

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8088

Thursday 29 March, 2012

www.obantimes.co.uk

77 pence

Token two inside
SEE PAGE 7

hotel break giveaway

What's on this Easter

Renewables Now
FEATURE ON PAGES 14 & 15

For all the latest news video and photos log on to www.obantimes.co.uk Find us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter

'Obang' hits a massive 1,000,000

THE OBAN Times' video from the failed fireworks display on November 4 last year has now had more than 1,000,000 hits on YouTube.

The video of the community fireworks display at Mossfield Park in Oban by Pyrol, which failed when all the fireworks went off inside a minute after a technical hitch, went viral on the internet within days of it being posted.

The Oban Times received calls from national and international news channels at the time asking to use the footage of what became internationally nicknamed 'Obang'.

It was also worked into Russell Howard's Good News television show and has become part of comedian Dara O'Briain's latest routine.

Price of postal stamps set to soar

THE PRICE of stamps is set to soar following an increase announced by Royal Mail on Tuesday.

From April 30 first class stamps will rise from 46p to 60p while second class will increase by the same amount from 36p to 50p. The cost of posting large letters will increase from 75p to 90p for first class and 58p to 69p for second class. The increases followed a decision by regulator Ofcom to give Royal Mail the freedom to set its own prices.

Wind energy debate to raise local awareness

A MEETING to discuss the hotly-debated issue of wind energy will be held tomorrow (Friday) at Oban Community Fire Station.

The meeting is being called by Lorn Environmental Action Forum (LEAF) to discuss wind turbines, wind farms and sustainable energy generation in general and the group plans to preside over an impartial and open debate.

As the Oban Times went to press, speakers were yet to be confirmed for the meeting, which will start at 7pm.



5-star luxury hotel complex massive boost

Investment in infrastructure and spa tourism welcomed

PLANS are being drawn up to develop a luxury spa hotel on the outskirts of Oban, together with a development of 40 chalets. The Oban Times can exclusively reveal.

Permission for the Tom Liath development near Dunbeg - understood to include the creation of a new footpath to the nearby chapel, Cladh Uaine - will be sought in the coming weeks, shortly after which the developer will consult the local community on the proposals.

It is understood that the hotel will include plans for a leisure centre, which will be available for use by the community.

Access to the site is to be created via a new roundabout on the A85 at the Oban side of the Half Way Filling Station.

The roundabout is being jointly developed by West Highland Housing Association (WHHA), as it will provide access on the village side to some of the 150 homes being developed as part of the Dunbeg Corridor project.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

"Luxury hotel would be startlingly good for Oban."

Gwyneth Neal chair Dunbeg Community Council

Gwyneth Neal, chairwoman of Dunbeg Community Council, said the proposed hotel, which is being aimed at the five-star market, could be 'something special' for the area.

She said: 'A luxury hotel would be startlingly good for Oban as there's a lack of them here.

'The views there are stunning and for people who have got the money, or just want something special, it will be an exceptional facility.'

'It won't be exclusive though and will be open for everybody.'

She further welcomed the possibility of new jobs for the area. WHHA's chief executive, Lesley McInnes, said that her organisation were working closely with the developer on the roundabout on the A85, with the intention of minimising any work required.

She said: 'The developer has been very amiable and we are hoping to put in a planning application in the near future.'

'We have land for 150 houses in Dunbeg and we're looking to start the contract for the first 50 by May.'

A spokesperson for the developer, understood to already be a major part of the luxury hotel market, said a statement on the proposed hotel would be available in the coming weeks.

Teenager in custody after alleged robbery in Lochgilphead

A TEENAGER is this week behind bars after allegedly robbing a Lochgilphead newsagent.

Luke Ronald Blackwood, from Lochgilphead, appeared from custody on petition at Du-noon Sheriff Court on Tuesday, accused of robbing RS McColl's Argyll Street store at 7.30am on Monday morning.

The 17-year old made no plea or declaration and was remanded pending further examination.

Wanida McEwan, a supervisor at the newsagent, was working alone at the time of the incident

and said she has had trouble sleeping since the alleged robbery.

Visibly drained, the 39-year old mother of one said: 'I was so shocked but we have been trained and told if this ever happens, just hand over the money.'

In a twist of fate, Wanida had offered to work the 6am shift on Monday to give her manager a break.

While she has since returned to work to keep her mind off the ordeal, Wanida said: 'I will not

be opening the shop any more.'

Blackwood returns to court on April 3.

In a separate incident last week, a Glasgow man appeared at Campbelltown Sheriff Court on a petition alleging assault and attempted robbery with a knife at a convenience store in the town's Longrow area.



Sun shines on vintage ploughing match

The 12th Lorn Annual Vintage Ploughing Match at Shenaville Farm near Benderloch was a 'fiercely fought' contest in the sunshine. Neil MacPhail, from Skernish Farm, near Campbeltown, won first prize in the Horse Class at the event on Saturday. But the sunny day saw several winners, including Willie Buchanan from North Connel, who took home the overall awards including The Oban Times Ploughman's Perpetual Trophy. See page 16 for the full story.

Parking charge cash pays for Oban's airport

NEARLY half a million pounds has been taken from parking meters lining Oban's streets to subsidise the running of the town's airport.

The Oban Times has learned that an arrangement has been in place since 2006 - two years before the controversial airport opened - which sees £73,000 taken from the approximate £200,000 raised by on-street parking in the town every year.

Argyll and Bute Council's scheme, agreed in principal in October 2003 before the sum was set two years later, has so far seen £438,000 pumped into the airport.

Payments will continue for another three years, taking the total sum paid into the airport from parking to £657,000.

Last September, the council said Oban, Lorn and the Isles

collected £476,605 from off-street car parks, on-street car parks and from rentals for events such as the continental market throughout the 2010-11 financial year.

After costs were deducted, the parking surplus was distributed between the four areas in the county that charge for parking, in proportion to the contribution to the surplus. The council said that generated £95,000 to be spent in Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

The latest revelations mean, from that sum, a maximum of £22,000 was spent on improvements to the Oban, Lorn and Isles area - a return of 23 per cent on parking charges.

Confirming the arrangement, Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council did not specify which element of the costs this

was to cover but it was a general contribution to funding of the airports project.'

Oban Airport has been embroiled in controversy from the start.

Original estimates for the upgrade of the Connel airfield, together with new provision at Coll and Colonsay, was put at £4.5million, but the price more than doubled - with Oban Airport responsible for the bulk of the additional costs, costing a reported £9million alone.

When proposed, Argyll and Bute Council said the airport would create somewhere between 100 to 400 jobs, supporting between 50 to 200 jobs with the creation of new business.

Commuters visiting the airport today can take scheduled flights to four destinations: Coll, Colonsay, Islay and Tiree.

Campbeltown pupil stabbed outside school

A 16-YEAR-old Kintyre schoolboy was injured in a stabbing by a fellow pupil outside Campbeltown Grammar School on Monday morning.

The victim was taken to Campbeltown Hospital following the incident which occurred prior to the start of the school day at 9am. The alleged attack happened as a school bus dropped pupils off at a parking area 100 yards from the school building.

It is understood the boy was stabbed in the leg and a police spokesman confirmed his injuries as not life threatening.

The spokesman added: 'A 14-year-old local boy has been arrested in connection with this incident. A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and the Children's Panel.'

There will be increased police presence at the school during the rest of the week and after the Easter holidays.

CHILDREN GO FREE!

Upgrade to tough lenses for just £20

FREE EYE TESTS!
FREE SPECTACLES!

WALLACE optometrists
Kodak LENS VISION CENTRE

11/12 Argyll Square, Oban
0845 230 3937

Airds Hotel first to 3 'green' stars

AIRDS Hotel in Port Appin is the first hotel in Scotland to receive a top environmental rating from the Sustainable Restaurant Association (SRA).

The hotel received the maximum three-star from the association.

The SRA exists to increase the use of sustainable and local sourcing in the hospitality sector. The aim is to encourage raw ingredients to be sourced as locally as possible.

The rating system includes the provenance of the food, energy, waste and water efficiency and how the restaurants treats staff, customers and community.

Mull otter is focus of national nature award

A PRESTIGIOUS photography award has been presented to an Inverness-shire man for a photo taken while on holiday in Mull.

Marcus Conway won Scottish Nature Photographer of the Year 2011 title for his image entitled 'Cheeky Otter'.

He said: 'I had been on Mull for two weeks enjoying the wealth of wildlife on the island and tracking otters. I had spotted a family of otters feeding along the shoreline and decided to set up in the rocks to try to get a group shot.'

'What happened next took me by surprise. The female otter came onto the exact same rocks I had chosen, enabling me to get this intimate portrait shot as she scented the air.'

'Moments later she was too close to focus on as she continued along the rocks just feet away. It was a wonderful encounter with one of Scotland's finest mammals and to have been made Scottish Nature Photographer of the Year has made the moment even more special.'

'Cheeky Otter' is captured on camera.

Seafood Temple

Serving fresh locally sourced seafood 7 days a week

Stunning sea view across the Sound of Kerrera

From Friday 30th March open from 10.30 - 2pm

- coffee
- homebaking
- light lunches

Two sittings for evening meals 6pm and 8.30pm

Dungallan Park, Gallanach Road, Oban
Tel: 01631 566000

www.obanseafood.com

GET £100 BACK FOR YOUR OLD 3 PIECE SUITE*

Buy a new three piece suite and we will give you £100 for your old one and we will even take your old one away (within 10 mile radius of Oban).

MYATHESONS furnishings

Tweedmill, Soroba Rd, Oban, Argyll Tel: 565 195

*Limited period offer

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times
THE REGIONAL
NEWSPAPER FOR THE
WEST HIGHLANDS,
ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week

Lochavullin Industrial Estate,
Crannog Lane, Oban,
PA34 4HB
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial

Editorial Director
Stewart MacKenzie
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Northern Editor
Stephen Norris
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Chief Reporter
Euan Paterson
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Senior Reporter
Steven Flanagan
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Faith Orr
fom@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Richard Haddock
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Web Co-ordinator
Marian Miller
mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

Newsdesk
01631 568060
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

Advertising Sales Manager
Fiona MacInnes
fmacinnes@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person
Rhona McKillop
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person
Fiona Bennett
fbennett@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person
Claire Firth
cfirth@wyvexmedia.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person
Isobel Brown
ibrown@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices

Fort William
Tel 01397 703003
Fax 01397 702495

Lochgilphead
Tel 01546 602345
Fax 01546 602661

Campbeltown
Tel 01586 554646
Fax 01586 553006

Arran
Tel 01770 302142
Fax 01770 302021

www.obantimes.co.uk

West coast politicians condemn withdrawal of emergency tug

POLITICIANS across the West Highlands have expressed their anger over the withdrawal of an emergency tow vessel (ETV) from Stornoway.

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid has sought assurances from the Prime Minister that the decision will be reconsidered.

And Highland Council leader Michael Foxley has demanded the tug, withdrawn by the UK Government, be replaced immediately.

The elected representatives hit out after the cargo vessel *MV Flinterspirit* ran aground off North Uist last Monday.

The vessel, with a cargo of steel and timber bound for

Belfast, also had 235 tonnes of oils on board, 200 tonnes of which is heavy fuel oil, which would cause huge environmental problems had it leaked.

There was no environmental pollution or loss of life - but only because the vessel ran aground in an area naturally sheltered from buffeting wind and waves.

The ship was able to refloat on the next rising tide.

Mr Reid MP said: 'The recent withdrawal of the Stornoway-based emergency tug has left the west coast vulnerable to a more serious incident.'

'I hope the Prime Minister will ensure that a replacement tug will be in place very soon.'

Councillor Foxley said: 'Both The Highland Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar have repeatedly argued that there are no alternatives to having a permanently stationed ETV in the Minches.'

'If the vessel had run aground at a falling tide or the weather had been worse, we could have

been facing an environmental disaster right now with the costs of clean-up running into many millions of pounds.'

'A replacement for the ETV needs to be identified as a matter of urgency as we are unlikely to be as lucky the next time.'

An official maritime accident investigation is expected.

Power cuts raise anger on Islay

FURIOUS islanders contacted *The Oban Times* last week to complain of yet another power cut on the Isle of Islay.

Around 500 houses were affected by the outage which was caused by a 'safety chip activating on the high voltage network', according to a Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) spokesperson.

The lights went out in Portnahaven around 8am and power was not restored until 11am. One local resident complained that the service provided simply wasn't good enough and suggested the contract be put out to tender.

According to islanders, there have been more than 30 power cuts in six months - a problem SHEPD say it is working to resolve.

Alan Broadbent, head of engineering at SHEPD, said: 'We recognise there has been a significant number of faults in Islay recently. We have met with the community to discuss their concerns and outlined, in detail, our plans to improve the network. We will be investing heavily in the network over the next year. We feel the majority of customers in Islay understand what SHEPD is trying to achieve through investment, following the extreme weather conditions experienced in the last year.'

Colonsay spring festival promotes island's culture and wildlife

THE FESTIVAL of Spring will return to Colonsay this year to promote the island's food, culture and wildlife from April 28 to May 18.

The Beltane event, an ancient Celtic festival heralding the return of summer, will be marked by lighting fiery torches on island hillsides before dawn on May 1.

Colonsay spring festival promotes island's culture and wildlife

THE FESTIVAL of Spring will return to Colonsay this year to promote the island's food, culture and wildlife from April 28 to May 18.

The Beltane event, an ancient Celtic festival heralding the return of summer, will be marked by lighting fiery torches on island hillsides before dawn on May 1.

New book to trace Glasgow Islay Association history

AS PART of its 150th anniversary celebrations, the Glasgow Islay Association has produced a book tracing the history of the organisation since it was founded in 1862.

The history was penned by Roy M Cameron, a former president and now honorary president of the association.

The writer, who is based in Stewarston in Ayrshire and led the Kilmarnock Highlanders branch for number of years, has produced an interesting and informative history of An Comunn Ieach which continues to be numbered among 'The Big Three' territorial associations still active in Glasgow.

The book, which is amply illustrated, looks at the social and political history of Islay in the mid 19th century, the fluctuations in population levels and the eventual movement of the Gaels to the large cities which was largely responsible for the formation of the Highland societies and associations.

Contractors cut power to Carradale

CONTRACTORS working for E.On Energy at Deucheran Hill windfarm, near Carradale, left 267 Argyll properties in the dark after cutting through underground power cables.

Power was cut off at 9.30am on Monday but restored by Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution by 11am.



lochcar township clerk Peggy Campbell and Storas Uibhist chairman Angus MacMillan cut the first sod on South Uist's community windfarm development as local residents look on.

First turf cut on Uist wind power project

'Building a future for the children of this community'

LAST Monday was an historic day for community landowners Storas Uibhist as construction company R J McLeod began building access roads to the 6.9MW three-turbine windfarm at Loch Carnan, South Uist.

Pupils from lochdar Primary School's eco committee and pupil council, along with representatives of lochdar Hill Common Grazing Committee, lochdar crofters and township residents followed a local piper to the start point of the access track to the windfarm site for the turf-cutting ceremony.

Township clerk Peggy Campbell said: 'The township has been very supportive of this project and look forward to the benefit of the project being returned to the community.'

Mary MacInnes, head teacher at lochdar school said: 'Cutting the first sod at Loch Carnan was a significant moment for our pupils and their teacher.'

'Developing links with the business community is very much on the education agenda and youngsters cannot start too early to think of their own career paths.'

'We look forward to participation in the project as it develops

as we have the advantage of proximity to Loch Carnan to make regular visits.'

Speaking at the turf-cutting ceremony on a windy lochdar Hill, Storas Uibhist chairman Angus MacMillan said: 'This project is one step in the process of transforming the economy of these islands and building a future for the children of this community.'

'For too long we have seen our young people leave these islands because there are few educational opportunities and jobs. The revenue from these turbines will allow this community to shape its own future and provide match funding for a wide range of projects that have previously not been able to happen because of a lack of resources.'

The turbines will be installed later in the year, with Enercon currently arranging to bring them to site in August.

According to Storas Uibhist, the project will 'transform' the islands of South Uist, Benbecula and Eriskay.

An estimated £20million of revenues will be reinvested to support economic and social regeneration in the community over the next 20 years.

Skye vandals turn up heat on Co-op

POLICE are hunting vandals who de-activated switches to every fridge and freezer at Portree Co-op on Sunday March 18.

Persons unknown entered industrial units behind the Co-op on Woodlands Road around 1.35am and cut the power to the store. Around £1,800 worth of frozen food items perished as a result.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Portree police on 01478 612888 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Jobs boost for Gaelic graduates

NEW JOBS are being created for Gaelic graduates who wish to work in further developing the language.

Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG) is currently seeking applications from Gaelic-speaking graduates for year-long placements.

The scheme, funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, allows young Gaels to take a first step into the workplace with a minimum salary of £17k.

Under the new scheme Comunn na Gàidhlig reimburses employers to the tune of £6,800.

Graduates will also have the opportunity to attend a development course to enhance their CV and allow them access to a wide range of Gaelic related career opportunities.

Donald MacNeill, Chief Executive of CnaG, said: 'In the development of economic activity related to Gaelic, the scheme plays an important role in linking university courses to workplace activity and opening work opportunities for new graduates.'

Head of Gaelic Usage at Bòrd na Gàidhlig, David Boag said: 'It is important that there are new job opportunities for the young people to contribute to the work currently being undertaken to strengthen the language, not only in the Highlands and Islands but across Scotland.'

'The newly graduated young people have much to offer and it is vital that their skills, confidence and vision are fully utilised in current efforts to develop the Gaelic language.'

Interested graduates can apply at www.cnag.org.uk.

Skye lecture celebrates legacy of Sir Iain Noble

SKYE man and *Oban Times* Gaelic columnist Allan Campbell last Thursday delivered the inaugural Sir Iain Noble Memorial Lecture at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig - the Sleat Gaelic college Sir Iain set up in 1973.

Mr Campbell gave a personal and honest appraisal of the businessman and landlord, his impact on south Skye and the Gaelic language and how his forthright opinions and unwavering belief in his own vision courted controversy at times.



Pictured at the inaugural Sir Iain Noble Memorial Lecture are Lucilla Noble, piper Dr Angus MacDonald, singer Christine Primrose, Calum Graham of Urras an Eilein, Allan Campbell who delivered the lecture, Urras an Eilein chairman Murdo Beaton and John Norman MacLeod and Boyd Robertson of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

'A bit of fun'

Speaking in Gaelic, Mr Campbell said: 'When Iain arrived in south Skye as a young, rich, new landlord his welcome was rather circumspect. Who could blame the community whose experience gave little cause to look for much from any landlord, old or new.'

'Over and above this Iain Noble wanted to learn Gaelic, a language which people certainly valued but which had never earned them a penny. This had to be the ultimate proof that the estate would be just a plaything. I'm sure it didn't help matters that one of Iain's pet phrases in both Gaelic and English was 'a bit of fun'. The people of Sleat felt concerned with survival, not fun.'

'Contributed significantly'

Convinced, however, that a vibrant community language

and culture was key to economic and social regeneration, Iain Noble, said Mr Campbell, 'demonstrated the significance of the confidence that a community derives from self-esteem, and what can be achieved through that confidence.'

He said: 'He always described himself as being at his happiest when he was creating something new, developing a new business idea or promoting some fresh endeavour. In my opinion Iain

contributed significantly to the status of Gaelic today and to the community confidence which is evident in Skye and further afield.'

The college, established in 1973 with only eight students, is now part of the University of the Highlands and Islands and offers courses in various subjects at under and post-graduate level all through the medium of Gaelic.

Principal Professor Boyd Robertson said: 'Sabhal Mòr

is a vital part of Iain Noble's 'legacy that cannot be gainsaid' of which Allan Campbell spoke. Sir Iain provided a fillip to the self-confidence of the Gaels and increased their regard for their language through his various endeavours in Sleat.'

The lecture was organised by Sabhal Mòr and Urras an Eilein (the Island Trust). Sir Iain, who died on Christmas Day 2010, held both organisations close to his heart.

Celtic players back Harris Tweed promotion in Korea

TWO GLASGOW Celtic FC players are to promote Harris Tweed in their South Korean homeland.

Cha Du Ri and Ki Sung Yueng have been fitted out with bespoke jackets by Shawbost-based Harris Tweed Hebrides (HTH), the fabric's major producer.

The pair are backing a major sales push in Korea, where the world-famous cloth has struck a chord with trendy street-wear brands in Seoul and other Korean cities.

Ki Sung Yueng said: 'It is a pleasure to tell people at home in Korea about a great Scottish product.'

'It is beautiful to wear and ideal for the climate in Korea which is quite similar to Scotland's.'

Cha Du Ri added: 'I am sure there will be a good market in Korea for Harris Tweed which is a very exclusive fabric that looks good and feels good to wear.'

Harris Tweed Hebrides was one of 30 UK companies taking part in the British Lifestyle Showcase at the British Embassy in Seoul last Wednesday. More than 400 guests from Korea's biggest retail and design houses attended.

Heritage

HTH chairman Brian Wilson said: 'At present, our main market is in Japan where people love not only the fabric but the heritage which lies behind it. We have a growing market in Korea and hope that it can be expanded.'



Susan wins two-night trip to the Isle of Arran

Beginner's luck brings Susan a two-night stay at the Auchrannie Spa Resort on beautiful Arran

IT will be a first-time trip to the Isle of Arran for Kintyre resident Susan Davies, this month's competition winner who picked up the prize of a two-night bed and breakfast stay at the prestigious Auchrannie Spa Resort.

To win, Susan, who lives at Southend in Kintyre, had to collect two tokens from consecutive editions of *The Campbeltown Courier*, then answer a simple question correctly.

Susan said not only was it the first time she would be going to the Isle of Arran, it was also the first time she could remember ever having entered a competition.

Nothing like beginners' luck Susan!

Susan said: 'My husband promised to take me to Arran last year. We left it to the last minute and then something cropped up. I thought this would be a great way to get to Arran and so it's proved.'

'I'm very much looking forward to staying at the Auchrannie Spa Resort and seeing the island.'

Abbey House Hotel

Collect token 2 today see page 7

VisitScotland open new Oban centre

OBAN'S new VisitScotland information centre will open at its new north pier location next week, ahead of the busy Easter weekend.

Situated at the corner of George Street beneath the Columba Hotel, the new centre in effect replaces the former office at the old St Columba's Church at Argyll Square, with repairs to the building's roof proving too costly.

VisitScotland say the new office, which is part of one of the town's most prominent buildings, has been refitted to a high standard, incorporating the organisation's latest branding and will benefit significantly from the nearby car park.

David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland's regional director for Argyll and Bute, said: 'Opening in time for the busy Easter period is a huge achievement for all those involved in the move. From its new home in the Columba Building, the Oban

"We are delighted the VisitScotland centre is opening in this fantastic location."

**Robert Pollock
Argyll and Bute
Council**

VisitScotland information centre will continue to play a vital role in showcasing the wealth of things to see and do in the local area, with our staff providing valuable assistance and inspiration to visitors from all over the world.'

News of the opening has been welcomed by the town's community council, with chairwoman Marri Molloy on Monday saying the new office was in an 'excel-

lent position'. Argyll and Bute Council's head of economic development and strategic transportation, Robert Pollock said: 'We are delighted the VisitScotland information centre is opening in this fantastic location.'

'The Columba Hotel site is one of the best recognised buildings in town. This will definitely be an exciting new chapter for information provision and tourism in Oban.'

A formal launch will take place later in April to give local businesses a chance to celebrate the opening.

The fate of its former home in St Columba's Church, meanwhile, remains unclear. It is understood the repair bill for the crumbling ceiling is approximately £500,000.

Anyone interested in marketing opportunities at the new visitor centre can contact Alison Feaks, on 01631 567 701 or alison.feaks@visitScotland.com.

McCaig's Tower to host double celebration on same summer's day

Queen's Diamond Jubilee bonfire night to follow Oban girl's big wedding day

THERE is to be a day of double celebration within the granite walls of Oban's iconic McCaig's Tower this summer.

A bonfire to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee was announced in The Oban Times last week - however, there is also a wedding to be held within the monument's walls on the same day - Saturday, June 2. Oban girl Jacqueline Auld will marry David Preiss in the afternoon, with the spectacular bonfire, which may be seen for miles around, set to be lit at midnight.

