect when they get there.'

'In order to keep up with the competition tourism businesses must therefore make themselves easy to find, easy to deal with and the end product must then meet - and wherever possible exceed - customer expectations.'

Meanwhile, Mr Story has confirmed that the format for next year's tourism summit will be changed in a bid to help foster even better working relations between companies.

He said: 'I think this summit was a great event and a fantastic demonstration of partnership working. Next year we will be changing the format though because it's never a good idea to stand still.'

## Consultants awarded £2,500,000 CHORD contract

THREE consultants have been awarded a contract worth £2,500,000 to 'assist' Argyll and Bute Council with the CHORD programme.

CHORD, which seeks to enhance the five Argyll towns of Campbeltown, Helensburgh, Oban, Rothesay and Dunoon, already has a programme

manager - the consultants will help them 'deliver' the projects in three - Oban, Rothesay and Dunoon.

Three years The three consultants selected are Parsons Brinckerhoff, from Glasgow, Amey, from Motherwell and Capita Symonds Ltd, Carlisle.

The lucrative contract will run for three years with an option to extend by a further year.

The employed consultants will be required to provide support to the programme manager, take on a project management role and carry out architectural, civil and structural engineering work.

## Shake and bang remains a mystery

### MOD denies sonic boom

HOUSES across a huge area shook on Tuesday afternoon as a mystery boom was heard all the way from Oban, north to Fort William, east to Crianlarich and west to Mull.

Residents in North Connel reported hearing a loud bang before the windows in their homes rattled. Many compared the feeling to that of an earthquake but the British Geological Survey confirmed no earth movements had taken place in the area.

The walls were shaking at SAMS at Dunstaffnage but staff at both Bonawe and Glensanda quarries also denied having anything to do with the boom - and reported feeling it themselves.

Jets were spotted in the area at the same time as locals heard the noise, leading to suspicions of a sonic boom. Gavin Turner said on The Oban Times Facebook page: 'My first thought was a sonic boom as just after the boom I could hear a jet flying.'

'Low level sonic booms over land do often have effects similar to small earthquakes, windows rattling etc. With the jets flying about its more likely than an earthquake.'

Michele Paterson added: 'Just spoke to my husband at the Crianlarich Hotel. He said RAF planes had just gone over, could have been a sonic boom, it does feel and sound like an earthquake.'

But a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) denied the claims. He said: 'We only do supersonic runs 10 miles or more out to sea so it is pretty much impossible what they felt had anything to do with us.'

It seems the MOD weren't the only ones denying involvement. Laura Cook, who said it 'sounded like a train going through the garden', told *The Oban Times* on Facebook: 'We're on Lismore and my five year old came running through with his hands up saying it wasn't him!'

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## Crumbling Oban bridge still awaits repair

NEARLY a year has passed since Argyll and Bute Council said it would be replacing a crumbling road bridge in Oban town centre - but it still hasn't completed the design.

Temporary scaffolds were erected on Soroba Lane Bridge in 2011 after the lack of a bridge parapet failed to prevent a man falling into the Black Lynn burn below, injuring himself in the process.

Last April, the authority said it had started designing a £400,000 replacement for the bridge and hoped to start construction by the start of this year, but it has admitted this week the design still hasn't been completed.

A council spokeswoman said: 'We have carried out ground investigation work and structure surveys, and are currently working on designs for a replacement bridge.'

'There will be some additional investigation work to do, but we hope to start work in the summer.'

## Man arrested after allegedly assaulting girls

A MAN who allegedly assaulted two girls, aged 16 and 17, has been arrested.

The 39 year old is accused of assaulting the girls at lam on March 18 on Argyll Square.

## Police charges follow 999 call

POLICE have charged a 53 year old man after he allegedly dialled 999 and swore at call handlers.

He's been charged with using foul and abusive language and misusing the emergency service.

## Man accused of assaulting a four-year old girl

A 57 YEAR old man was due to appear in Oban Sheriff Court this week on charges alleging he assaulted a four year old girl.