Confusion over the double date booking was quickly resolved to allow the two events to go ahead at different times.

Father of the bride Iain Auld of Glenberrie Guest House, Oban said: 'We booked and paid for the tower 15 - 18 months ago.

'When we saw the article in last week's *Oban Times* it was a complete shock.

'I contacted the council and



McCaig's Tower is to host a double celebration on the same day this summer

was told that our booking is secure and the wedding will go ahead.

Jubilee celebration bonfire organiser Graham MacQueen said: 'This is a hugely important day for the bride and I will make every effort to ensure her wed-

ding is not affected.' Mr MacQueen added: 'The bonfire is also a hugely important thing for Oban - it will make headlines for the town once again.'

He gave assurances that those building the fire would be 'well out of the way' during the wedding ceremony and if possible would build the fire after the wedding.

'We would never want to encroach on her day.

'If the wedding is finished at 4pm then we will come in at 4pm,' said Mr MacQueen.

Confirming Mr Auld's priority booking of the venue for his daughter's big day, a spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said that they 'had a long standing booking at McCaig's Tower for an event on Saturday, June 2.'

'This event will take precedence over any other which may be booked at the tower for that date.'



Colin with some of the children at Soroba Young Families Group and his own daughter Alayna, who will be attending in the future.

Colin ready to walk 'coast to coast' to aid Oban young families' group

A FATHER is walking from 'coast to coast' to raise funds for an Oban group that supports vulnerable families.

Colin Baxter is hoping to complete the walk from the Solway Firth to Wallsend at Newcastle in three days.

All the money raised from the walk in July will go to help with the running of the Soroba Young Family Group.

Colin said: 'I'll be taking lots

of plasters and Sudocrem but I'm also thinking of walking back the way too. My car will be in Solway and the bus service is not great. I'll see how sore the feet are.'

He added: 'I want to raise as much as possible and would like some of the businesses in the town to realise what a good cause it is and contribute.'

'My oldest daughter went here and my six month old, Alayna,

will hopefully go here too. I'd hate to see anything happen to this place, the kids really enjoy coming here and the more money they have the better it is for the kids.'

Jayne Donn, chairwoman of the fundraising committee said: 'The project really helped me by taking in both my children when I was due to have an operation.'

'But the funding has been

drastically cut again this year, as it has been every year in recent times. We are doing a lot of fundraising activities and the next big thing is the tabletop sale in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on April 29.'

'There will be lots of things there and it will be really good for families. It is the first time we have done something like this and I would encourage everyone to come along.'

Cinema refurbishment continues despite date delay

OBAN Phoenix Cinema will this week take delivery of new seats as refurbishment progresses apace - but the opening date may be delayed.

The not-for-profit company still hopes to open the picture house next month, but a number of unforeseen repairs means the opening could be pushed back into May or June.

While no formal decision has been taken, the directors have reassured the community that, when complete, it will be more than worth the wait. Director, Laura Russell, said: 'We are still ambitiously aiming for as early an opening as possible.'

Meanwhile, fundraising is still at a crucial stage, and it is hoped the latest Bring and Buy sale, at

the Corran Halls this Saturday, complete with home-baking, bouncy castle for the kids and a plethora of stalls, will add to the pot. Directors will be on hand to answer any questions locals have about the reopening.

Seats for the cinema can still be sponsored, with £200 regular seats and £1,000 VIP seats still available.

Oban Phoenix Cinema has received funding from Argyll and the Islands Leader, HIE, Crerar Hotels British Hotels Trust, Creative Scotland, Firstport, Just Enterprise and Artemis. For more information or to sponsor a seat, contact Laura Russell at DM MacKinnon Solicitors on 01631 563014 or email lr@dmmk.co.uk.

Light go out around the globe for Earth Hour

MCCAIG'S Tower will be in darkness for one hour this Saturday evening as Argyll and Bute Council supports the World Wildlife Fund's Earth Hour for the third consecutive year.

At 8.30pm, the tower will join millions of households across the globe with the lights

going out in a show of support for people and wildlife threatened by climate change.

Sally Loudon, Argyll and Bute Council's chief executive, said: 'The council has signed up to Earth Hour and I'd encourage local residents, schools, businesses and other organisations to do the same.'

Scotland's self acclaimed Seafood Capital fails to find sufficient support for seafood festival

OBAN, Scotland's Seafood Capital, will not have a Seafood Festival this summer due to a lack of people willing to help organise the event.

It had been previously announced by the local councillor behind the event that it would return this May to coincide with the Scottish Association for Marine Science's Festival of the Sea.

However, the councillor has been forced to admit defeat as the upcoming election has busied his diary, coupled, he says, with few or no volunteers coming forward to help co-ordinate the culinary celebration.

Instead, he will call on local eateries to put on special seafood-inspired menus during the week of

the Festival of the Sea.

The councillor said: 'It came down to just two or three of us doing the work. While I was trying to get people to come and help, it wasn't happening.'

'I also feel that the Festival of the Sea is a big enough event on its own and we don't need to have to events running side by side.'

Connel hears opposition to Glenlonan windfarm

OPPONENTS to an application to build a wind farm in a Glen Lonan beauty spot say no heed has been paid to the possible impact on tourism.

Giving a presentation to Connel Community Council, Dr Jeremy Church said the lack of consultation with the sector - one of Argyll and Bute's biggest employers - was a significant oversight as he believes it could make a major dent on the coun-

ty's income. He said Wind Prospect's plans for 11 turbines in Glen Lonan - which measure 121metres in height to the blade tip - would deter visitors to the area, with 14 scheduled monuments and at least the same number of unscheduled monuments in the vicinity.

He called on the council to refuse the application, saying: 'The council has quite clear guidelines on this and this

application breaches them clearly.'

With 150 applications for individual turbines lodged throughout the county, he warned of 'planning fatigue' when dealing objectively with such applications. Calling on the Scottish Government to abandon its dedication to wind, Dr Church cited the Nobel-prize winning director of CERN, Professor Jack Steinberger, who described it as 'an illusory technology'.

Spring Edition

FREE

holiday west highland

Arts and Culture

FROM KINTYRE TO LOCHABER YOUR GUIDE TO EXPLORING THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

500,000 readers every season

out now

Available throughout the west Highlands or online at www.holidaywesthighland.co.uk

REMEMBER x Easter Weekend Holidays

Friday 6th April - Monday 9th April

Check GP surgery opening times.

Be Ready for EASTER

If you rely on a repeat prescription, make sure you have enough to cover you over the Easter weekend. Friday 6th April - Monday 9th April. Find out more at nhsinform.co.uk

NHS SCOTLAND

"The Oban Times is read by over 40,000 people every week making it the largest selling newspaper in the Highlands & Islands"

(Source: Jigsaw data as at 01/01/2011)

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Tel: 01631 568000 email: adverts@obantimes.co.uk www.obantimes.co.uk

Manor House Hotel & Restaurant

Easter Sunday April 8

Join us for a special 3 course Lunch in our Dining Room £28

Overlooking the harbour

Gallanach Road • Oban • 562087

Mull kayaker to tackle Scotland's coastline for charity

A MULL man is to kayak around Scotland to raise awareness of Obsteric Brachial Plexus Injury - which his son suffers from.

Battling
Alan Wilson will start the solo challenge on April 8 in aid of The Brachial Plexus Injury Service, The Erbs Palsy Group and The Children's Hand Surgery Fund.

His son Cameron, 14, was born with a brachial plexus injury sustained through childbirth complications,

where two nerves in his neck separated. This resulted in his arm being paralysed.

Alan said: 'Cameron has been battling his whole life to fit in and has always felt different, but after his surgeries he has so much more confidence and nothing stops him now.'

'That's why the charities I'm raising money for mean so much to me and my family. Without their fantastic plastic surgery skills and care Cam-

eron wouldn't have been able to live his life as fully and as happily as he is doing now.'

When he was three months old Cameron had his first operation performed by BAPRAS consultant plastic surgeon Professor Simon Kay to take nerves from his leg and transplant them into his neck.

This helped restore some movement in his arm and since then he has had several further operations which have continued to improve his arm

function and given him the ability to dress himself and pick objects up.

So far Alan has raised £1,000 in support of his sea kayak trip which will take him from the Solway Firth around the coast of Scotland, visiting as many islands as he can, before finishing in Eyemouth three months later.

He hopes to reach his target of raising £10,000 by the end of his journey. Donations can be made at www.charitygiving.co.uk/alanwilson.



Alan will be kayaking around Scotland.



Pushing the boat out for Mary's Meals - The artists and musicians with boatman Phil Allen. t13pirates1no

'Pirates' push the boat out for Mary's Meals

A YO-HO-HO-ING group of artists and musicians have pushed the boat out and raised thousands of pounds for a charity that supports children in poverty.

Mary's Meals received £10,000 from a festival week of art sales

and concerts in Glasgow's House for an Artlover and the City Chambers recently.

Co-ordinator, Netta Ewing, said: 'The money raised is being spent by Mary's Meals on building and equipping a feeding shelter for Njera School, which

is located in the Mangochi district of Malawi and has 460 pupils. It will be used to pay for the cost of a shelter where the children are fed each day.'

The group decided to dress up in brocades, velvets and 18th century wrappings to coincide

with the national launch of movie, The Pirates.

They even recruited Phil Allen, the bearded boatman at Gourrock Yacht Club, to ferry them to their very own imaginary Treasure Island on the Firth of Clyde.

Housing policy causing concern

READERS of The Oban Times have raised concerns that an Oban-based housing association is behaving irresponsibly with regard to the safety of pupils attending Oban High School.

Fail to act claims
Letters received by the newspaper highlight fears about finds during drug raids in the vicinity of the secondary school.

The accusation is that West Highland Housing Association fail to act when tenants are found, by police, to be in possession of drugs.

One reader said: 'It does not take a brain surgeon to work out that where there are drug addicts, you will find drug dealers.'

But West Highland Housing

Association deny claims that they are ignoring problems with anti-social tenants.

Chief executive, Lesley McInnes, said: 'We have around 60 properties in the vicinity of Oban High School and we have received no letters or complaints from the tenants in this area.'

'Obviously for us to deal with any issue we need to speak to the person making the complaint - we fully understand that people may be nervous about doing this but if there is an issue of anti-social behaviour then we need the information.'

Breaches of agreement
She added: 'Recently we noticed that there was a police raid, reported in the paper, on our property but when we

followed this up there was no charges made.'

'The Association recently took action against a person and that person no longer has a tenancy with the Association.'

'Where there are breaches of the tenancy agreement or there is evidence of criminal activity the Association will and has taken action.'

Concerned readers also claimed that other housing associations in Oban are much stricter with tenants and Alistair MacGregor, chief executive of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) said that evicting anti-social tenants is not difficult: 'The way to do it - as any good landlord knows - is by building up evidence.'

'You ask neighbours to keep a diary of comings and goings and log any incidents with police.'

'You then build a case for court on the basis of the evidence and the sheriff will make a decision. 'We have successfully evicted 19 tenants for drug dealing and anti-social behaviour and adopt a zero tolerance approach.'

'The bottom line is if there is an evidential case presented then you will have success.'

West Highland Housing Association are to send letters to tenants in several of their properties explaining the concerns raised and reiterating the importance of letting them or the police, know if there are issues that people feel are not being addressed.

Highland and NHS form new partnership

HIGHLAND health chiefs have sealed a groundbreaking agreement with Highland Council on forming a single team to deliver more efficient and responsive services.

New partnership
From 1 April, a new Highland Health and Social Care Partnership will be set up, which will see 1,400 council staff transfer across to the NHS.

Work between the two agencies on integrating services has been ongoing for 15 months. NHS Highland will take the lead on adult care, while the council will take responsibility for children's services.

The deal, a first for Scotland, concludes a radical overhaul of how best to provide key caring services within increasingly limited budgets.

Until now, because two separate agencies were providing their own support, lack of communication often meant duplication of effort. Previously, people were sometimes called on at home by professionals from both the council and the NHS because each didn't know the other was visiting.

Now, under a single budget and set of managers, the new partnership will make faster decisions, put money where it is needed and support more people in their own homes. Those being cared for in a residential home or at home will still be looked after by social work staff, but

under the NHS. Better links between local GPs, nursing staff and carers will mean delayed discharges from hospital and the length of stay will be reduced.

For children's services, health visitors and other health care professionals will transfer across from the NHS to the council. GPs, district nurses and health visitors will share information on children with medical or psychological problems with the wider team, including social care, pre-school and primary school staff.

NHS Highland chair Garry Coult said 'it was great' to see Highland leading the rest of Scotland towards integrating services.

He said: 'People have been telling us for years this is a 'must-do' and we have risen to the challenge. Things won't change overnight but over time I am in no doubt this is going to help us to look after more people in their own homes.'

'It will be much more efficient and a lot less frustrating. This has captured the imagination of very many staff and there is a ground swell of support and commitment to make this a success.'

Under the new arrangements, Highland Council will pay NHS Highland around £88 million for the first financial year for adult services, while receiving £8,100,000 from the NHS for children's services.

Lorn Lines

WELL-known judge and frequent visitor to Oban Photographic Club, Sandy Clelland from Penicuik, gave the results of the Club's last competition of the season on Monday March 19.

The subject "Open 2" attracted the largest entry of the year and gave Sandy tough task.

His criticism of the many images on subjects ranging from wildlife, abstract and landscape to portraits and architecture was however fair and constructive.

Results were: - Digital Images 1st Stephen Lawson with an image of a Blue Tit with a piece of moss in its claws; 2nd Ronnie MacKillop with a night shot of Singapore; 3rd Stephen Lawson with another of his excellent images.

Prints: - 1st John Douglas with a picture of Black Rock Cottage in Glen Coe. John also had 2nd & 3rd.

Stephen Lawson was judged to have the overall best image on the night and was presented with the Frank Walton Cup along with a voucher donated by Oban Photographic Centre.

The last get together of club members for the 2011/12 season will be the annual buffet on Monday, April 2.

THE FINAL meeting of the winter session of Oban Speakers Club was held in Soroba House Hotel on March 22.

The first speaker was Alex Clark who gave an excellent talk on 'Dr Livingstone - I presume'.

This was followed by a humorous talk by Frank Walton. This was the last one of the winter's programme and, as such, was quite appropriately entitled 'All good things must come to an end'.

The speakers and their critics Willie Melville and Roy Wood were introduced by chairman Jim Fraser. The timekeeper for the evening was Malcolm Black.

At the AGM which followed the committee for next year were elected as follows:- President: Guido Faccenda, Administrative Vice President: Frank Walton, Educational Director: Alex Clark, Social Secretary: Ian Crawford, Secretary: Jim Fraser, Treasurer: Alex Clark, Examiner: Willie Melville.

After the summer break meetings will resume in October.



These talented members of the Inveraray Pipe Band took a trip to Oban last Wednesday for a host of performances at the Netherlorn Piping Society's latest meeting.

Playing as a group and individually, their appearances were interspersed with performances from local musicians, to the delight of the healthy audience. Pictured ahead of their performance are, from left, Sarah Muir, Hayley McInnes, Fiona Mitchell, Laura Underwood and Laura McMillan.

BID4Oban is this weekend seeking volunteers to help clean two of the town's beauty spots ahead of the busy tourist season.

On Saturday, between 10am-12noon, volunteers are asked to gather at Jacob's Ladder, the steps leading to McCaig's Tower. Sunday will see the clean-up move to the path on 'the Witches' Dunollie, between 10am-11am.

The event is supported by Argyll and Bute Council and the GRAB Trust. Equipment, including gloves, will be provided.

Well-known Oban chandlery store changes hands

New owner on anniversary

THE SON of a former Royal Yachting Association (RYA) national coach is to take over the reins of Oban's well-known chandlery and outdoor clothing shop Nancy Black on the day the current owner marks his 30th anniversary at the store.

Experienced
Sean Jameson will become the new owner of the popular Argyll Square-based shop on April 2.

Out-going proprietor Ian Wallace joined the business on April 1 1982 and went on to take over from previous owner Nancy Black in 1990.

Mr Jameson, who has previously worked with Bosun's Locker, the largest chandler on the east coast, and in the snowboarding

and watersports industry, says he already has plans to modernise the business.

'I come from a sailing family - my father, John, was a national coach with the RYA - and with my working background, Nancy Black was tailor-made for me.'

'I aim to reinforce the chandlery side of the business, expand the clothing department and take the business online. It will be a new take on a leading name in the marine industry.'

Mr Wallace said: 'I would like to thank my customers and staff, past and present, and wish Sean the best of luck with his new venture. 'The business has been a big part of my life and I have enjoyed every minute of it.'

Famous Campbell painting at auction

AN IMPORTANT portrait of Archibald Campbell, the third Duke of Argyll and founder of the Royal Bank of Scotland, could go at auction for an estimated £20-£30,000.

Major work
Bids for the 1748 painting, by Allan Ramsay, one of the greatest and most influential portrait painters of the 18th century, will be made at Bonhams Scottish Art sale in Edinburgh on April 19.

Ramsay also painted the portrait of the Duke, who was one of the 31 Scottish Commissioners who negotiated the 1707 Act of Union with England, which has appeared on all Royal Bank of Scotland bank notes since 1987.

Bonhams' Chris Brickley said: 'The emergence onto the market of this major work by Ramsay could hardly be more timely with RBS constantly in the news and vigorous debate taking place over the future of the Union between Scotland and England, in which Campbell played a persuasive role.'

Local housing leader highlights problem with allocation system

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) chief executive Mr McGregor has highlighted what he feels is a failing in the system.

'We have had two tenants that we've evicted who have then presented themselves to the local authority as homeless and been classified as priority need for a new home. The legislation needs to be looked at.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council is bound by statute to consider applications from anyone who presents as being homeless or threatened with homelessness.'

'The council has to determine whether or not they have lost their accommodation through their own actions or lack of action and if this is determined to be the case we can decide they are intentionally homeless.'

'If this is the case the council would not have a duty to secure permanent accommodation for them. Each case is determined according to individual circumstances.'

FREE MEASURE & DESIGN SERVICE

Come and visit our Roadshow at Aros Hall, Tobermory, Mull Friday 20th April 10am - 6pm & Saturday 21st April 10am - 3pm

Expert advice on the perfect fitted kitchen from Howdens Joinery.

If you're looking for a beautiful kitchen, talk to us and we'll tell you all about the way Howdens Joinery works.

One of our designers will help you design your kitchen, and help you choose from our range of over 400 different styles. Our products are only available to you through your fitter or professional fitter, because we believe that the best way to install a fully fitted and perfectly working kitchen is to use an expert. Our designers will explain how to find a fitter and will be on hand throughout should you need more advice. We are a UK manufacturer and have over 500 depots nationwide, which means local convenience, support and knowledge.

We supply over 400,000 kitchens in this way each year, and our products are always locally in stock, so both you and your fitter have the reassurance that we will have what you need, when you need it.

FREE TRIVET WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR KITCHEN PLANNED

Tel: 01631 567083 Fax: 01631 567141 Email: oban@howdens.com
Howdens Joinery Co. Sinclair Drive Oban PA34 4DN
Depot opening hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-12 noon
To find your nearest depot and to request a brochure call 0800 6888 187 or visit www.howdens.com

HOWDENS
MEMBER OF

FREE INSULATION. THAT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL ALL WARM INSIDE.

Insulation could help save you money at home. So, here's an offer that'll warm up your toes. We're giving it away totally free - and you don't even have to be a customer.* Insulation could save you up to £310 a year on energy bills.** Plus, if you qualify, you could also get your (warm) hands on high street gift vouchers worth £75.† To find out more, visit our website or call our hotline. Okay, it's not hot... but it is nice and cosy.

Call 0800 072 7201

www.hydro.co.uk

Scottish Hydro is a trading name of SSE Energy Supply Limited. *Restrictions apply, see website for full terms and conditions **Source: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk †See our website for terms and conditions.

DON'T MISS your copy of

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

this Easter holiday

Reserve The Oban Times at your newsagent

Make sure you never miss an edition and ask your newsagent to reserve a copy for you.

Simply fill in your details and hand this form to your newsagent.

(Please tick/complete accordingly):-

Please reserve my copy of The Oban Times every week

Please reserve my copy of The Oban Times on (please specify publish date, we are out every Thursday)

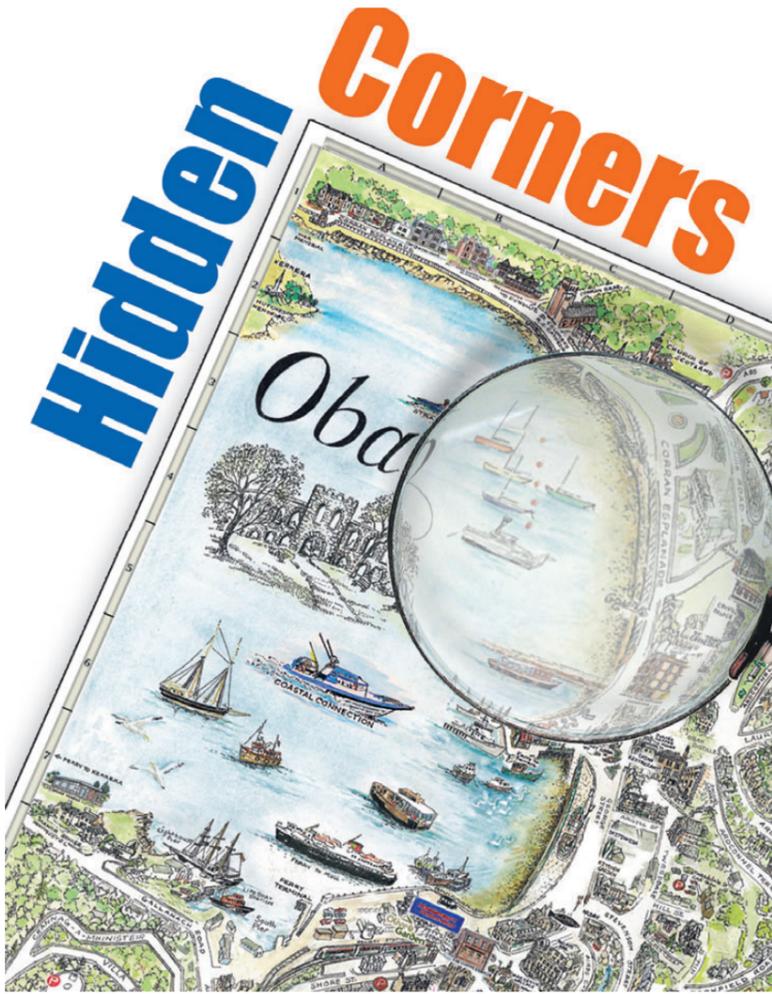
Title.....

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Tel.....



SOME of the West Highlands' favourite shops are not necessarily the ones in the high street or the esplanade.

They are the private enterprises where reputation, customer care and attention to detail are just as important as the monthly balance sheets.

Generally, they are unspoilt by corporate slogans and signage, instead focusing on the unique – and being proud of it.

It is this ethos to embrace the obscure that makes these businesses the more exciting on our streets, the shops, cafes and services that friends tell each other about on Twitter and Facebook.

These are the area's Hidden Corners, the businesses that have the potential to grow into something bigger, but often content not to.

Scott's Sandwiches is situated at one end of Oban's Stevenson Street, off the main road through Combie Street.

Don't be fooled by its modest size; this little business is bursting with quality and choice and provides catering options many larger shops could only dream of.

Because of its location, this might be a little gem that could pass you by, so make sure you take a lunchtime stroll down Stevenson Street to discover this delicious surprise.

Another hidden gem in Oban is Oban Carpet Services, which not only does what it says on the tin – it does a whole lot more.

Situated on the incline of Craighard Road, off George Street, this is a business on the up, thanks to its quality service and great choice of products. Why not pop in to discuss any of your flooring requirements?

There are many businesses outside of Oban that benefit from a preferable site straddling one of the area's trunk roads, but some of the most picturesque and friendly businesses are slightly off the beaten track, away from offices and traffic.

Connel Village Store is the hub of the village, yet is easy to bypass, as it is out of sight from the A85 that runs through the village.

But take some time to visit this shop and post office that has become an integral part of the Connel community, selling everything from bananas to books and from noodles to newspapers.

As well as the day-to-day items, there is also local produce on sale: freshly-made hot pies and home baking that the locals will try to keep secret for themselves!

These are just three of the Oban area's Hidden Corners, but why don't you keep your eyes peeled for your own favourite little-known business?

Winning return to North Lorn Drama Festival

A NORTH Lorn Drama Festival favourite returned to the stage this year after a miraculous five-year recovery from Lyme Disease to win the event's top award.

Ian MacEchern, of Duror and Kentallen Drama Group, won the first Adjudicator's Award, the Mr and Mrs Jack Skea Cup, in 2003 and repeated the feat this year.

It was a comeback to remember for the Forestry Commission worker, who in 2007 was diagnosed with Neurological Lyme Disease.

As his condition deteriorated, he was taken from Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban to Glasgow's Southern General Hospital.

'I was in the Southern General for six months but I don't remember much about it,' said the 58 year old, who feared for his life during an extended hospital stay.

'I was on a ventilator and went through a tracheostomy and had another operation to stop internal bleeding. "To top it all off I even got the mumps at that time!"

Ian was bed-ridden for a further eight months on his return home to Duror but, following physiotherapy, began a phased return to work with the Forestry Commission in October 2008.

Four months later, the former harvesting forester began full-time work in a planning role. It wasn't until last year that Ian rejoined the amateur dramatic scene but his poor physical condition limited him to the role of director.

His return as an actor this year, 'to see how it went', resulted in the highest possible recognition from adjudicator Dr Paul Dougall.

At the final night of the festival Ian told *The Oban Times*: 'I am completely stunned to have won the Adjudicator's Award. I honestly didn't even think about winning anything; I was just concentrating on staying on my feet.'

Described by Dr Dougall as playing a 'pivotal role' in the play, a modest Ian joked: 'That's only because I couldn't move around very much.'

Ian's Duror and Kentallen Drama Group won the Rab MacDonald Trophy, a prize first donated in 2010 in memory of the community stalwart.

And just two years on, another memorial trophy was presented to mark the death last October of 23-year-old Appin man and budding actor Calum Thomson. The inaugural trophy, for a moment in theatre, was won by Dalmaily and Lochawe Drama Society.

Appin SWRI was a popular winner of the adult section, with 'The Show Must Go On', followed by fellow Appinites, 'Comical Carers', in second.

Strath of Appin Primary School was given the Adjudicator's Award for primary and youth sections and won the primary section overall, ahead of Lismore Primary School, which was awarded the prize for best production with its play, *A Native American Tale*.

Barcaldine Primary School's *Big Bad Wolf - The Verdict* won the school the special endeavour award.



This year's North Lorn Drama Festival prizewinners, standing, are pictured with, seated from left: chairman Dr Iain McNicol, committee director Catriona MacKenzie, adjudicator Dr Paul Dougall and Winnie McNicol, who presented the prizes. 15_113north04



Ian MacEchern 15_113north05



Dr Paul Dougall gave a humorous overall adjudication. 15_113north01



The winners in the junior section. 15_113north03

SCOTT'S SANDWICHES
 43 Stevenson Street, Oban
 Telephone 01631 566646
 Fresh home made food,
 Delicious Cakes, Outside Catering

Connel Village Store
 for all your everyday needs come to Connel Village Store & Post Office
TEL: 01631 710216

Carpet Services OBAN
 Top Quality Carpets and Vinyl !
 Roll Remnants !
 Unbeatable Choice !
 The Best Service !
 Tel: 01631 563684
 Email: carpetservoban@btconnect.com

CRACKING EASTER OFFERS

ONLY £1.59
 SAVE £1.00
 SENSODYNE TOOTHPASTE/
 GEL 45ML
 RRP £2.59

ONLY £2.49
 SAVE £1.00
 SURF LIQUID 630 ML
 RRP £3.49

UP TO 50% OFF
SUN PROTECTION
 NIVEA SUN & AMBRE SOLAIRE RANGES
 (SELECTED LINES)

ONLY £1.49
 SAVE £1.00
 SILVIKRIN HAIRSPRAY 250ML
 RRP £2.49

ONLY 99p
 SAVE £1.10
 PAMPERS BABY WIPES
 56/64PK
 RRP £2.09

GORDONS CHEMISTS
www.gordonsdirect.com
 16 GEORGE STREET, OBAN

COLONSAY

THE ISLAND of Colonsay is having its first book festival during the weekend of April 27 to 29.

It carries the sub-title 'Conversations at the Edge' to reflect the remoteness of this tiny community in the Inner Hebrides.

Colonsay residents are playing host to an impressive line up - Liz Lochhead, Sandy McCall-Smith, Margaret Elphinstone, James Robertson, Sophie Cooke, Lesley Riddoch, Kenneth Steven and Robin Laing. The latter is leading the main event on the Saturday evening, with an assortment of whisky-related tales and some of the real stuff.

The event is a warm-up for Colonsay's Festival of Spring celebrating the island's wildlife and history, particularly flowers, birds and archaeology.

There is a 'Flash Fiction' short story competition, open to all, at colonsaybookfestival@hotmail.co.uk. Anyone interested can enter as many times as they like, 100 words exactly; total does not include the title but one of the words used must be 'Colonsay'.

There is a deadline of April 20 and entries are to be judged by Maggie Fergusson, who recently wrote a much-acclaimed biography of George Mackay Brown.

TIREE



Tiree's Sophie Isaacson, right, receives her YouthLink Full-time Youth Worker of the Year award from island colleague Lynne MacKinnon during a ceremony in Glasgow. Lynne was among those to nominate Sophie for the award in recognition of her work with no fewer than 11 different youth groups on the Hebridean island.

LISMORE

ISLANDERS had a chance to try out a Gaelic learning class using the Ulpan method before deciding whether to sign up for a ten-week course beginning on April 16.

The taster session was organised by Lorraine King and introduced by Adhamh O Broin from Ulpan - a unique language teaching method originating from the middle east - assisted by Ann MacLean, a native speaker and Mod medal winning singer who also happens to be an Ulpan teacher, who has recently moved to the island.

Ann will teach two units/

classes a week as this is the recommendation from Ulpan to help people achieve fluency.

The method is based on listening/ repetition building up basic vocabulary which is immediately accessible. An astonishing 24 people turned up for the taster session, some of whom were native speakers, and of those 14 expressed interest in enrolling for the classes. Adhamh O Broin said this was the most he had ever seen anywhere, let alone on such a small island. Enrolment for the classes is now underway.

To get a form, phone Lorraine at the museum.

TO CELEBRATE World Book Day 2012, Lismore Primary School pupils visited the museum for a programme of literary activities put together by Barbara McDougall and Lorraine King.

The children and staff came dressed as characters from their favourite book which included Nancy Drew, Hermione, Puss in Boots and a fairy godmother from Cinderella.

As well as reading stories, Barbara also had the children looking for surprises hiding in books in the library. Halfway through the morning there was a surprise visit from George's grandma from Raul Dahl's 'George's Marvellous Medicine' who, after drinking her medicine grew eight feet tall. She then shrank and all that was left was a pile of clothes and a pair of glasses in the middle of the shop.

The morning ended with juice in the cafe when Barbara presented all the children with their own Lismore Library card.

AN EXCITING quiz night was held on Saturday February 25 with quiz master Katy Crossan setting and asking the wide ranging questions with great flair and humour plus crowd control which kept the competitive spirits reined in.

The eventual winners, after various objections, were The Silver Surfers closely followed by the Wily Hares, and not the Unquestionables as announced on the night.

There was also a consolation prize for the undisclosed lowest scoring team. The event raised £165 for hall funds. Thanks go to everyone who came and participated, to volunteers who helped on the night and, of course, to Katy.

THE CAFE opened for the season on Friday March 2 and until April 1 is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 11 to 4pm.

In addition, Beth organised a soup and pudding lunch on Thursday March 8 - International Women's Day - to raise money to help women and girls all over the world through the International Women's day organised by Oxfam. The money will help in every country including Scotland. On Sunday March 18 she put on a special Mother's Day menu with a free glass of wine for each customer and Saturday March 24 was a Chinese Night with meals to take away or to eat in the cafe.

From April 1 the cafe will be

NORTH BALLACHULISH



Pupils plant tree to mark Queen's Jubilee

St Bride's P7 pupils Calum MacLean and Stewart Cameron planted a royal oak in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee last week. The rest of the school planted snowdrops in the shape of a diamond around the oak. The tree was grown from an acorn gathered from one of the royal estates and was supplied by the Woodland Trust. The school has also received cherry, rowan, birch and crab apple trees from the trust and these have been planted throughout the school grounds for future generations of pupils to enjoy.

open from 11am to 4pm daily with a special Budget Busting Day every Tuesday with a special menu including two courses plus tea or coffee for £6 per person.

EVERY Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm islanders can take part in a community choir in the hall run by Sarah Campbell and Katy Crossan.

The repertoire is wide ranging and no particular musical skill or experience is required but a good time is guaranteed.

KILCHRENAN

UNFORTUNATELY, Avich and Kilchrenan Community council met in Dalavich for their latest meeting; 'unfortunately' because of the condition of the single track road from Kilchrenan to Dalavich, as a result of the volume of heavy wind farm traffic using this route.

Although Argyll and Bute Roads Department is doing all it can fortnightly to improve this condition, potholes and rutted surfaces are making this journey extremely hazardous.

Some residents and councillors on the way to the meeting were held up with a vehicle with hazard warning lights, escorting 12 cars and a mini-bus, which was taking workers on the wind farm home to their lodgings.

It was pointed out by one owner of a bed and breakfast house that the state of this route was not conducive to tourists who find single-track roads difficult to drive on anyway, without the hazards of heavy traffic and deteriorating road surfaces.

Jim Wilkinson of Blackwell Construction gave an update on the present position of the Carraigheal wind farm.

He said that in the areas of gates A1, A2, A4, A5 and A6 no leisure pursuits would be

allowed from the beginning of next month.

According to Mr Wilkinson, gate eight would be opened at the weekend, thus material deliveries for the wind farm will not go beyond this point.

He advised the meeting that all heavy traffic through Kilchrenan, passing the school, had stopped, as all machinery was now in place. However, to date, heavy traffic still passes the school.

Mr Wilkinson said that during the first week of September, the turbines will arrive in Campbelltown and then be transported to the windfarm.

A contentious debate followed regarding flashing hazard lights by escort vehicles when there was no heavy lorry load following; non-use of passing places by escort vehicles and heavy loads; verges ruined; accidents and lack of courtesy by drivers.

With regard to all these incidents, Mr Wilkinson said he was surprised that no-one had reported them to the police. Residents said it was impossible to read number plates covered in mud, therefore incidents could not be reported.

Mr Wilkinson pointed out that the contractors had meetings regularly regarding traffic management and he pointed out that if a Blackwell driver had one accident then the company would pay compensation. If the same driver had a second accident, then that driver had to pay the cost.

On the unlucky chance that this driver had a third accident, he would have to cover the whole cost.

When one of the contractor's lorries went off the road at Collaig and damaged the verges, Mr Wilkinson said Blackwell would pay for this.

There are on-going disputes about who will pay for the other verges which have been damaged which brought the meeting on to discuss community benefit, which will

be worked out by Argyll and Bute Council.

SCOTTISH Power, part of the Spanish company Iberdrola, is seeking planning permission to build approximately 300 off-shore wind turbines near Tiree.

It has already signed an agreement for lease with The Crown Estate for the Argyll Array wind farm and a signed grid connection for 1,000MW at Dalmailly in 2018.

The cables to transport energy from the wind farm to Dalmailly will be underground to remove the need for additional overhead lines. Underground cables will be installed across green field areas.

From Mull, the preferred mainland route would follow the A85 route to Dalmailly where one of the converter stations would be situated.

The station would be approximately the size of three football pitches. Most of the residents' comments went along the lines of, 'Oh no! More disruption on the roads!'

THE VENUE for this year's horticultural show will be in Dalavich and not in Kilchrenan as previously discussed.

It is due to take place some time in August with the help of community council member, John Fleming, who volunteered to take on the task and everyone is sure he will make it a day to remember.

THE PROCEEDS of a Kilchrenan Inn Pub Quiz, £156, was given to the community council treasurer for the funds, which have been ring-fenced for defibrillator equipment.

THE NEXT meeting of Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council will be held in Kilchrenan Village Hall on Tuesday May 22 at 7.30pm.

DALMALLY

DALMALLY Community Centre Cafe opens its doors today (Thursday).

The cafe will be open on Thursdays, 10 - 3pm and Fridays, 1 - 6 pm.

Teas, coffee, fresh cake and scones, homemade soup and sandwiches will all be available and there is also the community computer with wi-fi.

Members of the community can help by serving or baking.

STORNOWAY

LONG-AWAITED repair works to the historic Lews Castle in Stornoway got underway this week and will continue until December.

The £2 million works, funded by the comhairle, Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund, will repair roofs, stonework, windows and doors.

The refurbishment will also involve asbestos removal and some minor demolitions.

LOCHAWE

LOCHAWE will host the next meeting of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council, when a representative of Scottish and Southern Energy will be present.

The meeting will take place in the village hall on Wednesday May 9 at 7.30pm.

TAYNUILT

A TAYNUILT teenager, who won a prize at the recent Miss Teen Galaxy competition, has vowed to try and reach the Scottish final again next year. Jodi Goldie was Argyll's representative at the national modelling competition and, although she didn't win the overall award, was given the prize for best hair.

'It was such a good experience and I am pleased with how I did,' said the 16-year-old.

'I didn't win but I did get the award for best hair and I am happy with that.'

I am definitely hoping to go back next year.'

Jodi, a pupil at Oban High School, was encouraged to enter the Miss Teen Galaxy competition by her gran, Taychreggan Hotel manager Fiona Sutherland.



Jodi Goldie.

ARDAUINE

A GLOBE trotting photographer has been added to the programme for this year's Arduaine Spring Festival.

Mark Edwards, famous for focusing his lens on the environment, will give a presentation on his Hard Rain project, the places he has visited and his ideas on environmental challenges.

Now in its third year, the festival brings together a programme for heritage fans in Arduaine Garden, part of the National Trust for Scotland from Friday May 4 to Sunday May 6.

EASDALE



Catherine MacGillivray presents the trophy to the winning team of Simon Green, Mike Cafferty, Joe Smith and captain Des Ballantyne.

Puffer Bar wins darts cup

THE MACGILLIVRAY Cup has gone to the Puffer Bar on Easdale Island for the first time in more than 10 years.

The darts tournament is played every year on the Island of Seil in memory of Dougie MacGillivray, who died 26 years ago.

The cup was given to the island by Dougie's widow, Jean.

Five teams competed this year, with the Puffer Bar Reserves winning by one point over the Oyster Catchers.

The MacGillivray family were there to watch the evening's events and Dougie's son, also called Dougie, said he was delighted the cup was returning to Easdale Island as this is where his father came from.

Around the Rurals

Morar

NINE members attended the March meeting of Morar's branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) in Lady Lovat School but unfortunately the speaker for the evening was unable to join the gathering.

However, after the usual business discussion, great fun was had when one of the ladies produced a game called Wally Ball. Competitions: Cup Cakes - 1 Isobel Morton; 2 Eileen MacPhie; 3 Mary Fergusson; 4 Christine Haynes. Photo of local scene - 1 Eileen MacPhie; 2 June Foxwell; 3 Mary Fergusson; 4 Heather Simpson.

The raffle was won by Mary Fergusson. The hostess was Eileen MacPhie.

It has been suggested the branch give notice of the coming month's speaker and competitions, so for April Jackie Ross will be speaking about chocolate. The competition is Easter biscuits and there will be a quiz.

Kilmore

KILMORE SWRI members gathered for an open night on March 14.

After the usual business, presenter Isabel Smith welcomed Ian Duff who had worked 20 years as a lighthouse keeper. He showed a lovely collection of very good slides and personally knew each lighthouse on the west coast of Scotland. He told amusing anecdotes about a lighthouse keeper's job in the days before all the lights became automated.

It was dangerous work and the lighthouse keepers were confined by storms before helicopters were used. This was a good insight into those brave men who guarded our shores in earlier days. The vote of thanks was given by Jane Darby and a lovely tea was served by Ann Ferguson and helpers.

Competitions: Sketch of a lighthouse - 1 Anne Tully; 2 Jennifer Shaw. Batenburg Cake - 1 Rhoda Thomas; 2 Anne Tully.

Inverlochry

IF YOU are a 'chocoholic' the Inverlochry Rural's March meeting was where you should have been.

Demonstrator Michael Campbell, tutor and chef from the West Highland College, produced some wonderful chocolate traybakes and puddings, with only a microwave oven to work with.

The ladies were very impressed, especially with the tasting afterwards.

The president, May Webb, thanked the members for their support after she asked them to knit little vests for a charity - and received more than 100.

Only two entries for the jam competition, May Webb and Irene Pinkett were 1st equal. Irene also laid on a magnificent tea for the guests. A vote of thanks was given by Christine MacLean.

ISLE OF MUCK

Hall celebrations

ISLE OF Muck residents will mark the formal opening of their new community hall with a day of celebrations on Friday May 18.

The opening ceremony will be at 1.30pm when Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson and Finlay Black, a partner with the centre's builders Kishorn Developments Ltd, will cut the ribbon. Lunch, drinks and a barbecue at 6pm will follow. A ceilidh will round off the evening.

The new hall became a reality thanks to a four and a half year fundraising drive by islanders. The BIG Lottery, Scottish Rural Development Programme, Highland Council, The Robertson Trust and The Hugh Fraser Foundation also contributed.



Muck Community Hall: new social centre for islanders.

ARDNAMURCHAN



Ardnamurchan Camanachd recently held its annual awards ceillidh dance in Acharacle village hall. The family ceillidh was a huge success and Fergie MacDonald had the members dancing the night away with the dance floor packed for every dance. Clockwise from top left are winners Jacob Green, Eilish Borwick, Mathew Bradley, Jan Ewers Clare Ford, Freddy Ewers and Joanne Ford.

PLOCKTON

PLOCKTON High School pupils and staff are 'delighted' with the progress of their new school building, according to acting rector Susan Galloway.

She said: 'It is currently on schedule and due to be open for use when we return to school following the Easter holidays. We are all looking forward to having more social space and, particularly, to a larger dining room area.'

'This building is going to make a significant difference to our school and I would like to take this opportunity to thank James Fowler, site manager, and Mansell Construction for the helpful, school-friendly way in which they have undertaken this extensive work on our campus since last May.'

Newsdesks
01631 568000
01397 703003

WEST ARDNAMURCHAN



Jessie Colquhoun: now an emergency responder after her retirement from nursing.

WEST Ardnamurchan's new emergency medical cover is beginning to take shape, with five of the six emergency responders appointed.

One of the emergency responders is the recently retired district nurse Jessie Colquhoun, while another is ambulance technician Sam Harding, who is now living in Kilchoan.

They have taken delivery of their own mini-ambulance. As well as life-saving equipment, it carries airwave radio.

The Kilchoan community thanked Jessie for her 36 years of service as a local nurse at a special event in the community centre.

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

r Hire Ltd
Unit 21D1 Ben Nevis Estate Fort William
Hire • Sales • Service • Ground Works • Contracting
24/7 call out
Opening Times
Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm
Saturday 8am - 12.30pm
Plant and Tool Hire, Mechanical Servicing and Repair, New Equipment Sales, Spare parts
Mini excavators 0.8 - 13.0 tons • Site dumpers 0.3 - 9.0 tons • Woodchippers 2" - 8" capacity • Mixers, Generators, Pumps • Husqvarna and Oregon agents • New and used equipment sales • Oils, lubricants and spare parts • Trade and DIY welcome • Delivery/Collection service available
Tel: 01397 101677 www.planthirefortwilliam.co.uk

WIN!
A four night stay for two in South Lakeland Worth £500
Abbey House Hotel
TWO TO GIVEAWAY!
The Oban Times has teamed up with Abbey House to offer two lucky readers the chance to enjoy a wonderful four night stay for two at the hotel, bed and breakfast. Plus, winners will receive a glass of champagne and afternoon tea on arrival.
Only a fifteen minute drive from the southern tip of Windermere, Cumbria, lies the award winning Abbey House Hotel. Designed by world renowned architect, Sir Edwin Lutyns, the hotel is set in 14 acres of stunning grounds, with 61 individually designed bedrooms to suit every taste.
To enter, simply collect four tokens -
Token one was printed last week. Here is token two.
Token three will be printed on April 5 and token four will be printed April 12.
To order a back copy, call 01631 568000.
Full details on how to send in your tokens will be announced April, 12, 2012.
Terms & conditions: The prize is based on two people sharing a double or twin room, bed and breakfast only, subject to availability. The prize must be taken by September, 30, 2012. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and Abbey House Hotel employees and their families. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications.
Reader Offer
Exclusive to readers of The Oban Times, Abbey House Hotel is offering bed and breakfast for only £75 per night based on two people sharing a double or twin room, subject to availability. The offer ends on September, 30, 2012. Please quote reference code OT when booking. For further information go to www.abbeyhousehotel.com or telephone 08448262095.

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

bonnie babies

competition 2012

in association with

The **co-operative**
good for everyone

WIN
£500
of shopping vouchers

ENTRIES TO THIS COMPETITION ARE NOW CLOSED
ALL votes must be registered by 12 noon, Wednesday, April 11, 2012



172

Lewis Jack
34 months Ayr



173

Innes Jack
1 month Ayr



174

Eva Reeves
10 months Barcaldine



175

Cully Ahmed
21 months Oban



176

Sean Thomson
27 months Oban



177

Daania Ahmad
13 months Campbeltown



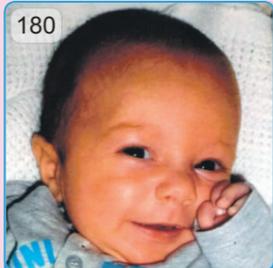
178

Ben Thomas Proud
9 months Isle of Mull



179

Ruby Richmond
25 months Oban



180

Ewan John Maclean
3 months Glasgow



181

Sophia Kidd
5 months Oban



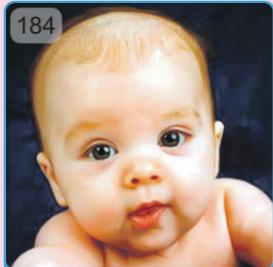
182

Caitlyn Black
9 months Oban



183

Mia McRae
4 months Perth



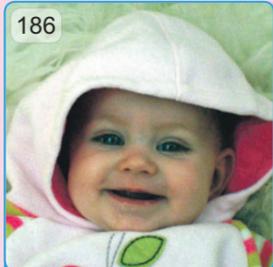
184

Jacob Brown
4 months Kirkcaldy



185

Declan Dunn
34 months Kinlochleven



186

Aimee Louise Mackinnon
6 months Isle of Barra



187

Charlie Mackenzie
20 months Mallaig



188

Lucie Reid
8 months Taynuilt



189

Ruairidh Charlie MacDonald
7 months Benderloch



190

Finlay MacGillivray
8 months Oban



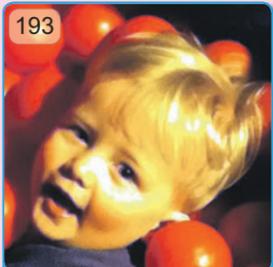
191

Summer Reid
7 months West Lothian



192

Mya Juwel
1 month Oban



193

Steven MacAulay
19 months Oban



194

Nolan Park
7 months Aberdeen



195

Roman Toma
14 months Isle of Islay



196

Ciara Bignal
12 months Isle of Islay



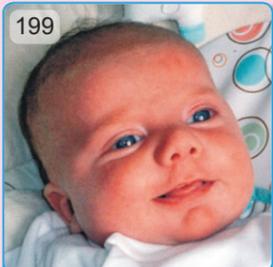
197

Callan JJ Brown
12 months Lochawe



198

Mya Munro
15 months Isle of Islay



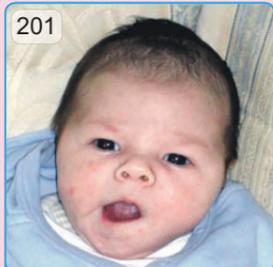
199

Michael Murray
1 month Barcaldine



200

Robert Campbell
16 months Campbeltown



201

Kelvin Campbell
1 month Campbeltown

Vote for this week's finalist!