He stands accused of assaulting the girl at around 8pm last Thursday on Rockfield Road in the town.



## 70-year old former regimental sergeant major honoured during his Isle of Mull birthday celebrations

A FORMER soldier was awarded the Legion Saltire Decoration of Merit during his 70th birthday celebrations on the Isle of Mull.

Regimental sergeant major, Peter Smith of Dervaig, celebrated his birthday at the MacDonald Arms in Tobermory with his family, friends, and Legionnaire comrades of 569 Squadron, Frontiersmen Yeomanry

Regiment Scottish Command. Peter, an ex-marine and active fundraiser for Help for Heroes, was presented with the award for his outstanding contribution to the 1st Highland Brigade LOF. 3rd Earl Kitchener's Own Scottish & Borders (Light Horse).



Natalie Donnelly is in the running for Miss Catsuit Live.

## Natalie sets her sights high for success at Miss Catsuit Live

A BUDDING model from North Connel is to compete in a Highland beauty pageant this Saturday, the Miss Catsuit Live in Inverness.

Natalie Donnelly who now lives in Broadford, on Skye, made the final 20 of the competition after organisers noticed portfolio shots she had posted online.

And the 23-year-old, who works as a waitress at her mother's restaurant, The Claymore, says she hopes success in the pageant will lead to a career in modelling.

Entrants are required to wear a uniquely-designed catsuit, which will be unveiled on the night, in one of three rounds. Swimwear and evening wear sections make up the final competition in Hush nightclub.

Natalie told *The Oban Times* this week: 'Now that I have my outfit organised I am excited, more than anything.'

'I am aiming to finish in the top six but to win it would just be the icing on the cake.'

'Regardless of what happens, it has been a great experience meeting the other girls and a fun project.'

Organiser Julia Stewart, of Platinum Productions, started the pageant last year.

She said: 'Traditional beauty pageants require entrants to pay big fees and there is nothing like this in the north of Scotland.'

'Last year a lot of the girls went on to do television appearances, some were signed by agencies and others did a variety of modelling work.'

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### No health care cuts just 'virtual wards' at Kintyre hospital

HEALTH bosses have denied they are making cuts to services in Kintyre - despite admitting wards at Campbeltown Hospital will be replaced by 'virtual wards'.

At a drop-in event in the town last week, NHS Highland staff claimed a cut in beds at the hospital was not part of a cash-saving exercise but more a redesign of services.

Clinical services manager Donnie Cameron claimed the 'virtual wards' would allow elderly care to move into the community as 'that's what people want'.

He went on to say: 'This is not something the health board has just decided - it has been policy since 1996.'

The claim came after a heated discussion with members of Campbeltown Community Council, who attended the drop-in to express their concerns that services in the town were being eroded.

Its chairman, Andrew Hemmings, said: 'Whilst I was given assurances the resources released would be ring fenced, I still have to be convinced that an element won't be surreptitiously absorbed into the overall savings with our most vulnerable and elderly people holding the short straw and suffering.'

### Oban man accused of pizza cutter assault on woman

AN OBAN man has been remanded in custody accused of assaulting a woman and holding a blade to her throat.

Michael McPhee, 28, of 4 Burnside Court, Miller Road, Oban appeared at Oban Sheriff Court from custody on Monday.

He denies all charges, including behaving in a threatening manner and having an offensive weapon, a pizza cutter, in a public place.

McPhee is expected to stand trial on April 16 and he will appear next on April 2.

### North Connel Hall meeting on flat proposals

A PUBLIC hearing into an application to build 24 flats on the site of the former Ossians Retirement Home will be held in North Connel on Monday.

Melfort Care Ltd's application has met with local objections but Argyll and Bute Council has recommended the plan be granted planning permission, subject to conditions.

The meeting will be heard in North Connel Hall at 11am.

### Man reported after Dalmally thefts of cash

A MAN has been reported to the procurator fiscal after £500 in cash was stolen from a Dalmally hotel.