How to vote

Readers can vote for their favourite baby by text or by post, using the coupon provided on this page. You can vote for as many babies as many times as you like until April 11, 2012 at 12 noon. Just make sure you quote the number stated on the child's photograph when voting.

By text (UK and Northern Ireland only):

To vote by text, text the word **BABY** followed by a space then the three digit number stated on the top left hand side of the child's photograph to **88010**.

Text messages cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate. Votes must be registered by April 11, 2012 at 12 noon.

By coupon:

Complete the voting form provided on this page and send it to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. Votes must be registered by April 11, 2012 at 12 noon.

The last voting coupon will be printed in
The Oban Times, Thursday, April 5, 2012

VOTING COUPON

The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND PUBLICATION

I would like to vote for:

Baby number*:..... Baby's name:

Please post to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

Or text the word **BABY** followed by a space then the baby's three digit number to 88010.
Text messages cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate.

*Baby number must be supplied. Votes must be registered by April 11, 2012 at 12 noon.

Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.



Terms & conditions: The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. Text messages cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate. Votes must be registered by April 11, 2012 at 12 noon. One text counts as one vote. One coupon counts as one vote. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk. Text votes from UK and Northern Ireland only. Text votes from overseas will not get through and will not be counted.

Popular councillor to stand down

POPULAR Lochaber councillor Donald Cameron has decided not to seek re-election to Highland Council on May 3 because of ill health.

The 63-year-old was elected as an Independent to represent Fort William and Ardnachan in 2007. His decision means the ward has lost two of its four sitting councillors through retirement. Council leader Michael Foxley has already announced he will stand down.

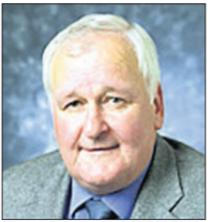
Councillor Cameron told *The Oban Times*: 'Because of illness I won't be standing. I would like to thank the electorate for the opportunity to represent them. I would like to wish all the candidates all the best in the coming election. During my five years, the main issues have been the threatened closure of Invernevis House and how the white elephant that was Fort William's waterfront development was stagnating other possible developments elsewhere. However, I am pleased we now have the Blar Mhor going ahead.'

He added: 'I would have liked to go for a second term to see the £40million greater Fort William schools project completed.'

'Another important issue is the need to set up a harbour trust for Fort William and Corpach to develop fully the potential of Loch Linnhe.'

Meanwhile, the SNP has become the first party to name its Lochaber candidates ahead of today's deadline for nominations at 4pm.

Kilchoan man Niall Rowantree will stand in Caol and Mallaig, while sitting councillor Bren Gormley and Fort William man Willie (Keelie) MacDonald will contest the Fort William and Ardnachan ward, where Kinlochleven sub postmaster Andrew Baxter is also standing as an Independent.



Donald Cameron: not standing.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000



Caol pupils celebrate music festival success

Caol Primary School was among the winners at Lochaber Music Festival, which concluded with a concert in Kilmallie Hall to wide acclaim after five days of competition. Caol won the choirs primary age 12 and under own choice class with two pieces - 'Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head' and 'Any Dream Will Do'. See full festival report, results and photos on page 4. 29_0316t06

Drug dealing body builder back behind bars

LOCHABER ex-strongman Louis MacLean is back behind bars - this time for peddling cocaine across the UK.

At the High Court in Edinburgh, the Fort William body builder was sent down for four years and nine months after admitting being concerned in the supply of drugs.

MacLean, aged 38, was trapped after a 14-month covert police investigation, dubbed Operation Asteroid, from September 2009 to November 2010.

Officers netted MacLean after spotting him passing on a kilo of cocaine worth £24,000 in a Spean Bridge car park. He had already been caged in 2004 for five-and-a-half years for cannabis dealing.

The operation targeted

MacLean's drugs ring which included his brother Peter, who was jailed in 2011 for six and a half years for dealing cocaine.

Police said the gang posed 'a significant risk of harm' to Highland communities and bringing its members to justice was 'a very high priority'.

Five men have now been jailed for a total of 25 years 10 months as a result of Operation Asteroid.

Complex operation

Boss of Northern Constabulary CID Detective Superintendent Gordon Greenlees said: 'The sentencing of Louis MacLean today signifies the culmination of a significant and complex operation with the aim of dismantling an organised crime gang headed by this

previously convicted drug dealer.

'Without doubt the communities of the Highlands, and in particular Lochaber, will be a safer and better place to live because of these convictions. Cocaine with a potential street value of £469,500 was seized during the operation.'

Lochaber Area Commander Chief Inspector David Bushell said: 'This conviction will have a positive impact on the local community and we will continue to target drug dealing as a priority.'

Sentencing MacLean on Monday, Lord Tyre told him that despite having a family, he was involved in an industry 'that brings death and misery to its victims'.



Louis MacLean: jailed for drug dealing - again. 10_f13maclean01

Photos go on show to mark ten years of Glencoe Heritage Trust

GLENCOE Heritage Trust is to hold a photographic exhibition in early summer as part of its 10th anniversary celebrations. The display will cover the period from the 1950s until 2000.

Trust secretary Ros MacDonald told

The Oban Times: 'It is hoped to secure an archive for future generations to understand how people lived, worked and took part in local events in the Glencoe, Tighphuirst and Ballachulish areas.

'If anyone has pictures they could lend

towards the display, they will be guaranteed to be returned to their owners. This is an opportunity to record in pictures life as it was then, before it is lost forever.'

For more information contact Ros on 01855 811490.

Whisky plant decision delay

But pensioner ready to open distillery if it gets green light

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by

STEPHEN NORRIS

snorris@obantimes.co.uk

AN ARDNAMURCHAN pensioner whose cottage lies just yards from a proposed distillery is to open the new whisky plant - if it gets the go ahead.

Maggie MacKinnon, at 92 one of the peninsula's oldest residents, accepted an invitation from developers Adelphi Distillery Ltd chairman Keith Falconer that she should cut the ribbon.

The revelation follows south Highland planning committee's controversial move on Tuesday to defer a decision on Adelphi's plans until a visit to the Glenbeg site on April 17.

Councillors will meet locally later that day to rule on the application, which is recommended for approval.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* in Lochaber House after Tuesday's deferral, Mr Falconer said: 'Maggie will do us the honour of opening the distillery.'

'Her face broke into a massive great smile when we asked her and she said she would be delighted.'

Ms MacKinnon confirmed

her acceptance of the offer to *The Oban Times* on Tuesday afternoon.

Opponents of Adelphi's plan, led by local photographer Michael MacGregor - whose Otter Lodge holiday accommodation is near the proposed distillery - claim one reason it should be rejected is because it would be too close to Ms MacKinnon's home.

Mr MacGregor said after the deferral: 'We are delighted and relieved that the planners and councillors have agreed that a site visit is necessary before making any decision on the proposed distillery.'

'We hope that by standing in the tiny peaceful hamlet of Glenbeg they will realise the many sensitivities associated with the site, not least the proximity to the home of a 92-year-old lady, and will agree what an inappropriate and ill-considered choice it is. Other viable sites exist.'

A disappointed Mr Falconer said: 'Any form of a delay is still a delay. We would have preferred not to have the site visit and got a clear approval so we can start work right away. But we recognise the concerns of the community and that the council has to be seen to be doing the right thing.'

'We are absolutely convinced that what we are proposing is very much in the best interests of the community and we are determined to start building this season.'

'We must be breaking ground in the next few weeks otherwise we will never get the foundations done by the autumn rains.'

'The builders are lined up and it takes 13 months for our stills to be ordered and delivered.'

Adelphi's 'farmhouse' malt distillery would produce around 250,000 litres of spirit a year, making it one of Scotland's five smallest in terms of capacity. If approved, it would be built on a former sheep fank and rough grazing next to the B8007, 10 miles east of Kilchoan.

Blar Mor Gaelic school £1m premium

PREPARING a site for Fort William's new £6million Gaelic school could be around £1million more expensive at the Blar Mhor than at Ardgor Road in Caol, *The Oban Times* has learned.

A report to Highland Council next Thursday will show peak clearance costs at the Blar will be £738,000 - with access and service infrastructure taking the bill to £1.2million. Site development costs at the council-owned Ardgor Road are believed to be around £250,000 - a difference of £1million - because peat has already been removed.

Councillors must now decide whether the advantages of building at the Blar are enough

to justify the extra cost. The site forms part of Miller Developments' retail, industrial and community hub and is close to Lochaber High School. The Ardgor Road site is next to a housing scheme.

As exclusively reported in *The Oban Times* on March 8, Fort William Gaelic parents group, An Gearasdan Comunn na Parant, prefer the Blar - but would accept Ardgor Road as its 'urgent priority' is to have a standalone Gaelic school in Fort William. Lochaber councillors have also conditionally backed the Blar, with Bill Clark by far the most sceptical amid warnings of escalating costs.

RET ferry campaigners praise rally support

CAMPAIGNERS seeking to retain RET on hauliers' ferry fares to the Outer Isles have praised support for a demonstration through Stornoway on Saturday.

Around 90 lorries and vans joined a mile-long cavalcade and hundreds of people marched to attend an open-air rally.

Outer Hebrides Transport Group co-ordinator Gail Robertson said the turnout was 'amazing'. The removal of RET, which pegs tickets prices to the equivalent cost by road, will mean sharp increases in transport haulage costs.

25 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times



Thursday, April 2, 1987



Oban's railway station comes down

DEMOLITION of Oban's century-old railway station, begun towards the end of last week, should be completed within a fortnight.

The work is being carried out by Burnhills of Johnston who are using special cutting machinery to dismantle the metal framework of the building.

The Victorian structure, which was replaced by a smaller modern station early last year, has stood as one of the town's most famous landmarks since the railway line to Oban was opened over a century ago.

Sadly, the station's famous clock tower will also disappear in the demolition process. The site now forms part of a major waterfront development which is to include a hotel, an international curling rink, heritage centre, tourist information centre, superloo and shopping mall. 113twid01

Safe delivery

MULL mother-to-be Mrs Debbie MacVicar, 19, Salen, was rushed to Oban by lifeboat on Sunday when she went into labour early.

Mrs MacVicar later gave birth to a 6lb 6oz boy at Vale of Leven Hospital. Her husband, Mr Archie MacVicar, is on the staff of a builders merchants in Craignure. This is their first child.



Record entry for Seil 'Superstars'

THERE was a record entry of over 50 pairs for the annual 'Superstars' contest organised by Seil Island Sports Club in Easdale Hall on Saturday.

The competitors - child paired with adult - had to complete a series of sports and gymnastic events against the clock. 113twid04



Two x three at Kinlochell

A KINLOCHELL man's pet sheep has given birth to triplets for the second year in succession.

The mum in a million is a four-year-old cross Suffolk called 'Malish', the pet of Johnnie MacDonald - known as Johnnie Ruadh - who lives at Ardarroch, Kinlochell, near Fort William.

Johnnie said: 'She had triplets last year as well. she was a triplet herself and her daughter just had twins!'

'That's not a bad percentage figure for two animals and Johnnie said: 'These are the only triplets I know of round here.' 113twid02

Region's sub-office officially opened

A £145,000 extension to Strathclyde Regional Council's sub-offices for Argyll and Bute in Lochgilphead were officially opened on Monday by Councillor Gerald McGrath, chairman of the buildings and property committee.

Extensive renovation has also been carried out on the original building in Lochnell Street which is now linked at first floor level to the extension in Colchester Square.

The new complex is named Dalriada House. A major feature of the extension, built by M & K Macleod, is a new marriage room seating 50 guests. There is also a courtyard which can be used for wedding photographs.



Princess to open conference

PRINCESS Anne will open a two-day conference and exhibition centred on freight distribution being staged at the Aviemore Centre on May 7-9.

The Princess is the honorary president of The Chartered Institute of Transport, main sponsors for the event.

'Focus of Distribution' is the theme for the first conference programme which is being held in conjunction with the Scottish Freight, Transport and Distribution Exhibition.

Lochaber society reform

The reformed Lochaber Strathspey & Reel Society came back on to the swing of country music with a series of concerts in the High School over the past week. 113twid03

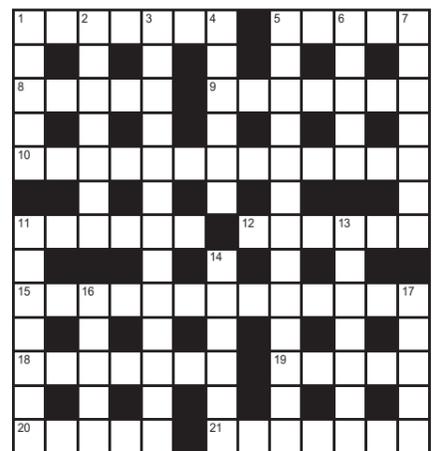
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

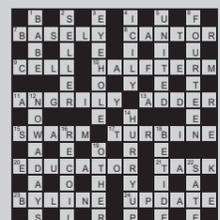
- 1 Nine sided (7)
- 5 Clean (5)
- 8 They sing low? (5)
- 9 Appearance of someone from the past, related (7)
- 10 Wide bodied (6-7)
- 11 Bad feeling (6)
- 12 Character drawn to cheer one (6)
- 15 Good or bad, they let you know what's to come (13)
- 18 One who receives a bequeathal (7)
- 19 Enter (5)
- 20 Chopper blade (5)
- 21 Steadfastly (7)

Down

- 1 Bigwig (5)
- 2 Airhole (7)
- 3 Radio wave detector (6,7)
- 4 Shade (6)
- 5 Gathering at church (6,7)
- 6 Take up space (5)
- 7 Christening (4,3)
- 11 Sound barrier (7)
- 13 On which a frog may sit (4,3)
- 14 Falling star (6)
- 16 Correct (5)
- 17 Threadbare (5)



Last week's solution



The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Royal Mail finds itself caught between a rock and a hard place

WITHIN hours of the postal regulator, Ofcom, removing restrictions on the maximum cost of a national postage stamp Royal Mail announced a massive hike in charges.

In a bid to counter falling volumes of business, Royal Mail in its wisdom have opted to introduce the largest price rise in 37 years - 30 per cent in the case of first-class mail, and 36 per cent for second-class - hardly an incentive to attract back into the postal fold those who have found an alternative method of delivery.

However, those who would throw their collective hands up in horror as a first-class stamp rises from 46p to 60p, and the second-class option from 36p to 50p, should get ready for another shock, as Royal Mail have refused to rule out the possibility that this is just the start of a series of price increases that will see the cost of a first-class stamp climb to the £1 mark.

True, Royal Mail has come under huge pressure from private delivery companies which have cherry-picked the more profitable sectors of the 'postal' market, technological revolutions have also eaten away the social communications network that was once so dependant on the written word, and Royal Mail has seen 25 per cent of its business slide away - taking £120million in revenue with it. However, if this is a move to stabilise the profit margins of an ailing nationalised company ahead of a sell-off to the private sector then the next logical step would be to dispense with the need to have the ideological universal postal rate for all, concentrate the business base within the centres of greatest population and allow market forces to set the rate, and the system, for delivery to the rural outbacks. Does that mean us? - I surely do!

Given recent well publicised rows over the 'variable' rates being charged by couriers to deliver packages 'north of Watford', we already have an idea of what may result if Royal Mail withdraw from their traditional role within rural communities.

GLASGOW LETTER

Govan Choir concert

JUST a few years ago, Govan Gaelic Choir only continued to exist as a result of the resilience of a small number of long-term members.

But now, from a position of being unable to sustain an annual concert, it has a healthy membership who exhibited their diverse skills, under the baton of Donald Feist, at their recent concert in the Gaelic School. Even the gremlins which adversely affected their concert at the same venue the previous year were absent!

The choir's strength was illustrated by being able to have ladies and male voice sections on the programme and another pleasing feature was inclusion of new members making their debut as solo singers.

Sandy Sinclair, who came to the choir's assistance for a few weeks and stayed for 11 years, was in the chair and he ensured this was a concert of fun as well as quality performance.

The soloists were Ann Buchan, Fiona Ross, Sheena Walker, Mairi MacArthur, Susan Sloan and Cameron MacKichan and the choir quartet also sang. In keeping with tradition, the long-term commitment of former conductor Pat Sandeman was acknowledged by the inclusion of one of his arrangements on the programme. On this occasion it was the item performed by Cameron MacKichan with the assistance of a backing group for whom the audition must only have been the production of a bus pass!

The guest artist was Iain Smith, the young Mod winning accordionist from Tirez and member of the up and coming band from that island, Trail West. He is a student on the Traditional Music Course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and whether playing jigs and reels or Gaelic waltzes he showed that he can follow in the footsteps of the many top rate accordionists who have come from Tirez in recent years.

At the end of the concert a presentation was made to Alasdair MacKenzie who gave 50 years of valuable service to the choir.

Gaelic Community Drama

GAELIC Drama was once vibrant in the city and now

An Lochran and TOG-I Theatre have come together to launch a series of events which they hope will resurrect community drama in Glasgow.

The first of these will be held in Cottier's Theatre, Hyndland Street, on Friday March 30 at 8pm when the emphasis will be on Gaelic comedy. There will also be the opportunity to listen to live Gaelic singing and to take part in ceilidh dancing. For further information contact Duncan MacNeil on 0141 342 4119 or email Duncan@anlochran.com.

Glasgow Provincial Mod

THE SYLLABUS for the Glasgow Mod, to be held in the Gaelic School on Friday June 15 and Saturday June 16, is now available from the secretary Helen McNeil, telephone 0141 946 4119.

Feis Glaschu

THIS year's Feis Glaschu will take place in Hutcheson's Grammar Junior School from Monday April 2 to Friday April 6.

All the usual activities will be provided as well as drumming, drama, step dancing, football and taekwondo. Although run through the medium of Gaelic, non Gaelic speakers are welcome. For further information contact Helen McNeil on 0141 946 0601 or Maria MacInnes on 01397 704132.

Diary dates

Thursday March 29: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, John Hinchelwood Band.

Friday March 30: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, Partick, 9pm to 1am. Stirling Gaelic Choir Concert, Victoria Halls, Dunblane, 7.30pm. Gaelic drama - see above.

Saturday March 31: Ceol's Craic.

Thursday April 5: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Katriona Gilmore and Jamie Roberts.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be provided by Scott Harvey on Friday, Dodgy Ground on Saturday and Robert Robertson and his Band on Sunday.

In the Islay Inn it will be Penny Dogs on Friday and Crooked Reel on Saturday. Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them.

Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

PRESS POLICY

WE AT The Oban Times do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct.

The views expressed in The Oban Times are not necessarily those of this newspaper.



Kinlochleven Junior Secondary School staff - 1960

Malcolm Rooney of The Glens and Kirriemuir Old Parish submitted this week's flashback photo which shows the staff of Kinlochleven Junior Secondary School in 1960. Malcolm's mother, the late Mary Rooney, is on the extreme left of the front row. The gentleman in the middle of the front row is the head master Mr Cunningham and fourth from the left is Jack Veitch, who boarded with Malcolm's grandmother during the week. 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.

Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

www.obantimes.co.uk

Tower bonfire dismay

Sir, I visit Oban several times a year and when in the town I always buy *The Oban Times*.

I couldn't believe the story on the front page regarding a bonfire in McCaigs Tower.

This is one of my favourite walks and I enjoy sitting in the garden within the tower. I certainly would not wish to do so with the charred remains of a bonfire having destroyed the landscape.

When I went for a coffee and was speaking to a local about this, I learnt that there is to be a wedding ceremony in the tower on that day also.

Surely Argyll and Bute Council will see sense and allow the tower garden to remain a place of sanctuary.

Yes, have a bonfire by all means but use waste ground on the shore on George Street and then the tide would wash away the ashes.

Vera MacPherson, Dunblane.

Victory for common sense

Sir, A headline in your March 15 article reads 'River boss cleared on gun charge' - and I should think so too.

The four complainants had been 'illegally fishing in the River Lochy on July 1' when this incident occurred, and two months later they want the river boss prosecuted for 'endangering' them when they were the ones who were in the wrong in the first place.

This strikes me as yet another example of today's laws being bent over backwards in favour of those who break them.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but a shotgun, even a pump action shotgun, at a range of 80-plus metres is going to do no more damage than a shower of hail unless it's loaded with really heavy shot, and there's nothing in the article to state with what shot the gun was loaded.

As for 'recklessly' discharging the weapon? Can't see it: I think whoever fired the gun knew exactly what he was doing and was simply trying to scare the illegal fishers off without trying to hit them. Common sense 1, bad guys 0.

Davie Kerr, Ferry Reach, Onich.

Windfarms: a gold rush for subsidies

Sir, I would like to respond to Mr Bowles' letter in your March 22 edition.

This is a personal reply and in no way connected to any group or organisation fighting the frightening creep of wind farms throughout Scotland. It's a gold rush for subsidies in the pretext of being green.

In my effort to make sense of Mr Bowles' letter, I had to read it several times.

He starts with a non-committal statement on Clachan Wind Farm, which is currently going through the planning process.

Then he involves tobacco, the highly controversial subject of climate change and then states that subsidies for renewables are only temporary. I do trust those investing in such projects also know they are only temporary.

However, what I really object

to in his letter is being called a liar for not telling the truth, whatever he thinks that is, as I am a windfarm objector. I might add I have gone into the subject of wind power in great detail for years now.

Everyone knows wind is an intermittent power supplier so needs a base load of power to give a constant supply to the grid. The SNP tells me the answer to keeping the power supply from renewables is many more pumping hydro dam schemes. By the time they are finished there will be no pristine country left.

I am also informed that such dams could never last for what could be days when the wind is not blowing. They in turn need power to pump the water back from the bottom lock up to the top one.

All renewables are intermittent with the possible exception of tidal and solar so most have a reliable base load as I have said and all this will have to be some form of nuclear, so called. I have every confidence that type of energy is being worked on. Just look what science has done for us to date and was beyond the imagination of only a generation ago.

George W Stewart, Seil Island.

Use less power more efficiently

Sir, It is ironic that Nick Bowles' letter 'Stick to the facts on windfarms, March 22' accuses me of irony, for he completely misread both the content and thrust of my letter the previous week.

Nowhere did I mention the tobacco industry, which I despise, or global warming, and my facts are correct.

I am certainly not part of an 'unwitting army of windfarm protesters' as he implies, but do my own very thorough research into the facts regarding all forms of renewable energy.

Hence my letter was headed 'Can we afford renewables?', particularly in a time of fiscal stringency.

Mr Bowles states that subsidies are needed to enable renewables to become competitive through economies of scale - but after several decades surely wind technology is now a mature industry?

How much longer is every electricity consumer expected to subsidise landowners and big companies? Again, is this a moral tax?

In its recent report on fuel poverty, The Energy Savings Trust found that '62 per cent of callers are worried about their energy bills, over a quarter are finding it difficult to heat their home and one in five is suffering real personal stress as a result'.

Is it just that those with less subsidise those with more through a tax levied on every energy bill? Surely the answer is less consumption and more efficient use of the power we do use, coupled with furtherance of predictable and regular forms of energy such as tidal power for the west coast is blessed with numerous sites.

Tony Dalton, Lochavich.

Excellent Lorn and Isles Hospital

Sir, May I say a big 'thank you' to all the staff at Oban's Lorn and

Isles Hospital. I went in for some treatment last week and as usual the standard of care was exceptional.

From arrival to departure the staff are so kind, caring and professional.

The staff on Ward A and the entire surgical team were very good, always making me feel at ease.

We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful hospital right here on our doorstep. Thank you.

Michael Cook, Turncroft, North Connel.

Argyll and Bute future never looked brighter

Sir, The executive officers of Argyll and Bute Council are steering our communities forward with great vision and courage whilst our local council officers take a new positive 'can do' approach.

Every week brings more good news as the foundations for growth and development are laid and exciting new festivals and events unfold.

Elected councillors successfully encourage and promote community enterprise. Communication, cohesion and co-operation is encouraged by all levels within Argyll and Bute Council.

Spring is in the air - the time has come for Argyll and Bute - no longer will we be in the shadow!

Graham MacQueen MBE, Oban.

Shock at stamp price increase

Sir, I note with interest the increase in the price of stamps revealed on Tuesday.

It is shocking Ofcom has allowed Royal Mail to set the price at whatever it sees fit.

Where will the increases in price end?

Frankly I think the Queen should remove the word 'Royal' from Royal Mail. They are a disgrace to this country - the service is not worth the price they are asking.

I remember even just ten years ago a first class stamp cost only 27 pence - less than half of the new price of 60 pence.

And a second class stamp cost just 19 pence back then. It is no wonder more and more people are stopping sending letters altogether and doing everything with a computer.

John Stewart, Oban, via email.

Success of sport in Oban

Sir, I am heartened by the veritable variety and success of sports in Oban, as highlighted by your pages.

Traditionally a shinty, football and golfing area, I see 'newer' sports like orienteering, table tennis and volleyball making your back pages in recent months.

I am also enthused by the emergence of hockey, basketball and running clubs in the town.

I am a firm believer in educating children, especially, through sport. It not only encourages physical activity but teaches them discipline, organisation and teamwork.

My grandson seems to spend

more hours than there are in a day on his computer and it is a struggle to convince him about the merits of the great outdoors and team sport. Could more be done in schools? Thank goodness for the dedicated volunteers who run our sports clubs, despite a minefield of liability issues and red tape, and continue to provide a safe environment for our youngsters.

Dougie MacLeod, by e-mail.

Parking plea

Sir, As the busy summer season approaches, I make my plea early for people to be considerate when parking, to both tourists and locals.

While space is at a premium during the height of summer, there is always room for manners, so don't block me in, don't dent my car and don't cause damage before driving away! At least be honest and work it out amicably.

Pedestrians are people too so don't park on pavements or block lowered sections. These are vital for those of us with wheelchairs or pushing prams.

A MacDonald, Oban.

Community right to take action on yacht

Sir, I write with regards to your article published last week entitled 'Marooned yacht could set Scottish recovery record'.

I applaud Connel Community Council for taking action on this object on the village's foreshore.

As a sailor who regularly visits the west coast, I have sympathy with the owner - whoever he/she is - but they clearly haven't had the notion to check up on their yacht despite one of the worst storms in decades throwing it up onto the shore.

It is not the community's job to seek out the owner, who at best could be described as 'forgetful' and a worst 'neglectful'.

But whatever the reason for the absentee owner, I think the community has a right to take action.

And if the legal avenues explored fail to provide an outcome, all that is left to do is to save it for Guy Fawkes' night!

Roger Cohen, by e-mail

Must do better BBC

Sir, While it was good to see the BBC cameras come to Oban for their charity relay, the One Show has left something of a bad taste in the mouth.

Many people were offered the chance to promote their event or organisation in return for appearing in the crowd.

Keen to share their tale and promote the area to the millions of people watching the programme, people changed their plans and went out of their way to ensure a good representation.

However, these promises quickly faded away as it became apparent the programme made the 'Hollow-wood' gesture simply to ensure a healthy turnout.

What a disappointment that the producers of the One Show used such subterfuge rather than being honest and asking people to turn up for a charity event.

More disappointing, however, is that they missed an opportunity to dig in to the treasure trove of interesting stories they could find here. Must do better, BBC.

Name and address supplied.



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

GE B' E DÈ A' CHLIÙ EILE a dhleas an seansailear Seòras Osborne, saoilidh mi gur dòcha gun gleidh e iomhaigh leithid 's nach tàinig an intinn fìu 's an luchd-sgrìobhadh a b' innleachdaiche. Bidh cuimhne air Osborne mar am fear a ghearr coraichean sheann daoine ann am Breatainn airson lasachadh a leigeil air adhart ann an cisean cosnadh dhaoine beairteach. Seòras Seòla an aghaidh Robin Hood!

Chan eil mise idir a' tuigsinn an duain aig Osborne is feadhainn eile san Rìghalantas is iad ag innse dhuinn nach robh an t-ìre a b' àirde cis cosnadh 'a' toirt a-staigh cus co-dhiù is mar sin nach b' fhiach a gleidheadh! Tha mi den bheachd gun canadh a' mhòr-chuid gur e dìth saothrach ann an roinn chisean na dùthcha a bu chòir a seach uireasbaidh sam bith sa chis fhèin. Ach 's e tha dìuilich buileach a tuigsinn ciamar a tha Osborne agus an Rìghalantas ga mheas cothromach a bhith a' lùghdachadh na tha ceadaichte dha cosnaichean as an fharsaingeachd fhaotainn saor bho chisean agus aig an aon àm 'a' toirt fàothachadh mòr dhan fheadhainn as motha a tha 'a' cosadh. Thathas ag innse dhuinn gum bheil seo dòl a dh'Thoilseachadh Bhreatainn mar dhùthaich a tha tarraingeach dha luchd-gnothaich dealasach a bheir cosnadh agus beairteas ùr dhan dùthaich, ach dè tha e ag ràdh is a' dèanamh air an luchd-còmhnaidh a th'ann mar tha? Tha mi air a ràdh uair is uair mar tha an seo nach eil duine ciallach sam bith nach eil a' tuigsinn gum feum an Rìghalantas caomhnadh a dèanamh airson fiachan ionmhais na dùthcha a chothromachadh, ach cha tig uisge a tobar tioram agus tha am fàsghadh aig an Rìghalantas seo air maoin an t-sluaigh dol a chur mòran a thaigh nam bochd!

Cha tèid aig daoine beairteach air suidheachadh nam bochd a tuigsinn agus 's e sin an cumart as motha a th'againn leis na daoine a tha an cumhachd an-dràsta. Tha iad a' tuigsinn beairteas mar dhòigh-beatha ach cha robh iad ri amhanns a chaochladh suidheachadh is chan eil tomhas aca air. Tha an Rìghalantas seo a' taobhadh gu nàdarra ri luchd an airgid ach tha iad aig an aon àm 'a' spùinneadh nam feadhainn aig nach eil an uimhir. Chuiridh e mòr-iongnadh orm mur a tig dìoghailtas orra airson na cabhaig is am beag fhaireachaidh leis am bheil iad ag imeachd!

NOT EVEN the most imaginative writer of fiction has visualised the image that George Osborne has managed to create for himself. A Robin Hood opposite, taking from the poor to give to the rich!

While clearly an exaggeration, this is certainly the view of a majority who cannot perceive the 'fairness' which the Government claim in their budget. Lowering top rate income-tax while squeezing pensioners and simultaneously lowering middle-level tax thresholds, may be confirmation of our 'all being in this together' but it is also special generosity by the wealthy to the wealthy!

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

Times Diary



As part of dress-up Friday, Oban's best-dressed plumbers, Gavin Stobart and Stephen Davidson from J M Boyd Plumbers, took work wear to the next level by taking up a challenge from Jewson in Oban to wear a suit to work for the day. In return they got a free Bahco toolbox each for their efforts.

ANYONE who thinks journalists have an easy job need only look at the latest press release from one of our elected members to have a change of heart.

Needless to say, the document from the SNP, entitled: 'Press Release from Mick McKenzie MSP' drew our attention, as we tried to figure out what an MSP is - never mind why Mick was important enough to merit a press release.

Of course, further reading revealed it to actually be from Mike MacKenzie MSP.

Not only does the mistake reassure *Diary* that press officers are human after all, but it proves beyond all doubt that local council elections send even the most well-organised political press office into overdrive.



Drivers on the A85 could have been forgiven for thinking they were seeing double as they approached Connel recently.

16_113diary01

QUOTE of the week: 'My parents, both of whom came from impoverished backgrounds and neither of whom had been to college - took the view that my overactive imagination was an amusing quirk that would never pay a mortgage or secure a pension.' J K Rowling.

Share your humorous gems, comments on life or amusing tales with the *Diary*. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to *Diary*, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

Trust bid to revive Morar gala day

MORAR Community Trust is trying to raise funds to revive the local gala day, which was last held more than 30 years ago.

It is hoped to hold the community day out on the games field on June 4, which coincides with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Trust chairperson Tiina Heinonen has asked Morar Community Council (MCC) if it would be willing to give a donation towards setting up costs.

The trust will also apply for other funding. Councillor Henderson told MCC members that funds may be available from a discretionary fund.

Treasures of the Earth celebrates 20 years

CORPACH gemrock museum Treasures of the Earth will celebrate its 20th anniversary on Saturday with a free entry open day.

The popular visitor attraction was officially opened in March 1992 by the Bishop of Argyll, the Right Reverend Roddy Wright, who had previously been a priest at St Annes - the building which became home to the museum. The open day will also be a fundraiser for the Nevis Radio transmitter appeal.

Dunvegan phone box cash stolen

PORTREE police have reported that moneyboxes from two BT phone kiosks in Dunvegan were broken into and removed sometime on Thursday March 22.

Anyone with information should contact Portree Police Station on 01471 612888 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.



Like a phoenix from the ashes: the new development in Fort William's West End takes shape. 20_113weth01

Chain allays fears over pub opening

PUB CHAIN JD Wetherspoon says its new pub in Fort William's West End remains on track - despite tough trading conditions.

Earlier this month, the company announced it was scaling back an expansion programme from 50 new outlets in 2012 to 40 because of rising excise duty on alcohol and business rates.

The news prompted some observers to speculate the Lochaber capital could be one of the casualties.

But company chairman Tim Martin said Fort William was 'very much on' - and invited local residents to help choose a suitable name for the outlet.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are looking forward to opening a pub in Fort William

in due course. We always aim for our pub names to have a historic link with the town and have come up with a number of suitable names.'

'We are keen for people in the town to be involved with the pub naming and look forward to hearing their views.'

The company drew up a shortlist of possible names after researching history, landmarks and landscapes.

Options include: The Grand Hotel, The Great Glen, The Castle Ridge, An Gearasdan, The Long John MacDonald, The Wishing Stone, The Castle Ridge Bothy or Fraser's Bothy.

No opening date has been set for the new pub, which will form part of Ashford

Property's High Street development currently taking shape on High Street/Gordon Square. The £8m complex is programmed for completion by August.

A Travelodge will occupy the two upper storeys with retail outlets including JD Wetherspoon, Cotswold Outdoor and Superdrug at street level.

JD Wetherspoon reported an 11 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £35.8 million in the six months to January. However, like-for-like sales shrank 0.7 per cent in the six weeks to March 4 as more consumers opted to drink at home.

What do you think the pub should be called? Email us at fort@obantimes.co.uk or have your say on Twitter/Facebook.

Developer on track to start at Blar Mhor

THE DEVELOPER behind a huge retail, industrial and community hub on the outskirts of Fort William should have all site infrastructure in place by mid-November, *The Oban Times* has learned.

Miller Developments 105-acre project on the Blar Mhor includes a 75,000sq ft Tesco, shops, food and drink outlets and an extension of the Blar Mhor industrial estate.

A joint police and ambulance service headquarters, a Gaelic primary school, an all-weather sports pitch and, eventually, a new Belford Hospital will also feature.

As the new hub will mean more traffic, Miller's outline planning deal with Highland Council means they must build two new roundabouts to improve access and complete all service roads prior to construction starting.

Upgrading of the mini-roundabout at Lochybridge at the A82/A830 junction to a full roundabout is underway and should be completed by May 25. Land constraints mean the 36-metre roundabout will be realigned several metres towards Ben Nevis Distillery.

Miller managing director David Milloy said some disruption to traffic will be unavoidable after April 23, but three-way traffic lights will be manned at peak times to maximise traffic flow.

'It will be significantly larger than what is there currently,' he said. 'The capacity of the roundabout will be increased and it will free up vehicle movements.'

By mid-June, work will start on a new five-leg roundabout on the

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk



David Milloy of Miller Developments: looking forward to work starting on the Blar Mhor. 20_113blar01

A830 serving the main road and the new development, including the Tesco superstore. One leg into Blar Mhor Industrial Estate will become the northern spur for the long-awaited Caol link road, which will connect to the An Aird roundabout in Fort William.

This second phase of works will also include the removal of between 0.5m and 3m of peat from 10 acres of land, with peat heaped to form a bund around the site's northern perimeter. Access roads to the planned Gaelic school, new police/ambulance HQ and the relocated Belford Hospital will follow.

All work should be completed by mid-November, allowing Tesco to get underway early in

the New Year. The six-month build time could see the new store open by August 2013.

Mr Milloy said combined investment for Tesco, the police/ambulance centre and all Miller's infrastructure would total around £17million for construction alone.

He said: 'The fact that there is now visible and significant investment, this becomes a real development - and that allows us to widely market the site's availability.'

'We are confident it will attract other retailers to the area given that Tesco will be open next year. Later this year, Miller will be seeking detailed planning consent for the retail park so that we are ready and we can react.'

'Once we have a clearer idea of who is coming we can design the retail park accordingly, with a view to being on site in 2013. Clearly, it will take a number of years to see the development through.'

He added: 'If you look at Scotland and towns the size of Fort William, you would be hard pushed to find any other town in Scotland that has not had significant development in the form of a supermarket for as long as Fort William has gone without.'

'Once Tesco is open and there's an appreciation of the overall picture, there's every reason to be optimistic that two or three years from now there can be a significant, thriving commercial development to compliment the High Street.'

'This will attract further investment, not just at Blar Mhor but in the High Street as well. I hope this will give an impetus and an uplift to the whole town.'

Tree felling could close A82 says Forestry Commission

FURTHER full closures of the A82 south of Fort William cannot be ruled out during a three-year programme to harvest mature trees above the road, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) has said.

The West Highlands' main artery was shut over a weekend in December so engineers could bring down a dangerous 250-tonne rock north of the Corran Ferry. Now it has emerged further traffic management will be required as surveys on the steeply sloping hillside in Glen Righ Forest continue into the summer ahead of felling starting this autumn.

Traffic cones and roadworks signs have been in place at the site for several weeks as preparations for felling continue.

The steeply sloping terrain is giving foresters a major technical headache as they seek to prevent loosened boulders and soil tumbling onto the carriageway during felling.

FCS also wants to make sure the slope is left in a stable condition once the trees have been

removed. Dangers to the A82 include unstable rock crags, loose boulder fields, boulders resting on trees, soil slips and existing forest road edge slips.

FCS said: 'Felling and extraction beside the A82 will need short periods of closure for both public and operator safety, where traffic management is required.'

'However, we have not yet identified the need for a further full closure but it might be required at some stage during the three-year programme.'

Alan Dickerson, who manages the project for the commission, said: 'We've hopefully been pretty unobtrusive for the last month or two because we've been focussing on strengthening the in-forest road and securing the rock face, putting catch fences in place, that sort of thing.'

'I appreciate that the traffic management is still in place and is not ideal for people but unfortunately it's really the only way we can do the job safely.'

'We'll do all we can to minimize any inconvenience. The plan is to complete the first

phase of geo-technical work by late summer then we can think about planning the felling work.'

'We don't expect this to begin until the autumn but we will keep everyone posted.'

'Traffic management will be in place at various times throughout this period but again we'll keep everyone updated with how our operations are proceeding.'

FCS said it is felling the trees because their size means high winds could bring them down at any time.

'In this event the trees could fall into the road creating a hazard and blocking it or potentially trigger landslips or rock falls that could block the road and present a clear public safety hazard,' a spokesperson said.

FCS is unlikely to replant the area. Once the current trees are removed and the hillside made safe, natural vegetation - low shrubs and ground vegetation - will re-colonise the site.

Longer term, native broad-leaves such as birch and hazel will help stabilise the slopes.



School pupils step out for Sport Relief

Pupils at Fort William Primary took part in a sponsored walk in aid of Sport Relief Clean Water for Africa last Wednesday. The children left the school at 9.30am, with P1-3 pupils walking to the Blarmafodach crossroads and back. P4-7 children walked on to the trig point before making their return - a distance of approximately three miles. Student teacher James Ross, who led the walk, told *The Oban Times* pupils have been carrying out a comparative study of Malawi and Scotland this term. Clean, safe drinking water from a reliable source is not available to more than 35 per cent of the population of Malawi, he said. Meanwhile, Lochaber High School pupils walked round the Camaghael loop road on Friday in aid of Sport Relief. Donations from senior pupils boosted the total raised to £510. 20_113forps01

New venue for society meetings

LOCHABER Local History Society has been forced to find another venue for its monthly talks - because they have become so popular.

Last year average attendance was 64 but this winter the audience has been numbering around 85 - too many for the Anach Mor suite in Fort William's Alexandra Hotel.

The society will now meet in the Ben Nevis Hotel ballroom tonight

(Thursday) at 8pm for the last meeting of the season, when speaker for the evening will be traveller, photographer and author Alistair Scott.

Mr Scott's recent book 'Eccentric Wealth' focuses on the facts and the fiction that surround the Bullough family on Rum.

As a follow up, the society's annual trip will be to Kinloch Castle on Rum on May 9.

Scotland's first canoe route boost for Lochaber

LOCHABER'S credentials as the Outdoor Capital of the UK have received another boost with the launch of Scotland's first designated canoe route.

Thousands of paddlers are expected to use the 60-mile Great Glen Canoe Trail through the Caledonian Canal from Corpach

Basin to Inverness. According to British Waterways Scotland, around 2,500 canoeists already use the canal each year - a figure likely to rise substantially as the trail becomes better known.

To celebrate the opening, the Scottish Canoe Association and British Waterways Scotland

staged a Great Glen Paddle Festival last weekend.

The canoe trail project secured £270,500 of Euro funding and £150,000 from British Waterways Scotland. Highland Council put up £100,000, Scottish Natural Heritage £71,300 and Forestry Commission Scotland £10,000.

Sneak thieves carry out spate of robberies

FORT William police are warning Lochaber residents to be on their guard against sneak thieves after a spate of minor robberies.

Items were stolen from an unlocked lorry parked at the rear of Glenkingie Street, Caol, overnight between Wednesday March 21 and Thursday March 22 and alcohol was taken from a boat behind Glenkingie Street after thieves pulled the cover back.

The same night, goods were also stolen from a car with a faulty lock parked in Blar Mhor Road, Fort William.

Chief Inspector Dave Bushell warned local people against becoming complacent about the threat of crime.

He said: 'Most crimes involving theft are committed by opportunists. I would like to remind everyone to secure their property and vehicles. Leave nothing of any value in any vehicles, especially

overnight. At the very least, leave any valuables out of sight, in a boot for instance.'

He added: 'As the weather improves, please get into the habit of locking the doors and securing the windows in a locked position, if left partially open.'

Anyone with knowledge of the thefts should contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000.

NEW!
Graphic Design & Digital Print Service based in Oban.
Telephone: **01631 568015** to discuss your requirements

ON NOW SALE
THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH FIELD...
FORGED IN FIFE - Artist David Mach on his school of hard knocks
READ...
EIGG'S LONE PIPER
Why America loves our deerhounds
THE TITANIC'S SCOTS SCAPEGOAT
The year's best wildlife images
CRAPPIT COD & SHEEP HEID - SCOTTISH CUISINE RETURNS
Inside Drumlanrig with The Duke of Buccleuch
10 OF THE BEST APRIL FOOLS OF ALL TIME
WIN A WEEK IN A HIGHLAND COTTAGE
SUBSCRIBE TODAY... AND RECEIVE A FREE BUFFALO LEATHER JOURNAL WORTH £25
www.scottishfield.co.uk

Visit us online
www.obantimes.co.uk
click
VISIT US AT
JAMES SMITH & Company (Connell) Ltd.
NIBC REGISTERED BUILDERS SELECT
Free quotations for all aspects of building works
New Build, Extensions, Renovations
Design and Fit Kitchens and Bathrooms
Plumbing, Heating, Electrical Work
All work carried out to a High Standard and Fully Guaranteed
Tel: Jim 07785 537060
Tel: Stephen 07789 934845
7E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG Tel/Fax: 01631 564955

What's on this

Easter

Tralee Segway Centre
 Oban's newest outdoor activity, great fun for all the family. **AN EXPERIENCE LIKE YOU'VE NEVER HAD BEFORE!!** You'll be up and gliding in minutes. No previous experience required.
 Telephone bookings are advised 01631 720297
WWW.OBANSEGWAYEXPERIENCE.CO.UK




WITH Easter just around the corner and a long weekend beckoning what better opportunity to have a little fun with the family. There is so much on offer on the west coast it is sometimes hard to know where to start so let us help you with some inspiring ideas. Sealife Adventures, based just south of Oban, could enthral young and old with a whale watching boat trip or a cruise through the infamous Corryvreckan Whirlpool. You could also spot porpoise, dolphins and basking sharks on your trip. If you want to spend more time with your feet on the ground why not let Farsain Cruises, in Craobh Haven, take you on a trip to some of the beautiful islands on the west coast. They also do diving trips for those who can't resist jumping in. There are lots of other activities in the area too, Craobh Haven Watersports offer the hire of dinghies, powerboats and kayaks. They also give tuition to budding sailors and can take you out on a fishing trip. Another activity – which for some might be a bit white knuckle – is the Segway at Tralee. Best described as a skateboard cross scooter it self balances so there is a less likely chance you'll fall off but still have loads of fun. You might want to take a break from all the excitement and the Robin's Nest Tea Room in Taynuilt is the perfect pit stop for a warm welcome and delicious food. Made to order sandwiches and lunches are available to sit in or take away – perhaps sitting outside soaking up the sunshine. And not far away the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary in Barcaldine is having an

Easter fun day! At only £5 entry and with 800 chocolate eggs to be found you can't really go wrong. If you want to celebrate Easter in style a treat from The Crafty Kitchen is in order. They serve delicious Easter Chocolate Nest Cupcakes and we can be sure you won't stop at one. If you're not too full why not head to the Hawthorn Restaurant in Benderloch for some dinner. It is under new ownership and the menu is bound to impress with the award winning chef cooking up local delights. And if you come from farther afield, there is nothing worse than facing a long drive at the end of the day. Why not put off that journey for a night and put your feet up in Argyll. There are many hotels and guesthouses to choose from, the Loch Melfort Country House Hotel is three star family run accommodation in Arduaine. They pride themselves on offering the personal service and a warm welcome, and with a restaurant that has been awarded two Rosettes by the AA every year since 2000 it could be a gourmet dining experience to remember. Another option for a good nights rest is the Cuilfail Hotel, on the shores of Loch Melfort. The building dates from 1840 and is one of the oldest hotels on the west coast. This is a 'must stay' place for those interested in history as the majority of the hotel was built during the Victorian era and many features of that period have been preserved. Whatever you choose to do with your days off – do it in Argyll.