The 28 year old man is accused of stealing from a 44-year old man, an 18-year old woman and a 29-year old man.

### Bus and lorry collide at Connel

AN ELDERLY woman was taken to hospital for treatment to cuts after a bus collided with an articulated lorry outside Connel on Friday.

Police are still investigating the cause of the collision which occurred on the A85 just after 8.55am.

Some 33 passengers were on the bus at the time of the collision and several were treated for minor cuts.

The road was closed for a short time just before 10.10am to allow an ambulance to take the woman to hospital, but the road was passable by cars until the vehicles could be recovered.

The road was fully reopened at 10.49am.

### Appin road check reveals cannabis

POLICE carrying out road safety checks in Appin arrested a man for being in possession of cannabis.

The 45 year old man is accused of having in excess of 50grammes of the drug.

### Car and bus collide in Oban esplanade

TRAFFIC came to a standstill at Corran Esplanade, Oban, on Tuesday after a car collided with a bus.

The accident occurred at 12.40pm.

The female driver of the car was unhurt and nobody was charged as a result.

## Oban businesses change premises ahead of summer season

BUSINESSES in Oban have been closing one door and opening another as long standing retailers move premises. Staff at The Whisky Shop have confirmed the business is moving from its current home in Station Road to the former Thornton's confectionary shop at 52 George Street.

Despite rumours circulating in the town a spokeswoman for VisitScotland has confirmed to The Oban Times that the tourist information office will be staying near the town's North Pier, and not moving into Station Road.

The doors have closed on George Street's Blockbuster

retail outlet for the last time as administrators try to avoid a total collapse of the film and game rental company.

Joint administrator Lee Manning said: 'We have continued to review the performance of individual stores since our appointment and have concluded that further closures are neces-

sary in order to restructure the company for sale.

'We would like to thank the company's employees for their support and professionalism during this difficult time and we are also grateful for the continued support of customers.'

'We are in discussions with a number of parties interested in

purchasing all or parts of the business and will update on progress in due course.'

Scottish memento and trinket store Scotch Corner has also been on the move again, its short-lived home next to Oban Phoenix Cinema at 42 George Street now lying empty as the store takes up residence in the

former Pound Crazy Jane's at 2 Macgregor Court.

Backpackers Plus has announced that it is to move into the former Dunollie Halls as part of an expansion for the business. The hostel will move out of its Breadalbane Street premises into new custom designed facilities in May.



Taynuilt Sports Council chairman Fraser Inglis, right, believes the new sports hub will be 'the start of bigger things'

# Taynuilt finds funds for purpose-built sports centre

'This is the start of bigger things', claims sports council chairman

THE VILLAGE of Taynuilt will have a new purpose-built sports pavilion by the end of the year after it confirmed the commitment of its main funders.

The famous old green, 'temporary' pavilion that has served Taynuilt so well for more than 30 years will be replaced.

An investment of £120,000 from sportsScotland and £191,481 from Argyll and the Islands LEADER, along with substantial funding from a range of other sources, will now allow Taynuilt Sports Council (TSC)

to move forward with the first phase of its plans to develop its community-owned facilities.

TSC chairman Fraser Inglis said: 'I cannot praise the rest of the sports council committee highly enough for their incredible dedication.'

'Taynuilt is already a thriving centre of sport with shinty, rugby, cricket, tennis, football, golf, and many other sporting and cultural activities taking place weekly.'

'The new hub will benefit local people and visiting teams

through the provision of modern changing facilities, showers, meeting space, catering facilities and an upgraded car park. This is the start of bigger things.'

'TSC is very pleased that these two major funders could see the value in the project and support it in such a positive manner.'

Taynuilt Community Council and Argyll and Bute Council have made considerable contributions to the project, which has also been supported by local businesses.

*'The new hub will benefit local people and visiting teams'*

chairman TSC Fraser Inglis

Mr Inglis added: 'The assistance received from individuals and other organisations has been critical and a grant from the Big Lottery Investing In Ideas fund, allowed us to get

the process started.