Cuilfail Hotel means a sheltered corner
 Open for lunches and evening meals
 Kilmelford, By Oban, Argyll
 We are delighted to welcome our new chef, John Fisher, from Kilmartin Museum Restaurant, who will be introducing a new menu for our restaurant opening on 20 April 2012.
 T: 01852 200274 E: mail@cuilfail.com



ISLE OF LISMORE CAFE
 Open Daily from Friday 30th March 11am to 4pm
 Morning Coffee, Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks & Afternoon Teas
 Serving Vegetarian and 'Free From' Meals
 01631760020 or 07760474005
 Isle of Lismore Cafe, Heritage Centre, Lismore
 www.isleoflismorecafe.com
 isleoflismorecafe@yahoo.co.uk
 Supporting & Serving Fairtrade Products



CRAFTY KITCHEN
 ARDFERN ARGYLL 01852 500303
 Serving great Coffee & Delicious Cakes & Home made food with locally sourced produce or Shop for wonderful hand made Jewellery & FairTrade Silk bags or browse our varied Book collection.
 OPEN 10-5 Tuesday till Sunday (Closed Mondays)
 www.craftykitchen.co.uk
 facebook.com/TheCraftyKitchen

Enjoy fabulous, unique handmade chocolate eggs this Easter from the Oban Chocolate Company
 Exquisite range of chocolates from Strawberry & Elderflower to Posh Toffee Crisp!
 Visit our seafront cafe and indulge in fresh, hot Belgian waffles with butterscotch sauce or gourmet single origin hot chocolates
 We also stock handmade tablet, old fashioned sweets, teas, and a fantastic selection of mugs and hot chocolates
 www.obanchocolate.co.uk



CRAOBH HAVEN WATERSPORTS
 www.watersportscotland.co.uk
 Sailing & Powerboat Tuition
 Boat Hire
 Fishing trips
 Sit on top kayaks
 Slip & Moorings
 Refreshments
 RYA Training Centre
 Sat Nav. PA31 8UA
 Tel: 01852 500 665

The Scottish SEA LIFE Sanctuary presents
EASTER FUN DAY
SUNDAY 8TH APRIL 10AM TO 4PM
ONLY £5 ENTRY including aquarium admission
 16,000 CHOCOLATE EGGS TO BE FOUND
 MASSIVE EASTER EGG HUNTS THROUGHOUT THE DAY, BOUNCY CASTLE, FACE PAINTING, CHAINSAW CARVING DEMONSTRATIONS AND SALE, EASTER QUIZ, SHARK FEEDING AND MUCH MUCH MORE!
 SCOTTISH SEA LIFE SANCTUARY
 The Scottish SEA LIFE Sanctuary Barcaldine, Oban PA37 1SE
 www.sealsanctuaries.com
 * £1 recommended donation for Merlin's Magic Wand



Easter Sunday Lunch at **Glencruitten Golf Clubhouse**
 Two Courses - £10.00 Three Courses - £12.50
 Children under 12 - £7.50 Under 3s - Free
 Home Made Soup or Home Made Pate and Oatcakes Carvery featuring Scotch Sirloin of Beef, Argyll Venison and Pork, Yorkshire Pudding, Fresh Vegetables and Roast Potatoes. Home Made Desserts
 Serving from 1pm until 4pm. All Welcome. Please call to book
 Tel: 01631 562868

ROBIN'S NEST TEA ROOM
 Main Street, Taynuilt, Argyll PA35 1JE, Tel: (01866) 822429
 www.robinsnesttearoom.co.uk
 TEAS
 COFFEES
 HOME-BAKING
 SNACK LUNCHES
 Open 7 days from Thursday 5th April 10am - 5pm

The Hawthorn Restaurant
 Opening Easter Refurbished and with new management
 The Hawthorn Restaurant, Benderloch warmly welcomes all customers old and new
 Open for lunch, high tea and dinner
 Tuesday - Sunday (Open Easter Monday)

Wildlife boat trips from the mainland near Oban
 All trips include the whirlpool
 www.sealife-adventures.com
 01852 300 203 eve/w'end
 01631 57 10 10 day



farsain cruises
 Craobh Haven
 Cruises and Trips daily from Craobh Haven to ~ Jura ~ Scarba ~ Luìng ~ Garvellachs
 Enjoy daily wildlife and whirlpool cruises from Craobh Marina, 20 miles south of Oban, off A816
 Mobile: 07880 714165
 Featuring spectacular scenery, Corryvreckan whirlpools and an abundance of wildlife. RSPB

Chartroom II BAR & BISTRO
FOOD WITH A VIEW!
 NEW FOR 2012 Freshly made pizzas
 EAT IN OR TAKEAWAY
 Seafood Specialities Children's Menu
 Breathtaking views Playpark, animals & beach
 Loch Melfort Hotel, Arduaine, 20 miles south of Oban on A816. NTS Arduaine Garden next door!
 01852 200233 www.chartroom2.com



"A Wonderful Walk & Delicious Food"
 Open Wednesday to Sunday Easter to September, Kerrera Tea Garden & Cosy Byre
 01631 570223 www.kerrerahouse.co.uk





Glenfinnan's Ingrid Henderson tutoring at Ceolas in July

South Uist Gaelic music summer school attracts host of international entries

SOUTH Uist Gaelic music summer school Ceolas 2012 from July 1-6 is shaping up to be another fantastic year.

Students are coming from Japan, Austria, Romania, Germany, Switzerland as well as the USA.

One new feature will be clarsach skills with Ingrid Henderson from Glenfinnan, who is a highly regarded teacher at home and abroad.

Andrea Boyd will teach youth piping, Sarah Hoy will teach youth fiddle, while singing tutors will be

Rona Lightfoot, Kathleen MacInnes and Gillebride MacMillan – a strong Uist contingent steeped in the language and songs of the island.

Adult piping has also very strong Uist links with Angus MacKenzie and Allan MacDonald. Angus' skills will strengthen the Cape Breton connection, with dance with Margie Beaton, Frank McConnell and Alison MacLeod.

Dawn Beaton will once again represent the Cape Breton fiddle

tradition to ensure the dancing night will be spectacular. Supporting musicians on the evening will be Angus Nicolson, Ewen Henderson and Fin Moore.

Ceolas artist in residence for 2012 is Marie Melnyczuk, a resident of South Uist with a strong London connection.

The exhibition will be based around the school and will draw from the activity going on during Ceolas week. Marie has been working in the community and now has her own

Dunollie opens door for summer



Curator Elaine McChesney and volunteer Ian Cumming open the door to Dunollie's 1745 House for the summer season. This is the first proper year that Dunollie has been open to the public. Elaine said: 'There are lots of people in the town already so hopefully it will be a good season.'

Ganavan's sands make slow natural recovery

SLOWLY but surely, Oban's Ganavan Sands is returning to its former glory.

Specialists from Argyll and Bute Council believe that up to two thirds of the beach has returned since storms in December and January reduced one of the town's most famous beauty spots to little more than its pebbly base.

Some exposed patches remain though, with the foundations of the old beach huts still visible.

It is hoped the spring high tides will quicken the beach's recovery process, but there are no plans as yet to recharge the attraction with bought in sand.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The sand is returning naturally. We estimate that about two thirds of the sand lost during the storms of December and January has now returned.'

A report on the condition of the beach will go to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee next month.

MacLaverly to read at Skye literary evening event

RENOWNED writer Bernard MacLaverly will be among those reading at a literary event at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye tonight (Thursday).

The gathering is the second in a series of three literary evenings entitled 'Agus Dàin Eile' (And Other Poems), which bring together internationally renowned writers with established and up-and-coming Gaelic writers.

The event at Arainn Ostaig starts at 7.30pm.

Father and daughter join abseil for stroke charity



A FATHER and daughter took part in a 200-foot abseil from the Finnieston Crane to raise money for research into strokes, a condition that has blighted their family.

Mairi McLellan, who hails from Taynuilt, has raised £1,200 for the Stroke Association so far by taking part in the Glasgow abseil last Sunday, the most money raised of all 30 participants.

The 26-year old decided to back the charity after seeing strokes affect her father, Tom, and three of her late grandparents. Tom also joined the fundraising abseil and has raised nearly £800. Mairi, who lives in Glasgow, persuaded friends Jennifer Macdonald and Arlene Macgregor, from Oban, to take part.

You can still sponsor Mairi until March 31 through her Just Giving page: justgiving.com/MairiMcLellan

Portree schoolgirl celebrates victory at Inverness Music Festival

A PORTREE schoolgirl is celebrating after winning top prize at the Inverness Music Festival.

Mairi-Louise MacDonald won the Curtis Craig Trophy – the festival's premier competition – after coming first in the clarsach solo grade 7 and above, in which she received an outstanding distinction.

Portree High School pupil Mairi-Louise, aged 15, started playing clarsach at the age of nine and is privately tutored by Christine Martin from Breakish.

She regularly attends the Edinburgh Harp Festival and is a member of the Highland Branch of the Clarsach Society.

Mairi-Louise has also been



Mairi-Louise MacDonald: won top award at Inverness Music Festival

a gold medalist at the Royal National Mod three times and regularly plays at weddings and ceilidhs. She also plays the piano.

Mum Therese told The Oban Times: 'Mairi-Louise feels privileged to have won the Curtis Craig trophy, she was so impressed with the other fine musicians and singers who participated.'

'Mairi-Louise feels indebted to her tutor, Christine Martin, who has also taught a number of fine and successful fiddlers and clarsach players in Scotland.'

'She would also like to thank Friends of Highland Music and the Clarsach Society for their support in recent years.'

Pelton Wheel proves popular at Kinlochleven

VISITORS and residents in Kinlochleven are enjoying the latest addition to the village square that celebrates the area's industrial heritage.

A Pelton Wheel taken from a turbine in the hydro-electric powerhouse now takes pride of place, as centrepiece of the completed garden.

Gifted to the community by Rio Tinto Alcan, the wheel makes an unusual

sculpture that particularly intrigues visitors.

Kinlochleven Community Trust chairman Andrew Baxter said: 'Many come into the neighbouring visitor centre to ask more and view the exhibition about the Blackwater Dam and the Aluminium Smelter.'

'This was the final part of the regeneration of a large piece of derelict land in the centre of the village.'

'A big thank you goes

to Chris Murray and his team at Rio Tinto Alcan for making this happen. The company undertook all the hard work in siting the wheel and putting it up in spectacular fashion at night.'

The trust is now preparing a new display board to explain the role of the Pelton Wheel in generating electricity to power the former factory.



Eye to eye with John Wallace

Holiday Time

I cannot believe how fast this year is passing. In a few days the Easter holidays will start. For many of us that will mean time to start work on our gardens. For others it will be time spent with family on holiday, possibly skiing or even heading for the sun. Last month I discussed eye protection we should be using when gardening. For those heading off on holiday eye protection is just as necessary.

Skiers and boarders are aware of the necessity for good quality sun glasses worn on piste. For beach holidays abroad sunglasses are just as necessary. With snow blindness effects present within hours whereas the damage caused by excessive UV rays while sunbathing can take years to become obvious. Typically snow blindness is incredibly painful and will last for forty eight hours. Persistent long term exposure to intense sunlight can cause cataracts and severe damage to the retina which only

becomes apparent later in life.

For contact lens wearers swimming with lenses is a major issue. Your optometrist has undoubtedly repeatedly told you never to swim wearing contact lenses. This advice is invariably ignored by the majority of contact lens wearers. Optometrists now advise using daily disposable contact lenses when swimming. These must be discarded when you finish swimming and replaced with a fresh pair of "dailies" or your usual lenses which have been stored in disinfecting solution.

If you wear spectacles for driving, on holiday it is essential to have a spare pair of distance spectacles. In fact in many European countries it is a legal requirement to have a spare pair with you in your car. Your optometrist can provide appropriate spare spectacles and daily disposable lenses. Please don't leave it till the day before you depart to get organised. Have a great holiday.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
Wallace Optometrists & Podiatrists
The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic
11/12 Argyll Square, Oban
Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)
www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk

what's on oban

Every Thursday > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Ceilidh Night 9pm-11pm
Every Thursday > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Club Night 11pm-2am
Every Saturday > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Club Night with DJs 11pm-2am
Saturday 31st March > Markie Dans	Celtic Harp 9.30pm
Friday 6th April > Markie Dans	2 Can Dan 9.30pm
Saturday 7th April > Markie Dans	Colin McEwan & The Revolving Doors 9.30pm

what's on lochaber

Friday 30th March > Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Nightclub with DJ Irish AI Beat the Clock
Saturday 31st March > Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Nightclub 10pm till 2am Beat the Beats
Saturday 7th April > Glenluig Hall	Squashy Bag Dance Band 8pm, www.glenluig.org.uk

Sponsored by

SKIPINNISH CEILIDH HOUSE FORT WILLIAM

www.skipinnish.com
Middle Street, Fort William

"The Oban Times offers unbeatable reach in Oban, being read by an outstanding 97% of the total population and 9044 more adults than its nearest competitor the Daily Record."

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Tel: 01631 568000 email: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
www.obantimes.co.uk

CD review

Bram Taylor - Jokers And Rogues

Bram is one of the old school of folk entertainers who provide the backbone of the folk club circuit mixing humour with quality songs. A wide variety of songs sung with a strong, rich voice full of conviction.

Breabach - Bann

This celebrated and successful Scottish folk band plays traditional and contemporary music with innovative flair. With a natural talent for both composition and arrangement, there is a rich variety of sounds from this young band making their mark on Scottish music. With commitment and passion, they explore and challenge boundaries.

Martyn Bennett - Aye

One of the most influential figures on the modern Folk scene, Martyn Bennett's extraordinary music lives on. Fine examples of his experiments with traditional and world music, rave culture, remixing and much more besides from this great Scots piper, who sadly passed away far too young. A very informative accompanying booklet is included, giving an insight into this extraordinary talent.

sponsored by

musicscotland.com

Over 4000 Scottish, Irish, Roots, World, Folk and Celtic music CDs, DVDs, books and sheet music titles, with mp3 music samples. Worldwide despatch next working day of in-stock titles

www.musicscotland.com
or
Tel: 01631 719 001
Email: info@musicscotland.com
20 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AT
musicscotland.com is part of Oban Music

Local Producers Market

Thursday 5th April
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch, 1 mile along the Tralee road
10 am to 3 pm
LOTS TO EAT AND DO
Every First / Third Thursday
Interested Producers contact 01631 720223
Local Origins Rural Network www.lorn.org.uk

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Learning Programme for 18-25 year olds in Oban and the surrounding area

Do you want to improve your prospects in the job market and beyond?

Perhaps you work full-time, part-time, or seasonally. Maybe you are not working at the moment. Do you dream of doing something different or being your own boss?

This opportunity could be right for you.

Start in April, this fully-funded programme will be tailored to suit participants, with sessions possible in the daytime, evening or weekends.

The programme aims to widen your horizons, build on your strengths, develop your potential and boost your self-confidence, in ways that are both fun and relaxing, but also challenging!

To find out more about this free course, register your interest

/LearningProgramme1825Oban
Or text / call us on **07765426220**

The programme will be delivered by tutors from the Social Enterprise Academy in partnership with the local "Bright Futures Group" youth work partnership.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Hearing or Sight Loss?

Would you like information, support to find solutions to difficulties and a chance to meet others with a sensory loss? We are running free short courses across Argyll and Bute. Contact Argyll & Bute Sensory project on 01838 200841 (phone), 07805 772017 (text) argyllandbute@deafand.org

Spring into Action

Argyllshire Gathering Hall
Thursday 29th March 2012
2pm - 6.30pm
More information Contact Argyll Voluntary Action Tel 01631 564839

Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club

Monthly Club Night
Thursday 5th April 2012
Argyllshire Gathering Hall 7.30pm
Audience and Players welcome
Special Guest Artist
Pentland Ceilidh Band
Admission £3
Come Along and Enjoy the Music

Comunn Gaidhealach an Obain Ceilidh

In Masonic Hall, Oban
Saturday 31st March 2012 at 7.30pm
Mary MacMillan, Steven MacIver, Morag MacNeill, Jimmy Cameron, piper Cameron Bennett
Music Findlay Bennett and friends
Chairman Peter Henderson
Admission £5

Handel Messiah

Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra
Louise Childs, Soprano
Christopher Josey, Tenor
Simon Hannigan, Bass
Conductor Norman Nicholson
Sunday 8 April, 2012 at 7.30pm
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Seat with programme (obtainable at the door) £8 (concessions £6.50)

FORT WILLIAM ACCORDION & FIDDLE CLUB

Musical Evening
Tuesday 3rd April, 2012 at 8pm
GUEST ARTISTS:
Iain MacPhail Trio
Railway Club Inverfochy
All Welcome
Admission £4.00 ... Tea & Raffle Extra
IN THE EVENT OF A LATE ARRIVAL CANCELLATION BY ANY GUEST ARTIST THE COMMITTEE WILL FIND AN ALTERNATIVE ARTIST

OBAN U3A

Tuesday April 3, 2012 at 10.30 am
Caledonian Hotel, Station Square, Oban
A warm welcome to members new and old for our monthly coffee and chat.

To advertise in the WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Telephone: 01631 568000



ALIENERGY

Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

Alienergy is a local agency that promotes better use of energy and local resources throughout Argyll, Lomond and the Islands. We administer the free and impartial 'use green heat' advice and support service in Argyll and Bute. We provide advice to businesses, community groups and householders looking to replace their existing heating systems with a new renewable heat technology.

Contact us on 01631 565183 or enquiries@alienergy.org.uk

use green heat

Sunbeam Energy

Invest in a brighter future

- Scottish solar PV installers.
- Family run business delivering MCS accredited service.
- Price Match Guarantee - "Like for like, we're never beaten on price!"
- Act quickly! With prices plummeting there will never be a better time to get solar.
- Typical tax free investment returns for a 4kW system of over 10% p.a.

Call us now! 0845 474 9986 info@sunbeam-energy.co.uk www.sunbeam-energy.co.uk

Solar Electricity Systems

Looking for a fail-safe way to dramatically cut your energy bills? Then a little ray of sunshine is all it takes. For solar power can shave up to 50 per cent off your gas and electricity bills every year.

Popular in both Europe and America, solar panels have been harnessing the power of the sun for decades. But while early models were bulky and difficult to fit, today's sleek and sophisticated designs have revolutionised the industry.

Over the past two years alone, there has been an explosion of installations in Scotland, especially as no planning permission is required in most cases.

Thanks to the Government's Feed-In Tariff Scheme, hundreds of thousands of homeowners have experienced first-hand just how beneficial solar power can be.

And despite recent changes to the innovative scheme, it still makes financial sense to invest in the eco-friendly energy.

"As a rough estimate, the rate of monetary return can be anywhere between eight and 12 per cent tax-free every year, indexed linked for 25 years.

Solar Electricity Systems have aligned themselves with one of Europe's top solar panel companies - Antaris.

"Through them, we are able to offer a unique 30-year guarantee along with a choice of both silver and black panels to complement your home.

"Everybody hates seeing their energy bills rise and some energy companies have increased their costs to the customer by up to 30 per cent in the past five years.

"But those who install renewable energy can inflation-proof their bills, say goodbye to hefty electricity prices and enjoy the benefits of being paid for what they themselves produce. Remember, it doesn't have to be sunny to make you money."

For nearly three years, Jim and his highly qualified team of 40 staff have been fitting state-of-the-art solar panels all over Scotland.

His firm were also one of the first in Scotland to gain full Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) Certification to design and install Photovoltaic panels. Already, they have more than 1000 satisfied customers in Scotland alone.

Photovoltaic or PV solar panels generate electricity, which can then run appliances and lighting in your home.

Although initial installation can cost anything between £6000 to £11000, these complex panels are built to last and can go as long as 40 years without needing to be replaced.

Once in position, they will save you thousands of pounds over the years.

Solar water heating panels are another option to consider. Instead of running your electricity, these panels heat your hot water.

Even on cloudy or overcast days, the panels will collect heat from the sun and use it to warm water stored in a hot water cylinder. An immersion heater or boiler then makes the water even hotter and suitable for everyday use. With these panels, you can enjoy hot water throughout the year and dramatically reduce the amount of money you spend on energy bills.

Costing about £5000 to £8000 to install, these super-efficient panels can run for years and years. When government legislation is put in place later this year, Solar Electricity Systems will again be one of the first MCS-accredited companies to offer these systems in Scotland. No matter what type of panel you choose, there's no need to worry about constant maintenance. Advancements in technology now mean most panels can be installed within a matter of hours and require the minimum of upkeep.

Jim added: "The sun really is a universal energy source and fitting solar panels can completely change the way a house runs. We are seeing more and more customers opting for panels - not only

because they can save money but because they can also make some through the Feed-In Tariff Scheme."

With so many benefits to be had, it's no wonder solar panels are becoming an increasingly common sight through the country. Clean, renewable and eco-friendly solar energy is sure to have a bright and sunny future.

For more advice on solar power and for free and impartial advice visit www.solarelectricitysystems.co.uk or call 0800 8497555.

Energy Saving Scotland

The Scottish Government has just launched a Scotland wide Green Homes Network. The network provides homeowners and communities with the unique opportunity to visit homes in their area that are shining examples of the domestic renewables revolution.

As part of the Green Homes Network, an interactive web tool (www.greenhomenetwork.org.uk) has been developed that enables homeowners to browse homes in their local area who have signed up to be part of this ground breaking scheme. Already over 500 homes across the nation have registered their details and signed up to be part of the network - and the number is growing.

If you would like to visit a Green Home, or find out more about renewables in general, then get in touch with the Energy Saving Scotland advice centre on 0800 512 012. Or visit www.greenhomenetwork.org.uk

Earth Fuel Scotland

Kevin Faulds, Partner at EFS, said "We are busier than ever due to the fact that the prices for the Solar Panels have dropped in line with cuts in Government tariff. It is now at a more affordable price, therefore there has been a higher demand for new installations".

"Watch out this year also for the introduction of the 'Renewable Heat Incentive' Scheme which shall be launched in Autumn. This will follow similar lines to the 'Feed In Tariff' scheme and pay householders for heating their homes by renewable resources, i.e. Log/Pellet Burners, Ground Source Heat Pumps, & Solar Thermal."

AC Gold Energy

The future is in your hands

Stirling-based AC Gold Energy brings together the best qualities of a technical consultancy and an experienced electrical company to provide you with a high quality, tailored service that starts right at the beginning.

They treat much of what they do as a partnership; they spend time with their clients, understanding their operations and how they can best adapt to provide the best possible service, tailor made for their operation.

A spokesman said: "Our promise to our customer is that we will deliver the service they desire to accomplish project completion and client satisfaction. This is achieved through good understanding, planning and communication. Reliability, service and quality must shine through in everything that we do, which can only be accomplished by the full participation of our staff, employees and sub-contractors."

McCAIGRENEWABLES

Powering the Future

- Solar Panels
- Wind Turbines
- Heat Pumps

Scotland's leading independent Renewable Energy Consultants and Installers.

Specialists in funding renewable projects.
 Aberdeen. 01224 224107 Glasgow. 0141 3143815
 Ayr. 01292 280140

www.mccaigrenewables.co.uk
 info@mccaigrenewables.co.uk

Now it's even easier to make your own electricity from the sun's energy. It's simpler than you think.

There is an energy revolution underway which could mean energy companies paying YOU to generate electricity from renewable energy sources. It's now a good time to:

- Find out about solar PV systems
- Get free, impartial advice on the best options for your home
- Arrange a FREE home visit
- Speak to our qualified energy advisors
- Find out about Feed-in Tariffs.

Call us free on 0800 512 012*

*Calls from landlines are free. From a mobile call 0300 456 2655 to be charged at your local network rate.

energy saving trust natural scotland

whichturbine.com
 The best wind turbine for you

UNBIASED, INDEPENDANT WIND TURBINE SITE SURVEYS

MATCHING THE RIGHT WIND TURBINE FOR YOU & YOUR SITE

NO TIES TO ONE SPECIFIC MANUFACTURER

ONE TURBINE DOES NOT SUIT ALL!

FIND THE RIGHT TURBINE, SMALL, MEDIUM OR LARGE, FOR YOUR SITE

FULL PLANNING SERVICE AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT ALSO AVAILABLE

For full details and to arrange a survey please contact:

whichturbine.com
 Tel: 01337 827571 Mob: 07910741328
 Email: whichturbine@btinternet.com
www.whichturbine.com

EFS

earth fuel scotland

Specialist installers of solar photovoltaic panels

Looking for an investment?

Never a better time to install than now, as prices have been reduced

Freephone: 08000 124273
 e-mail: info@earthfuelscotland.co.uk web: www.earthfuelscotland.co.uk

- Guaranteed payment/ income for 25yrs.
- Roughly 10% return on investment
- No need for planning permission

2day installation Better return than any high street bank Call now for free survey

Head Office
 Unit 2 Building 3, Largs Yacht Haven, Irvine Rd, Largs, KA30 8EZ

Branches In
 Glasgow | Fife | Argyll

AC Gold Standard

The AC Gold Standard means delivering solutions that delight clients with speed, accuracy and superior quality.

These solutions are delivered by skilled tradesmen, employing the latest tools and technologies and are supported by our dedicated customer service team.

AC Gold Standard is about ensuring everything is carried out in the most professional manner, from uniforms for all staff, to purchasing materials, and in all communications.

They recognise that excellent relationships underpin every aspect of our business and we treat suppliers, clients, advisors, supporters and the community in which we operate with the highest respect.

Solar PV panels

With no noise or emissions solar PV panels use the sun's energy to create electricity to power your home, business, farm or out buildings.

The PV panels are mounted onto your roof, the panels are then connected to an inverter via double insulated cables that run through the attic space to the location of the main board in the house. The inverter converts the DC power generated by the

solar panels to AC power that can be used in the home or fed into the grid. An electricity meter connected inline with the inverter measures the amount of power generated by the panels, a remote monitor can also be installed to let the home owner see how much power the panels are generating at any given time.

The power from the panels flows into the existing consumer unit in the house, this power can be used to help power appliances that are in use or can be set up to heat the water via the immersion heater, allowing the household to get the most from the energy that they generate.

With the introduction of the Governments Feed In Tariff scheme this type of technology is a very attractive and lucrative option.

Benefits:

- They will reduce your carbon foot print and lower your property's carbon emissions
- A reduction in energy bills
- Receive a tax free income for the energy your system has generated but that you have not used (Feed In Tariff Scheme).

For more information: www.acgoldenergy.co.uk or www.facebook.com/acgoldenergy

Renewable energy, the future is in your hands



We can also offer:

- Solar PV
- Heat Pumps
- Electrical Services
- EPC Reports

REACT **MCS** **azur solar**

solar solutions scotland
The solar company owned and run by tradesmen

PV Systems from £4,995
TEXT 07786656238 for a FREE CALL BACK

No Salesman
No Sales Commissions
Your Solar Specialists in Argyll & Bute

08448 09 09 49
www.solarsolutionsscotland.co.uk

SOLAR THERMAL

Heating Systems

- Hot water throughout the year
- Reduce your energy bills
- Get help with installation costs through the renewable heat premium payment scheme
- Forthcoming introduction of the renewable heat incentive
- Reduced carbon emissions

BIOMASS

Heating Systems

- Use boiler technology to convert biomass materials into heat energy
- Commercial, agricultural and domestic systems
- Generate additional income through the renewable heat incentive
- Reduced CO2 emissions through woodchip, logs or pellets
- Affordable heating fuel
- Free survey available to tailor your individual needs

REACT **CHAS** **MCS** **NICEIC** **ELECT**

RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSURANCE LIMITED ACCREDITED CONTRACTOR APPROVED APPROVED CONTRACTOR

To arrange a free consultation please visit:
www.acgoldenergy.co.uk or call **08000 355 779**
11 Back O'Hill Industrial Estate, Stirling FK8 1SH

£1,000 OFF SOLAR PANELS

Solar Electricity Systems

LIMITED TO FIRST 25 CUSTOMERS...

Call now or register online to receive your £1000 off voucher

Approved Installer **MCS** Microgeneration Certification Scheme **REACT** **SOLAR TRADE ASSOCIATION** **ELECSA** Microgeneration Approved Contractor **ANTARIS SOLAR**

PRICE GUARANTEE

Top ten reasons to buy solar panels from Solar Electricity Systems

1. Free Electricity 100% guaranteed
2. Up to 10% Return per annum
3. Tax Free Income for 25 years
4. Indexed Linked for 25 years
5. Paid Quarterly into your bank
6. Choice of Silver or BLACK panels
7. German Supplied Panels
8. Lower your Carbon Footprint
9. Systems fitted in a Day
10. IT MAKES SENSE

Solar Electricity Systems Call 0800 849 7555

Visit www.SolarElectricitySystems.co.uk for information

Sponsored by NFU Mutual
Oban, call Euan Warnock
and Donna MacDougall
on 01631 567 036 for
your insurance needs.
Agent of The National Farmers Union
Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



NFU Mutual

Farming

COVENTRY for FENCING

Scotland's No. 1
**WIRE, STOCK FENCING,
BARBED, HIGH TENSILE,
MILD STEEL BEST PRICES**

TIMBER DIRECT FROM OUR SAWMILL
Depots throughout Scotland • Delivery available
For a competitive quote please call 01631 566866

C. Hodge Fencing

If you knew wood like we know wood
you would buy our wood.
**C. Hodge Fencing for posts, rails,
timbers, decking, wires, handling
equipment and wood fuels**

Telephone: 01631 563271

Oban Times Oban Times
FARMING FARMING

KEIL ENGINE SERVICES

New ATV's always in stock - Fantastic Deals on ATV Tyres

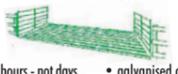
Used Selection
Kawasaki KLF 300 4x4 1996 Good Runner.....£1200 + VAT
Honda TRX 350 4x4 2006 VGC.....£2100 + VAT
Honda TRX 500 4x4 2007 VGC.....£3400 + VAT
Yamaha YFM 450 4x4 Grizzly 2008 Immaculate.....£3500 + VAT
All above machines fully serviced and guaranteed

Kiddies Used Machines
Apache Army 100cc elec start/rev.....£680 inc VAT
Apache in red 100cc elec start.....£600 inc VAT
Yamaha Breeze 125cc elec start/rev.....£1,100 inc VAT
All above machines ready to go

Telephone for details to Lachie or Liam
01631 720380 email: keilengines@gmail.com

**HOPKINS UNIQUE
QUICK FIT CATTLE GRID**

British Patent No 2155526



- installed within hours - not days
- set in ground on hardcore bases then drive over
- no blockwork pit required
- exceedingly cost-effective
- load-tested to 50 tonnes
- maintenance-free
- complete with hedgehog ramp

- galvanised or painted - your choice
- available from 9ft wide increasing by 1ft to a maximum of 2ft wide as required - jump width 8ft bins, Deer Grids also Available, Ring for a Quotation

HOPKINS GRID SALES
(Contact Jane) Roxburgh Mill, Kelso, Roxburghshire, TD5 8NF
Tel/Fax: (01573) 450655 e-mail: hopkinsgrids@googlemail.com

**FERGUSON
TED 20**



1953, p/p, older restoration
Telephone:
07989076987

£2,000

Pedigree white bred
shorthorn yearling bull,
excellent conformation
and temperament.
Telephone
07939630730

**AA
McINTYRE
POULTRY**

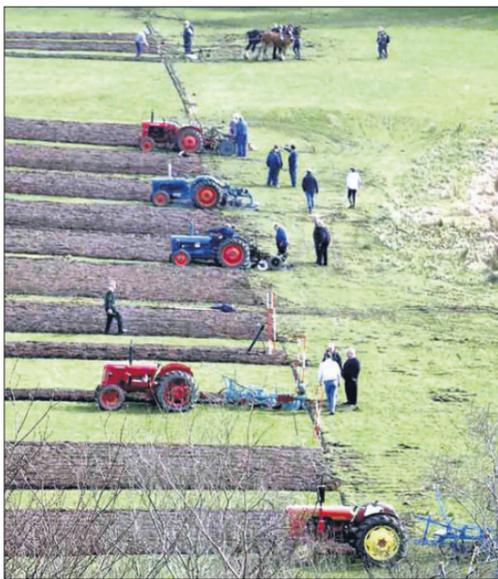
Sole distributors
for Johnstons
Hatcheries
Point of Lay Pullets,
Black, Blues,
Barred, Sussex, Buff
Barred, Whites and
Partridge
Deliver to all areas

**AGENTS
REQUIRED**
Tel: 01292
591266 /
07779311149

Oban Times
FARMING
Oban Times
FARMING



Lorn ploughing winner Willie Buchanan of North Connel with daughter Isla, 7, niece Mairi, 7 and nephew Donnie, 6, 16, 13ploughing03



The busy ploughing competition field at Shenavallie, near Benderloch on Saturday attracted an over subscribed entry. Picture - Robert McCulloch

North Connel man wins annual Lorn ploughing challenge match

A NORTH Connel man took home five trophies - including 'Best Local Ploughman' at The Lorn Annual Vintage Ploughing Match.

The event, held at Shenavallie Farm, Benderloch last Saturday, was oversubscribed with keen competitors in the horse, 8ins, 10ins and trailing plough classes.

'Delighted' Willie Buchanan, from Achnaba, North Connel, won The Oban Times Ploughman's Perpetual Trophy, Argyll Agricultural Engineers Perpetual Cup for best rig and the trophy for best rig by tractor mounted plough.

Willie also took home the Alex McTaggart Trophy for best ploughman which he had previously won in 2007. The first name inscribed on the cup in 1960 was Willie's father Archie Buchanan.

But most important for the 39-year-old was winning the Dochie Buchanan Memorial Cup for best local ploughman. He said: 'I'm delighted to have my name on this cup. Of all the cups I wanted to win today this is the most important one.'

'Dochie Buchanan was a full cousin of my father. I used to call him 'uncle'. The cup was donated by the Buchanan family in memory of their grandfather and presented to me by Dochie's grandchildren.'

Winner in the working horse section was Neil MacPhail from Campbeltown while first in the 10ins class went to Gavin Reid also from Campbeltown. The trailing plough class was won by Morris Blacklaw from Fife using a Ransomes plough.

Quality grazing cattle in demand at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 783 store cattle, 12 breeding cattle and 52 Over 30 Month cattle at Dingwall last Wednesday when a highly satisfactory trade was experienced throughout with quality grazing cattle and hi-health breeding heifers selling extremely well.

Bullocks averaged 230.8p per kilo and sold to 295p per kg for a 278kg Limousin cross from Shewgile, Glenurquhart, and to £1,260 for 598kg Limousin crosses from Shawpark, Glackmore.

Heifers averaged 223.7p per kilo and sold to 529.4p per kg and to £1,800 for a 340kg British Blue cross from Bunchrew, Inverness

Young bulls averaged 190.5p per kg and sold to 222.7p per kg for a 220kg Limousin from 68 Foindle, Lairg, and to £900 for a 440kg Limousin from 2 Easter Kinkell, Conon Bridge.

Breeding cattle were also in demand and sold to £3,300 for a Limousin bull from 4 Bualnaluib, Aulbutea.

Prime cows averaged 156.5p and sold to 184.5p per kg for a 710kg South Devon cross from Drummond, Evanton, and £1,370 for a 780kg Limousin from Torgorm, Conon Bridge.

Feeding cows averaged 132.6p and sold to 153.3p per kg for a 610kg Simmental cross from Bunchrew, Inverness, and £990 for a 670kg Limousin from Drynie, Dingwall.

OTM clean bullocks and heifers sold to 182p per kg for a 610kg South Devon cross from Drummond, Evanton, and £1,270 for a 720kg Simmental cross from Dell of Killehuntly, Kintessie.

OTM bulls sold to 132.3p per kg for an Aberdeen Angus from Strathglass, Cannich, and £1,600 for a South Devon from Drummond.

FARM MACHINERY FOCUS

A RISE IN DEMAND FOR MULTI-PURPOSE AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

GLENSIDE TRACTORS LIMITED



Glenside tractors sell new and used farm machinery to the agricultural industry

MILLKNOWE GARAGE, CAMPBELTOWN
TEL: (01586) 553624
(01586) 554598 (evening)
FAX: (01586) 554923
www.glensidetractors.co.uk

Creran Engineering



MARINE, PLANT & TRACTOR SERVICING & REPAIRS

Tel: 07919 414453

www.deutz-fahr.com



Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1SG
email: info@creranengineering.co.uk

AN INCREASE in the overall size of farms, a much reduced workforce and the need for greater efficiency within both the cereal and livestock sectors of the agricultural industry has resulted in a rise in demand for multi-purpose agricultural machinery - in its many forms.

While the basic tractor gracefully evolved over many years to replace the working horse even on the smallest of agricultural units, the range and complexity of today's farm machinery ensures that the this rate of change has reached a pace where even the most modern of farms find it a challenge to stay in touch with developing technology.

As input costs rapidly rise in tandem with this technology, many farmers have turned to the secondhand machinery sector for much of their everyday requirements. This in turn has increased

the importance of and therefore the demand for regular and specialist maintenance from highly skilled agricultural mechanics. Throughout the country, numerous firms have developed to sell, maintain and advise on what is both available and affordable to the crofting and farming community. This important service industry, much of which specializes in the ATV and small tractor market, has increased to the extent that outlets are available within easy reach of most west coast mainland and island farms - this in turn means that these service providers must remain both competitive and trained to a high standard if they are to retain business.

On the west coast where livestock farming remains dominant and the majority of cereal production is targeted as winter feed for stock, there is not the same degree of investment in the very large and heavy machinery that has revolutionized cereal production in other areas. Nor has there been the environmental problems



The reliable, hardworking JXU has the ability to handle the everyday tasks of operation in livestock, dairy and arable farming in either the leading role or as support to more powerful tractors. The high power to weight ratio and nimble manoeuvrability makes the new JXU even better suited to the pto driven tasks, front loader operation and general haulage of your operation.

WANTED

All Massey Ferguson, Ford, Belarus, Universal, Zetor, John Deere and all other makes of tractors.

This is a small selection of what we want to buy. Any tractor 1960 and 2012.

Immediate inspection and payment.

Call Colin Stewart on 07796324074 or Nigel on 07766522751

WANTED

ALL 4X4'S
CARS, VANS, PICK UPS
Especially Toyota-Nissan-Isuzu

ALSO

PLANT & MACHINERY
Cash & Collection Within 24hrs.

Tel 07866 555000
Convex@me.com

McLAREN TRACTORS

THE AFFORDABLE MACHINERY DEALER

NEW

Valtra A93H 101hp 4wd power-shuttle with loader.....£29,989 + VAT
Zetor 70hp 4wd tractor with loader & fork.....£25,189 + VAT
Kioti RK60 power-shuttle 60hp 4wd c/w loader.....£21,889 + VAT
Kioti DK551 55hp 4wd c/w loader, demonstrator.....£18,975 + VAT
Polaris 35hp 4wd tractor with loader & backhoe.....£4,999 + VAT
Polaris Sportsman 400 4x4 ATV.....£6,699 + VAT
Polaris Ranger 400 2 seat 4x4 ATV from.....£11,998 + VAT

USED

John Deere 6510 Premium 115hp 4wd 4300hrs 1999 model.....£19,495 + VAT
Lamborghini 115 36x36 synchro shuttle 1992 model.....£9,995 + VAT
JCB Groundhog diesel ATV, cab, power tip, road legal, 2008.....£5,995 + VAT
Polaris 500 4x4 ATV, 2008 model, 200hrs.....£3,495 + VAT
Claas Rollant 250 chopper baler, 2001 model, vgc.....£7,695 + VAT

Please check out our website for used machinery offers:
www.mclarenttractors.co.uk

Strathpeffer Road, Dingwall, IV15 9QF
Tel: 01349 867521 • Fax: 01349 866738 • Parts 01349 867210 • Sales Mob: 07775 584565
Email: sales@mclarenttractors.co.uk

AgriMac

GO DIRECT
Trade-ins Welcome

Buy Direct from AgriMac
Special Offers on
Bale & Silage Trailers
Basic, Dump, Bale,
Multi Purpose, Livestock,
Grain & Silage Trailers,
Low Loaders,
Mobile Cattle Crush,
Slurry Tankers,
Side Spreaders
Block Cutters

Delivered by us for your peace of mind.
Have a look at our new website & join our mailing list for special offers & second hand machinery updates daily.
Call Frankie 075 533 80136 or 028 7778 1522

www.agrimachinery.co.uk info@agrimachinery.co.uk
701 Feeny Road, Dungleigh, Co.L.Derry, N.Ireland, BT47 4SU

Carrs Billington

Tel: 01461 202772

2008 MF 5455 TRACTOR

Speedshift / Power Shuttle
Comfort Pack * 2700 Hours
C/W MF 940 Loader
Immaculate

David Douglas 07798 667960
See Our Full Range Of S/H Tractors & Machinery
www.carrs-billington.com

R.O.A.

Carrs Billington

Tel: 01461 202772

2008 MF 5455 TRACTOR

Only 1265 Hours, Low profile Cab * Height 105", Speedshift * Power Shuttle,
Hi Vis Hitch * Air Con, 540/1000 Shiftable PTO in Cab, 480/70R34 + 380/70R24,
c/w QUICKE Q40 Loader, Immaculate Condition

David Douglas 07798 667960
See Our Full Range Of S/H Tractors & Machinery
www.carrs-billington.com

R.O.A.

Carrs Billington

Tel: 01461 202772

GRASS MACHINERY SPECIALS

Haybobs
Mower Conditioners
KUHN * KRONE * LELY

LELY Lotus Stabla Tedders
KUHN & KRONE Tedders

VICON Variespreaders

David Douglas 07798 667960
See Our Full Range Of S/H Tractors & Machinery
www.carrs-billington.com

Social Work Service and School Pupil Transport Framework Agreement - Supplier Events

The Highland Council is about to invite Tenders for inclusion in a Framework Agreement for the provision of car, taxi and minibus services for purposes including Home to School (especially Additional Support Needs) and Social Work Client transport for the next three years.

Supplier Events will be held in the following locations throughout Highland:

- Monday 2nd April 2012 09.30-11.30 – Main Hall, Town House, Inverness IV1 1JJ
- Monday 2nd April 2012 14.00-16.00 – Council Chamber, Lochaber House, Fort William PH33 6EL
- Tuesday 3rd April 2012 09.30-11.30 – Lairg Community Centre, Lairg IV27 4DD
- Tuesday 3rd April 2012 14.00-16.00 – Council Chamber, Wick KW1 4AJ
- Wednesday 4th April 2012 10.00-12.00 – Tigh na Sgire (Council Offices), Portree IV51 9GP

Prior registration for these events is preferred. To register or for further information contact the Corporate Procurement Team 01463 703806 or email Procurement.Unit1@highland.gov.uk by 30th March 2012.

CROFTERS COMMISSION COIMISEAN NAN CROITEARAN DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

Applicant, Croft, Extent/Purpose, Case number
Mr A Ross
1 & 2 Muirshielach, Kilmalie
0.012 ha - Amenity ground
4.86.37801

Mr G Moss, Ms Emma Walters
3 Bunacamb, Arisaig & Moidart
0.1 ha - site for a dwelling house
4.86.37844

Mr & Mrs I Kennedy
17 & 18 Kilmoluaig, Tiree
0.212 ha - Amenity ground
4.86.36612

Comments can be made to the Crofters Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 14 days of the date of this newspaper. Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW info@crofterscommission.org.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

Name, Croft, Extent/Reason, Conditions, Case number
Guy R Berridge, Mrs Colette Wong and Mrs Ginette Heard
Gate House, Ardnamurchan & Sunart
Whole croft
4.87.32261

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Proposed Let of a Croft/Part of a Croft

The Isle of Rum Community Trust is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of Croft No. 3 on the Isle of Rum to Mrs Nicola Goddard of "Quinta", Upper Brighton Road, Worthing, Sussex, BN14 9JB.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofterscommission.org.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

CROFTERS COMMISSION COIMISEAN NAN CROITEARAN DECISION ON APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

The application by Stuart C Underwood owner of the holding Tom-na-Coillie, Stronmilchan, Glenorchy & Innishall has been Approved. Case no: 5.01.36286

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

Proposed Let of a Croft/Part of a Croft

Thomas Lorne Nelson is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at Achaleven, Connel, Argyll, to Neil MacLean of Achaleven Farmhouse, Connel, Argyll, PA37 1PF. If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofterscommission.org.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Proposed Let of a Croft

Mrs Rena Cameron, Strath Farm, Duror is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at Strath, Duror to Mr John Cameron, Glenview, Duror, Argyll.

If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by the 26th April 2012, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

The Annual General Meeting of Oban Hospice Limited

Will be held in the Undercroft, Church of Scotland Centre in Glencruitten Road, Oban on Monday 9th April 2012 at 7.30pm.

The meeting is public and all interested parties will be warmly welcomed.

Papers for the AGM can be examined on or after Monday 2nd April, during normal business hours, at the Hospice's Registered Office:

R A Clements Associates,
5 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AZ
D Mudie, Secretary

UNDER THE FATAL ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS INQUIRY (SCOTLAND) ACT 1976

The Sheriff of NORTH STRATHCLYDE AT OBAN will hold an Inquiry on 2 May 2012 at 10.00am within the Sheriff Court House at ALBANY STREET, OBAN, PA34 4AL into the circumstances of the death of JAMES STEELE, (DOB 26.07.1979), Dam Road Cottage, St Conan's Road, Lochawe, Oban.

DAVID GLANCY

District Procurator Fiscal for the District of OBAN

69% of the business community read the regional press

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society



Regional Press closer to home

West Coast Property Guide
West Coast Property Guide
West Coast Property Guide
West Coast Property Guide
West Coast Property Guide



To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ 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. 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	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00495/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North East of Arle Farmhouse Aros Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
12/00502/PP	Erection of replacement garage.	Ach Na Shee Breadalbane Street Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 8PX	Tobermory Area Office
12/00551/PP	Formation of lay-by	Land Off A849 and Adjacent to Craignure Water Treatment Works Craignure	Sub Post Office Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute
12/00552/PP	Construction of a new service reservoir (20m x 8.5m x 2.6m high) within a fenced compound (30m x 20m) and formation of vehicular access lay-by and parking area.	Land South West of Fois An Craignure Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure
12/00595/PP	Removal of condition 3 of planning permission 11/00325/PP relative to the access road improvements	Braigh Bunesan Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA67 6DS	Sub Post Office Bunesan Isle of Mull
12/00646/PP	Erection of log cabin to provide temporary sheltered bar facilities and formation of decking area and covered walkway	Marina Ardentrive Bay Kerrera Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4SX	Oban Area Office
12/00565/PP	Erection of 3 poly tunnels (1 x Retrospective).	Corachic Clematis Taynuilt Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday, Dalriada House, Lochneil Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8ST, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at 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.

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00575/AMS C	Approval of conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 24 in relation to Phase 2 and 3 of the development approved in principle by outline planning permission reference 08/00189/OUT	Dunstaffnage Mains Farm Dunbeg Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1PZ	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardsraig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at 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	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00568/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land Adjacent to Na Cearn Bownmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7JF	Bownmore Area Office Isle of Islay

COUNCIL SURGERY

Councillor Roddy McCuish Ward: 4 Oban South and the Isles and Councillor Louise Glen-Lee Ward: 5 Oban North and Lorn
Will be holding a surgery on:

Date: Friday 30th March 2012 Time: 2.30pm - 5.00pm Venue: Municipal Buildings, Oban

Members' Services Unit, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT. Tel: 01546 604209 Fax: 01546 604349

Councillor Louise Glen-Lee Ward: 5 Oban North and Lorn
Will be holding surgeries in APRIL as follows:

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday 4th April	3.30pm - 4.30pm	Taynuilt Village Hall
Wednesday 4th April	5.00pm - 6.00pm	Dunbeg Primary School
Wednesday 18th April	12 noon - 1.00pm	Lismore Village Hall
Wednesday 18th April	4.00pm - 5.00pm	Victory Hall, Benderloch
Monday 23rd April	3.30pm - 4.30pm	Appin Village Hall
Monday 23rd April	6.30pm - 7.30pm	Easdale Primary School

No appointments are necessary. Councillor Glen-Lee can also be contacted by e-mail - louise.glen-lee@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by phone/text 07717 526 999 or Tel: 01546 604029
Members' Services Unit, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT. Tel: 01546 604209 Fax: 01546 604349

Lower Ardtoe Common Grazings meeting to elect a new grazings committee on Saturday 7th April at 4pm at Sonas, Ardtoe.

STRONABA COMMON GRAZING, SPEAN BRIDGE
A meeting will be held on April 20, 2012 at 7pm within No 5 Stronaba for the purpose of selecting a new Common Grazings Committee. Angus MacDonald Grazings Clerk.

EVENT TO PUBLICISE?
The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Friday 20th April 2012
New members welcome
For further details contact:
(01389) 726543

Atlantis Leisure
ATLANTIS LEISURE - NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Annual General Meeting of Oban & Lorn Community Enterprise Limited will be held at Atlantis Leisure on Monday 23rd April at 7pm, Atlantis Function Room.
All welcome.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

West Coast property service
www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk

TO LET

WANTED ACCOMMODATION
for June, July and August 2012, one or two bedrooms required, furnished preferred, Oban if possible.
Telephone Mr Watson 01241 876473.

ROOM TO LET CORPACH
Fully furnished bedroom in spacious house, sharing lounge, dining room, kitchen and utility room. £260 pcm. (including council tax). No smoking, Pets, or DSS. References required. 01397 772861 (day). 01397 772468 (after 6pm).

TAYNUILT - TO LET
2 bedroom fully furnished flat to let (minimum 6 months) suitable for 1 or 2 people. Immaculate condition. Strictly no smoking and sorry, not suitable for children
Tel: 01631 570060 during office hours

To let in the picturesque village of Carradale, 3 bedroom detached bungalow, large garden, driveway, L-shaped lounge/diner, whirlpool bath and shower, dual central heating oil and solid fuel, references required, £525 pcm.
Telephone 07401835333.