'Everyone's contribution has been extremely valuable and we are very thankful for their support.'

Ward councillor Louise Glen-Lee said: 'I am delighted for the people of Taynuilt as the new sports centre is something the community has worked so hard for.'

'I'm very pleased the council was able to make a contribution to the project and look forward to seeing the new pavilion.'

The plans have been approved and the next step will be to hire a contractor who can complete the pavilion in time for use at the end of this year.

Stewart Harris, chief executive of sportsScotland, said: 'We are delighted to be supporting Taynuilt Sports Council as it aims to create a sporting hub for the whole community.'

'We are committed to maximising the opportunities for children, young people, and whole communities to become involved in sport and physical activity.'



Susie Wolff is the subject of a documentary airing this weekend.

## Oban's Susie to feature in documentary this weekend

Producer brother David makes it a family affair for 'The Fastest Woman in the World'

A DOCUMENTARY featuring Oban racing sensation Susie Wolff, which was produced by her brother David Stoddart, is to be aired this Sunday.

The Fastest Woman in the World will air on BBC 2 Scotland at 8pm and will look at Susie's rise through the sport, which has culminated in her signing for the Williams F1 team.

The experience of making the

documentary film was new for both brother and sister, as David also had the camera turned on him.

Protective

David said: 'The documentary charts the run up to Susie doing her first testing for Williams, which obviously has a lot of ups and downs.'

'When I was filming that it was difficult because I was torn between being a documentary

maker and a brother.

'Especially in the more difficult moments, it is hard not to be protective of her and in those moments they turned the camera on me - I hated that.'

'I'm not supposed to be in front of the camera!'

David said his first foray into documentary making was an enjoyable one and that he tried to bring his background in drama to the production.

### Dunbeg man found guilty of threatening to kill neighbour

A DUNBEG man was found guilty of threatened to kill his neighbours when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Ian Hendry, 47, of 64 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, denied making threats towards his neighbours.

The court heard Hendry had motioned for his victim to come out of his house following a disagreement over the installation of CCTV.

'I opened the back door and all hell broke loose,' claimed the victim. The victim then told Hendry he was going to phone the police. 'He went completely nuts and said he was going to kill me and my family,' he added.

But defence agent Stephen Macleod told the victim: 'You're simply making all of this up as part of a dispute and you had previously made threats to make your neighbours' lives hell.'

Hendry will be sentenced on April 16.

### Oban power cable fault creates problem for electric company

A 'ROGUE' circuit in the Combie Street area of Oban is causing headaches for electricians.

Problems for Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) started on March 9 when a faulty power cable caused an outage from 11.10pm.

Working through the night, the company managed to restore the supply by 3.35am.

However, fuses blew at the substation between 1.30pm-2.30pm last Friday, leading to a fresh power cut in the Combie Street and Market Street areas, although this time the outage was much shorter.

New link boxes are now being installed at various points across the network in a bid to identify the source of the problem and reduce the possibility of cuts to nearby premises.

A spokesperson for SSE said: 'It's frustrating for everyone involved. We'd like to apologise to our customers for the inconvenience but thank them for their understanding.'

### South Uist man admits car theft and forgery on the Isle of Mull

A SOUTH Uist man who landed his friend's car in a ditch on the Isle of Mull after taking it without permission has been banned from driving for six months.

John MacNeil, 20, now of Mains of Dudwick, Ellon, had previously admitted the offences, including causing damage to a fence during the collision.

He also appeared for sentencing at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday after admitting attempting to pay at various locations in Tobermory with forged £20 notes.

Sheriff John Herald further deferred sentence on MacNeil until July to check his progress on a community payback order imposed by Lochmaddy Sheriff Court.

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### Bridge of Orchy speed trap nets 12 in an afternoon

AN AFTERNOON of action at the new temporary speed limit signs in Bridge of Orchy caught 12 drivers speeding.

As part of Operation Myriad, officers monitored traffic between 2pm-7pm on Friday last week. Eight of the drivers found themselves on the wrong side of a fixed penalty notice after failing to recognise the 30mph limit operating while repairs to the surface are carried out.

Four though could find themselves up in court after exceeding 50mph, with one driver hitting 58mph.

Oban's Chief Inspector Brian Auld said: 'It's totally negligent to be going through that area at these speeds, particularly because of the proximity of workers to the road. It's also coming off a right hand bend.'

'There are eight warning signs before the temporary speed limit. There's no excuse.'

### Outbreak of WWI gathering at Inveraray Castle

ARGYLL is planning to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WWI with a gathering of forces representatives at Inveraray Castle.

The steering group behind the event is working towards a date of June 28 and is in the process of contacting representatives of the Royal Air Force, Royal Navy and army regiments, including the pipes and drums of the Highland Royal Regiment.

Royal British Legion branches from across Argyll and Bute will be invited to attend.

Lesley Blair-Simmonds, a steering group member said: 'We are planning the main event to be held at Inveraray Castle but we hope to have more events in each part of the county.'

'I would also like to hear from people who have stories from The Great War, how it affected them and the families.'

Mrs Blair-Simmonds can be contacted at lesleyblairsimmonds@msn.com or by post at 25 Rhuval Road, Oban, PA34 4BT.

### Three charged with drink driving

THREE people in the Oban area have been charged for drink driving related charges in a two day period.

The first of the three arrested was a 34-year old man who was allegedly found to be nearly three times the legal limit at Glangallon Road, Oban on March 15.

A 44-year old woman was charged with being drunk in charge of a vehicle at William Street on March 17, with readings indicating she was nearly twice the legal limit.

Finally a 33-year old man was charged with drink driving after colliding with a fence on the A85 road between Taynuilt and Lochawe.

He is accused of driving at nearly twice the legal limit.

### Asian man faces deportation

A SOUTH Asian man who was staying in Oban illegally is facing deportation after being detained as part of Operation Myriad. It is understood the man was working in the area before he was arrested in George Street last week.

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## Kilmallie pick up the two points against Skye

'I thought the whole team played well'  
- Hugh MacIntyre

REPORT BY  
STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

SHINTY

KILMALLIE claimed the early initiative in the Marine Harvest North Division 1 title race with a fine 3-1 win over closest rivals Skye on Saturday.

The entertaining game had many highlights - but it was Kevin Toye who lit up Canal Parks the most with a string of outstanding saves.

The Kilmallie goalkeeper had Skye's forwards looking on in disbelief on several occasions as he blocked shots with his cannon - none more so than on 64 minutes.

Jordie Murchison's 30-yard rocket looked a scorer all the way, but Toye showed an unerring eye and timing to reach up and somehow stop the ball a foot under the crossbar, to audible

gasps from the crowd.

Truth be told, there was never much between the teams throughout but Kilmallie were just that bit more clinical when it mattered most.

With coach Duncan Kelly on holiday, assistant Kilmallie coach Donald Lamont was a happy man on the touchline after just four minutes when Grant MacKenzie fired past Michael Nicolson in the Skye goal.

A fine Nicolson stop from Michael Rodger on 36 minutes fired up the islanders and Skye deservedly equalised on 40 minutes through Danny Morrison's smart finish.

Kilmallie switched Rodger to the centre line for the second half, and the tactical move paid off almost immediately when Mark Graham's low shot eluded



Liam MacDonald and Allan MacKinnon go head to head. 20\_122401

Nicolson settled in the far corner of the net.

Neil MacVicar went close for Skye but Grant MacKenzie made it 3-1 on 65 minutes, knocking in the rebound after Nicolson had

saved Liam MacDonald's initial effort.

Toye turned hero again with 15 minutes left to knock away a tremendous Gillesbuig MacDonald shot.

Then Liam MacDonald almost made it 4-1 at the other end before Grant MacKenzie missed a glorious chance to grab his hat-trick only to fire wide.

Kilmallie chairman Hugh

MacIntyre was delighted with the win that put the Caol side two points clear at the top.

He told The Oban Times: 'I thought the whole team played well, Grant MacKenzie got two

goals and our goalkeeper had a very good game and kept the score down.

'He is a great stopper and against Skye he was saving everything.'

## Loch Centre to host top archery event

ARCHERY

SOME OF Scotland's top archers will take aim in the Sunart Centre on Saturday at the inaugural Scottish Target and Field Archery Association (STAFAA) indoor championships.

Hosting the event is local club Loch Sunart Bowmen (SLB), the youngest club under the umbrella of STAFAA, which itself was formed only recently to bring both target and field archery within the same organisation.

Over 40 competitors from the six STAFAA clubs - including SLB, Kinlochleven-based South Lochaber Bowmen and Garrison Bowmen from Fort William - will line up.

Several world and European-class archers will take part, as well as club members who have only been shooting for a few months, said SLB's Heather Haining.

She added: 'There will also be a number of juniors and cubs, high school and primary school age for whom this will be their first competition, so this will really showcase the sport and its accessibility to everyone.'

'The Sunart Centre has set up a live video link in their venue so spectators can come along and watch the competition. Hopefully they will come and have a go themselves.'

## Fort face tough trip to Cove

FOOTBALL

FORT WILLIAM face a forbidding looking trip to title-chasing Cove Rangers looking to bounce back from last weekend's 5-0 defeat at Clachnacuddin.

Manager Danny Conlon will be without forward Davie Forbes, whose arm is in a sling after suffering a suspected hairline fracture of his wrist against Nairn County last Wednesday.

Kyle Robertson returns between the sticks, but left sided midfielder Darren Duncan is another big doubt as he recovers from a niggling hamstring injury.

'It's tough and go whether he makes it for Saturday,' said Conlon, who is under no illusions about the scale of the task facing his makeshift team.

He told The Oban Times: 'Cove are a real good side - I would say they have been the most consistent team over the past two seasons.'

'They really have some quality players - Martin Johnston up front is a real handful and his movement is superb.'

'I am asking for extra effort from the guys once again because I am not in a position to rest any of my players.'

Against Clach, former Fort William forward Sam Urquhart scored twice, with Gordon Morrison also bagging a brace and Struan Scott Woodhouse the other scorer.

## £800 up for grabs

LOTTERY

A BUMPER rollover jackpot of £800 is up for grabs in this week's Fort William FC lotto draw.

Last week's numbers were 8, 13 and 17.

## Igor picks up the gold medal in the Scottish Open Championships

BOXING

LOCHABER has a new national boxing champion after teenager Igor Sliwinski fought his way to gold in the Scottish Open Championships on Saturday.

The Lochaber Phoenix boxer was the underdog as he took on the four time champion Jordan Beveridge of Irvine Vineburgh at the Meadowbank Stadium in Edinburgh, but managed a narrow points victory after three hard rounds.

Sliwinski, 16, and Vineburgh both came out behind a high guard and began to probe for openings, throwing feints and adjusting their angles as they looked to manoeuvre their opponent into an inferior position.

It was noticeable Sliwinski possessed the more accurate and quicker jabs of the two and Beveridge's face began to mark up badly as the round progressed.

The round finished level at 5-5, and the Lochaber fighter started the second round strongly with both boxers starting to engage in increasingly powerful exchanges.

Beveridge's nose finally gave way to the bombardment of Sliwinski's jabs and the doctor was called due to the severity of his nosebleed.

The final round saw Beveridge turning southpaw, and he initially managed to catch Sliwinski with right jabs and clean left crosses. But as he tired he reverted to orthodox and started to throw wide hooks whilst Sliwinski kept his discipline to find a home for his quicker straight punches.

The bout ended with both boxers drenched in the blood from Beveridge's nose after a contest of skill, determination and ferociousness. After an agonising wait the decision was announced as 14 points to 13 in favour of Sliwinski.

Club official Steve Docherty said: 'This is a fantastic achievement by Igor in only his second season of boxing against a far more experienced and seasoned opponent.'

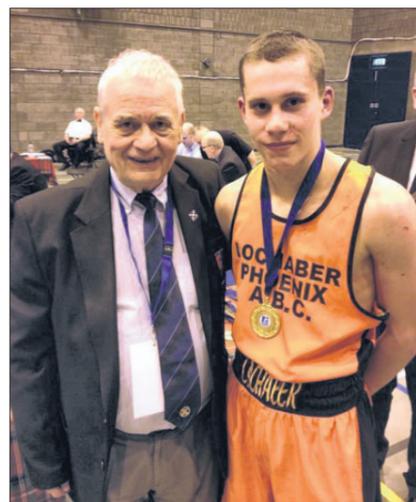
'He has always trained hard but has now taken his commitment to another level as he has shown by his performance in the final. Hopefully he will now go from strength to strength.'

Sliwinski has now been selected to represent Scotland in the finals of the British Youth Championships in Wales this summer.

Meanwhile, preparations are well under way for Loch-

aber Phoenix's latest home show, which will be held in the Nevis Centre on Saturday April 20. Tickets are available from Nevis Centre on 01397 700707, Niall

Clark on 07554 994 744 and Steve Docherty 07767 069 532.



Champion: Igor Sliwinski with his medal - f12boxing1no



Scottish Ski Club Lochaber Section winners after Saturday's racing. F12ski1no

## Fantastic day of racing at Nevis Range for Lochaber skiers

SKIING

THE SCOTTISH Ski Club Lochaber Section enjoyed a fantastic day of racing at Nevis Range on Saturday in almost perfect conditions.

The annual event was wiped out in 2012 by unseasonably warm weather but new snow on a firm base ensured excellent

ski-ing from top to bottom.

Over 60 competitors aged from seven to over 70 took part, with the giant slalom down the Goose among the day's highlights.

Trophies and prizes were presented to age and grade category winners after competition concluded.

Local dentist Gregor Muir was among those hitting the slopes. He told The Oban Times: 'We missed it last year because of the weather but this time both snow conditions and weather were beautiful.'

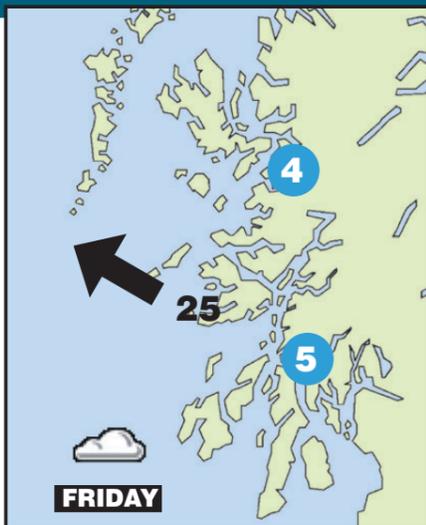
## Weather

Thursday Sunny intervals  
Winds moderate, east south easterly  
Temperatures 1C to 4°C

Friday Cloudy  
Winds strong, east south easterly  
Temperatures 3°C to 5°C.

Weekend Cloudy  
Outlook Winds moderate east south easterly  
Temperatures 2°C to 5°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, March 21, 2013 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 06.54	2.1 14.17 2.7 19.15 1.9	** ** *
Fri 02.08	2.8 09.23 1.9 15.10 2.9	20.29 1.7
Sat 03.09	3.1 10.02 1.7 15.48 1.1	20.10 3.6
Sun 03.50	3.3 10.32 1.4 16.22 3.4	22.12 1.1
Mon 04.27	3.6 11.02 1.1 16.56 3.6	22.49 0.9
Tues 05.03	3.8 11.32 0.9 17.28 3.8	23.25 0.6
Wed 05.36	4.0 12.02 0.7 17.57 3.9	** ** *

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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