WANTED

WANTED Min. five bedroom house in Campbeltown for long term rent.
Preferably furnished. Cat must be accepted.
Please reply to: Box No. 101, Campbeltown Courier, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, PA28 6AE.

Want to let your holiday property? We'll give you more bookings, less hassle
Achieve as many as 47 bookings a year
FREE property inspection & letting consultation
EXPERT photos & advertising
Call today for your FREE owners pack
0800 915 4750
www.SykesOwners.co.uk
SYKES cottages

CORPACH COTTAGE TO LET
Semi Detached Cottage, adjacent to Caledonian Canal, part furnished, 4 bedrooms, living room, separate dining/kitchen, shower room, 2nd shower room/bathroom, D/G, electric C/H., rent £650pcm, available immediately.
View Telephone 07703 134618

COMMERCIAL

TO RENT OBAN TOWN CENTRE
LARGE DOUBLE SHOWROOM, TOTAL 220SQ.METRE. FRONT SHOWROOM 60SQ.M REAR SHOWROOM/WORKSHOP STORE WITH LARGE ENTRY SHUTTER DOOR 160SQ.M
ON SITE CAR PARK, ALARM SYSTEM AND TOILET.
RENT £15,000 + VAT PER ANNUM
CONTACT JOHN 07799692072 OR john.stoddarts@btconnect.com

FLAT TO LET Mossfield Drive, Oban
2 bedrooms, fully furnished, front and rear garden, £550 pcm + council tax and utilities, deposit and references required, Sorry No DS
Telephone 07917 208881 or 077862 34796

0800 081 8989
ADRIAN FLUX

The ideal place to look for property advertising
The regional press is perfectly placed for property advertising. Almost one-in-five adults choose their local paper as their main source for this information, more than any other medium.
CALL 01631 568000
Regional Press closer to home

Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

VAUXHALL COMBO DIESEL 1250CC

First reg 19/4/07.
Mot 6/3/13.

Telephone:
01852 500273/
07710 060021

£2800 + VAT

FORD CONNECT DIESEL 1750CC

First reg 24/2/06.
Mot 24/2/13.

Telephone:
01852 500273/
07710 060021

£1800 + VAT

RENAULT CLIO DIESEL 1500CC

First reg 24/10/07.
Mot 3/11/12.

Telephone:
01852 500273/
07710 060021

£3000 + VAT

57 PLATE, SAAB 9-5 AIRFLOW, DIESEL



19,600miles, Tax Aug, MOT Oct, 6 stack CD, Radio, Sat Nav, Cruise Control, Air Con, Alarm & Immob, Front & Rear Fogs, Rear Parking Sensor, ABS, 4 New Tyres (Good Year Opti Grip)

Telephone:
01397 703168

£9000 o.n.o.

1.5 DCi MICRA VISTA 2009



Diesel, economical cheap tax. 52,000 miles. CD Player, electric windows, full service history, 12 months tax, 12 months mot

Tel: 07500181214/01631 710582

£5200

RENAULT MEGANE DIESEL ESTATE



1.9 Diesel, air con, cd, 6 speed, Taxed and Motd Silver Good condition.

Telephone:
07500786612

£1600 o.n.o.

FORD TRANSIT 260 / 02 PLATE



SWB, semi-high roof, white, 128K miles Tax July '12, MOT August '12 Good runner.

Telephone:
07990566574

£2250 o.n.o.

2010 HONDA NHX 110 LEAD SCOOTER



5000 miles, 108cc, recently serviced, top box included, one owner.

Telephone:
01880 770 152

£1300 o.n.o.

ELDDIS TWO BERTH CARAVAN



Double glazed, all electrics in working order, easily towed. Ready for the holiday.

Telephone:
07990 974026

£850 o.n.o.

2008 HONDA CBR125R



7,600 miles, very good condition, taxed March until April 2013, good tyres.

Telephone:
01546 606639 or
07879826560

£1600

WANTED FOR EXPORT

Landcruisers, Hilux, also 2 w/d Vauxhall Bravos, any 4 x4 considered old or new, running or not, immediate payment on collection.

Telephone:
07703 490572

WANTED

Any 4 x 4 vehicle, Landrover 90 or 110, Mitsubishi, Toyota etc or any 4 x 4 pickup, any condition or MOT failure, will travel.

Telephone:
07864035750

WANTED

All types of 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrover, Toyota, anything considered. We also buy non runners, accident damaged and MOT failures, instant cash.

Telephone:
01250 884306 or
mobile 07885 203020

WANTED

Motor Homes or Caravantes, any age or condition. We also buy damaged or damp ones. Instant Cash.

Telephone:
01250 884306 or
mobile 07885 203020

RENAULT GRAND SCENIC

Petrol, 05 reg, 82,000 miles, taxed till May 2012, MOT Aug 2012, new cam belt fitted.

Telephone:
01838 200378

£1500 o.n.o.

WANTED ALL TYPES OF 4 X 4

All types of commercial vehicles, all types of plant and machinery.

Telephone
Fort William
07789428535.

HOBBY EXCLUSIVE 660, 2000 MODEL



21ft, end bedroom, 5/6 berth, cooker, hob, all mod cons, slight damage, bone dry.

Telephone:
07979742526
or 07748495501
no time-wasters.

£2,250 one for quick sale

ABBEY AWARD BRIGHTSTAR



1994, Toilet, Shower, New condition inside & out, Auto reversing system. No time-wasters.

Telephone:
07748495501
or 07979742526
- ask for William

£1950 o.n.o.

VAUXHALL VECTRA, 2007, 1.9CTDI



120bhp, exclusive, mot'd 1 year, taxed Oct, full service history, 70,000 miles, good condition.

Telephone:
01967 431257

£4250

MITSUBISHI PAJERO 2.5 TURBO DIESEL AUTOMATIC SWB



3 Door, Automatic, Turbo Diesel, 1993 K Reg, imported 2004, low miles and MoT

Green/Blue over Silver with Cloth Trim, Radio/cassette, Alloy wheels with new General Grabber road tyres, electric mirrors, electric windows. Professionally fitted tow bar and electric. Reliable, cheap to run vehicle.

Reliable, cheap to run vehicle.
Tel: 07917014628

£1200

SUBARU FORESTER, 2004



102,000 miles, MOT October, Tax September, Towbar, all MOTs and receipts, YGC.

Tel: 01855 811092 or 0787 6402612

£3100

PHOENIX HONDA



09 09 Honda CB 600 FA-8 Pearl Cool White, 6000mils£4,995
09 09 Honda CBF 1000 A-9 Pearl Cool White, 6620mils£4,995
09 09 Honda CBR 600 RR-9 Pearl Sunbeam White, 5691mils£5,995
08 57 Honda SH 125-7 Quasar Silver, 8000mils£1,595
04 04 Honda ST 1300 A-4 Silver, 39000mils£5,495
10 59 Honda VFR 1200 F-A Pearl Sunbeam White, 27000mils£8,495
11 11 Honda VFR 1200 F-A Seal Silver, 800mils£9,995
11 60 Honda WW 125 EX2-A Silver, 2400mils£1,995
11 11 Honda XL 700 VA-B Pearl Concours Black, 0mils£6,195
03 03 BMW R 1150 RT Blue, 46000mils£4,295
09 59 Ducati 848 Red, 1200mils£7,495
08 08 Ducati M696 + White, 5000mils£4,995
06 06 Harley-Davidson XL 1200 Low SportsterR White And Black, 3000mils£5,995
10 10 Harley-Davidson XR 1200 Orange, 2140mils£5,495
10 10 Kawasaki EX 650 C9F Black, 12000mils£3,995
09 59 Kawasaki KLE 650 A9F Grey, 5250mils£4,995
07 57 Moto Guzzi V12 SPORT Black, 4000mils£5,495
09 09 Piaggio XEVO 250 Grey, 7000mils£2,895
10 10 Suzuki GSF 650 SA K9 Black, 6300mils£4,395
09 09 Suzuki GSF650 SA K8 Black, 13000mils£3,495
05 05 Suzuki GSXR 1000 K5 Grey, 5000mils£4,995
10 60 Triumph SPRINT GT 1050 ABS Blue, 4000mils£7,895
03 03 Yamaha XJ 600 S DIVERSION Silver, 7000mils£2,195
05 05 Yamaha XJR 1300 Blue, 9800mils£4,495
11 11 Yamaha YZF R125 Blue, 2000mils£3,495
09 09 Yamaha YZF R6 R 07 Blue, 9000mils£5,995

HONDA CRF 100



Excellent condition very little use.

Mobile:
07900 002350

£800 o.n.o.

WANTED

CARAVANS, CAMPERVANS, MOTORHOMES, ANY YEAR, SIZE OR CONDITION CONSIDERED.

Telephone:
07900 882331

NISSAN AVENTURA



Black, '08 plate, thirty thousand miles, excellent condition internally and externally, all the toys including real time reversing camera, 6 CD changer, heated leather seats and uphill reverse assist, three new tyres, new wiper blades, 12 month MOT and 6 months road tax.

Tel: 01586 552626

£13,000

ELDDIS SUNTOR 2005 4 BERTH LUXURY MOTORHOME



Why pay around £36,000 for a new one when you can pay only £22,000 for a motorhome that has only done 18,816 miles? Stored in its own purpose built stable and heated over the winter months. All equipment for year round usage. 3 berth bicycle rack. Tax and MOT until October 2012.

Tel: 01880 820918

£22,000

Phoenix Honda Motorcycles
Glensburgh Rd
Grangemouth
FK3 8XJ

phoenixmotorcycle.co.uk
01324 888 280

Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times
MOTORING MOTORING MOTORING MOTORING

E.M. COMMERCIALS LTD

09 MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR, dopick, manual, leather, alloys, side-steps, black, 25k	£12,950
58 MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR, double cab pick-up, auto, e pack, air cond, alloys, black, 15K	£12,950
58 MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR, double cab pick-up, manual, E-pack, alloys, cruise, black, 25K	£12,950
09 MITSUBISHI L200 ANIMAL, double cab, manual, canopy, leather, Sat Nav, Alloys, Red, 45k	£10,750
06 MITSUBISHI L200 4 work, dc pick-up, met silver, 58k	£8,950
58 MITSUBISHI L200 4LFE, single cab pickup, epack, air cond, black, 40k	£8,950
56 MITSUBISHI L200 4LFE, club cab, canopy, E-pack, air con, met green, 25k	£8,950
56 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN EQUIPE Commercial SWB, manual, epack alloys, tow bar, met silver	£8,450
07 MITSUBISHI L200 4LFE, Single Cab pickup, 4WD, White, 38k	£7,950
05 MITSUBISHI L200 4LFE, double cab pick up, alloys, E-pack, met black, 80k	£5,950
09 NISSAN NAVARA Platinum Double Cab Pick-up, manual, leather, sun roof, black pepper, 58k miles	£11,950
58 NISSAN NAVARA OUTLAW able cab pickup, manual, alloy cover, epack, alloys, black	£9,950
57 NISSAN NAVARA TREK, King Cab pick up, mountain top, black, 30k	£9,450
57 NISSAN NAVARA AVENTURA dc pick up, auto leather, sat nav, 6 speed, Canopy, black	£10,950
57 NISSAN NAVARA AVENTURA dc pick up, auto leather, sat nav, 6 speed, Canopy, black	£8,950
57 NISSAN NAVARA OUTLAW, King Cab Pick-up manual, canopy, alloys, met red	£8,450
07 NISSAN NAVARA TREK King Cab pickup, 6 speed, load-lifter, met blue, 25k	£8,950
10 FORD TRANSIT 350, 115hp, LWB, high top van, SLD, E-pack, CD, plymet white, choice of three	From 29950
09 FORD TRANSIT 350 TDCi edwb dropside pick-up, alloy body	£8,950
58 FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB, 131t, alloy, drop-side, pick up, tail lift, CD, tow bar white	£7,950
08 FORD TRANSIT 350 TDCi crew cab drop side pick up, alloy body, tail lift, 35k	£5,950
56 FORD RANGER, single cab pick up, 2wd E-pack, white, 20k	£5,950
05 FORD TRANSIT 350, alloy drop side pick up, fitted tool boxes, white, 55k, choice of 4 from	£4,950
59 LANDROVER 110, double cab pick up, 6-speed, manual, canopy, tow-pack, blue 40k	£14,750
08 LANDROVER DISCOVERY 3 T06 auto commercial, cruise control, air con, met green	£14,750
06 LANDROVER 110 TDS, High Capacity Pickup, Truckman Canopy, White, 100k	£7,950
58 VW CRAFTER, CRUS, TDI, 109 LWB High top van, Epack white	£8,750
56 VW LT35 LWB, High Top Crew Van SLD, 9 seats, rear load area, white, 18k miles, choice	£7,950
08 VW TRANSPORTER T32 1.9TD LWB High top van, air con, remote locking, white	£5,400
09 NISSAN NV110, LWB, high top van, 3.0d, 140hp, twin rear wheel, white	£9,950
06 NISSAN NV110, High Capacity Pickup, Truckman Canopy, White, 100k	£7,950
53 SUZUKI DF Mega Double Cab Pick-up 2.5 T/D Manual, Side Bars, A-Bar, rear cover, met gold, 60k	£4,250
00 JCB 406, articulated loader, 4 hitch bucket, good tyres, direct council, 1,800 hrs	£15,250

Many other vehicles in stock. All above vehicles plus VAT at 20%
Kilwinning, Ayrshire
Tel: 01294 554098 or 077696 88110
Fax: 01294 554580
www.emcommercials.co.uk

THE NEW XV CROSSOVER IS NOW HERE.



are you subaru?

The new Subaru XV moves crossovers to the next level and promises to offer an enhanced driving experience that's different to other crossovers. Stylish and distinctly urban, the new XV has caused a storm of its own, and not just because of its good looks. To experience the new XV for yourself call in or call us today.

Aird Motors, High Street, Beaulieu
01463 782266 www.airdmotors.co.uk

Motoring Times

For the latest local deals on new and used cars

Need an MOT? From Cars to Light Commercial

The Quarry Road MOT CENTRE

FLIT

new car index

ISUZU S & S Services
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel: 01292 850080 / 880440

RENAULT W.D Semple
Inverary & Lochgilhead
Tel: 01499 302150

TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL:
01631 568000

SUBARU S & S Services
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel: 01292 880080/880440

14FT DAYBOAT



With enclosed, lockableuddy on strong galvanised trailer and with very reliable Honda 100 Cdi 4-stroke engine. Lowrance fish finder and charging point. Very reliable boat in ready to go fishing condition.

Telephone: 01631 720213 (after 6pm)

£1950 o.v.n.o.

SNAPDRAGON 747 - 24



Bilge keel.

Telephone:
01586 552929

£4000 o.n.o.

BOAT FOR SALE 16FT WITH TYPE 400



Boat is on galvanised road trailer with Yamaha 30hp. It has oars and rollocks, anchor, ropes, all in vgc, ready for season.

Telephone:
07796752974/
01631 564809

£2450 o.n.o.

MOORING FOR SALE

CBMOA Mooring 48

Carding Mill Bay close to sailing club

Suitable for vessel up to 6m length Well maintained

Telephone:
Dot Macdonald
01631 566066

£2000 o.n.o.

SUMMER BERTHS AVAILABLE

Craobh Haven by Lochgilhead

Tel 01852 500222 craobhmarina@talk21.com

CRAOBH marina

FOR EVERYTHING BMW.

BMW 116i Sport 5-door

£289 **£289**
deposit per month

- 17" light alloy wheels
- Bluetooth hands-free facility
- Start/Stop button with keyless engine start
- Drive Performance Control
- iDrive controller



BMW 116i Sport 5-door - representative example

£289 Customer deposit	£289 Monthly payment x47	£1124^{.58} Dealer deposit contribution	48 Months	£21,305 On the road cash price*	£1413^{.58} Total deposit	£19,891^{.42} Total amount of credit
£10 Option to purchase fee [^]	£9090 Optional final payment	£22,962 Total amount payable by customer		£24,086^{.58} Total amount payable	4.9% Rate of interest (fixed)	4.9% APR Representative

COMPLIMENTARY 5 YEAR/60,000 MILE SERVICE PLAN
on any new BMW purchased and delivered between 16/3/12 and 31/3/12



BMW Z4 sDrive20i M Sport

£329 **£329**
deposit per month

- 18" M Alloys • Kansas leather upholstery
- M aerodynamic bodystyling
- M Sport suspension • Bluetooth hands-free facility



BMW 318i Sport Plus Coupé

£399 **£399**
deposit per month

- Dakota Leather Interior • Xenon Headlights
- 19" M Sport Alloy Wheels • Business Navigation System
- Bluetooth hands-free facility



BMW 520 Diesel M Sport Auto

£999 **£499**
deposit per month

- Dakota Leather Interior • Sun Protection Glass
- 19" Double Spoke Alloy Wheels • BMW Business Media
- Exterior mirrors folding & auto dimming

COMPLIMENTARY 3 YEAR/30,000 MILE SERVICE PLAN
on any BMW Approved Used Car purchased and delivered between 16/3/12 and 31/3/12



06 06 116i SE 5dr
• Quartz blue • Grey cloth • 50,162 miles
• 16" Alloys • PDC • Auto air-con
• CD • MF steering wheel **£6,995**



09 09 120 Diesel M Sport Coupé
• Titanium silver • Black half leather
• 17" Alloys • PDC • Auto air-con
• MF steering wheel **£15,995**



11 11 520 Diesel SE Saloon
• Deep sea blue • Oyster leather • Bluetooth
• 9,798 miles • 17" Alloys
• Front seat heating • USB **£25,995**

This is just a small selection of our Approved Used stock at our Hillington branch. Many more to choose from.

- 1 Series**
- 06 06 116i SE 5dr, Quartz blue, grey cloth seats, 50,162 miles, 16" alloys, PDC, auto air con, CD, MF steering wheel.....£6,995
 - 11 61 116i Sport 3dr, Jet black, black cloth, 4,359 miles, 17" alloys, sport seats & steering wheel, air con, front foglamps.....£15,495
 - 11 61 118 Diesel M Sport 3dr, Alpine white, black cloth/sensatec, 5,696 miles, 18" alloys, comfort pack, air con, MF controls.....£19,995
 - 10 60 118 Diesel M Sport Coupé, Titanium silver, coral red leather, 7,392 miles, 18" alloys, Bluetooth, comfort package.....£19,995
 - 09 09 120 Diesel M Sport Coupé, Titanium silver, black half leather seats, 17" alloys, PDC, auto air con, MF steering wheel.....£15,995
- 3 Series**
- 10 60 318i SE Touring, Deep sea blue, black cloth, 14,315 miles, 17" alloys, PDC, auto climate air con, stop start technology.....£16,995
 - 08 58 318i M Sport, Black sapphire, black leather, 44,467 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, cruise, auto air con.....£14,995
 - 11 61 318i Performance Edition, Titanium silver, black cloth, 10 miles, 18" alloys, sport pack, PDC rear, auto air con.....£19,995
 - 11 61 318i Performance Edition, Black sapphire, black cloth, 10 miles, 18" alloys, sport pack, PDC rear, auto air con.....£19,995
 - 11 61 318 Diesel Exclusive Edition, Space grey, black leather, MOA, 17" alloys, bluetooth, PDC rear, servotronic steering.....£22,995
 - 09 59 318 Diesel M Sport Auto, Titanium silver, alcantara/cloth, 14,186 miles, 17" alloys, PDC, auto climate air con.....£17,995
 - 09 59 318 Diesel M Sport Saloon, Black sapphire, cloth/black alcantara, 16,021 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, cruise.....£16,995
 - 09 09 320i SE Coupe Auto, Space grey, grey cloth, 23,228 miles, 17" alloys, electric glass sunroof, PDC, xenons, cruise.....£15,995
 - 07 07 320i M Sport Coupe, Sparkling graphite, cloth/alcantara, 45,777 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, cruise, auto air con.....£13,995
 - 09 09 320 Diesel SE Coupe, Space grey, black cloth, 28,720 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, cruise, auto air con, MF controls.....£18,995
 - 08 08 320 Diesel SE Coupe Auto, Crimson red, black cloth, 41,500 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, front foglamps, xenons.....£14,995
 - 11 61 320 Diesel SE Convertible Auto, Alpine white, coral red leather, 4,500, 18" alloys, bluetooth, PDC front & rear.....£30,995
 - 09 09 320 Diesel M Sport Coupe Auto, Black sapphire, cream beige leather, 30,363 miles, 19" alloys, bluetooth, PDC rear.....£20,995
 - 11 11 325i M Sport Convertible Auto, Titanium silver, coral red leather, 7,000 miles, 19" alloys, navigation, Bluetooth.....£33,995
 - 10 60 330i M Sport Coupé Auto, Mineral white, black leather, 5,302 miles, 19" alloys, navigation, Bluetooth, BMW assist.....£28,995
- 5 Series**
- 11 11 520 Diesel SE, Imperial Blue, oyster leather, 5,107 miles, 18" alloys, media package, heated seats, Bluetooth.....£26,995
 - 11 11 520 Diesel SE, Deep sea blue, oyster leather, 9,798 miles, 17" alloys, Bluetooth, USB, PDC, seat heating front.....£25,995
 - 11 61 520 Diesel M Sport Saloon, Titanium silver, oyster/black leather, MOA, 18" alloys, media package, BMW assist.....£29,995
 - 11 11 530 Diesel SE Touring Auto, Space Grey, black leather, 7,921 miles, 19" alloys, media package, dynamic package.....£36,995
 - 11 11 530 Diesel Sport Touring Auto, Titanium silver, black leather, 7,817 miles, 19" alloys, media package, reverse camera.....£37,995
- M Series**
- 11 11 M3 Coupé Auto, Interlagos blue, black leather, 8,206 miles, 19" alloys, navigation, Bluetooth, BMW assist, PDC.....£49,995
 - X1
 - 11 11 X1 sDrive18d SE, Titanium Silver, black cloth, 8,647 miles, 17" alloys, PDC, auto air con, MF controls, front fogs, CD.....£19,995
 - X5
 - 10 60 X5 xDrive 40 Diesel M Sport, Alpine white, black leather, 18,873 miles, 20" alloys, media pack, reverse assist camera with top view, PDC front & rear, rain sensor, auto headlight activation, electric front seats & driver memory, seat heating front, powered bootlid, exterior mirrors folding & auto dimming, panoramic glass sunroof, headlight wash, sun protection glass.....£42,995
 - 11 61 X5 xDrive 40 Diesel M Sport, Alpine white, black leather, 20" alloys, media package, BMW assist, loudspeaker system, reverse assist camera, PDC front & rear, electric folding exterior mirrors, panoramic glass sunroof, seat heating front, powered bootlid operation, electric front seats & driver memory, xenons, headlamp wash, rain sensor, auto headlight activation, sun protection glass, 5 year service inclusive.....£48,995
- X6**
- 09 09 X6 xDrive30 Diesel, Vermilion red, beige nevada leather, 19,320 miles, 20" alloys, media package, heated seats, Bluetooth, PDC front & rear, auto lights, auto climate.....£31,995
- Z4**
- 11 11 Z4 30i M Sport Roadster Auto, Melbourne red metallic, black leather, 3,769 miles, 19" alloys, navigation, BMW assist, Bluetooth, comfort package, connectivity package, seat heating, sport automatic transmission.....£32,995



10 60 318i SE Touring
• Deep sea blue • Black cloth • 14,315 miles
• 17" alloys • Auto climate
• Start Stop technology **£16,995**



09 59 318 Diesel M Sport Auto
• Titanium silver • Alcantara cloth • PDC
• 14,186 miles • 17" Alloys
• Auto climate air conditioning **£17,995**



10 60 X5 xDrive 40 Diesel M Sport
• Alpine white • Black leather • 18,873 miles
• 20" Alloys • Media pack • PDC
• Power boot • Rain sensor **£42,995**

Douglas Park

Hillington (Used cars only)
Hillington Road G52 4BL
0141 891 4783

Glasgow
Kyle Street G4 0HP
0141 333 0088

www.douglasparkglasgowbmw.co.uk

BMW EfficientDynamics
Less emissions. More driving pleasure.

Douglas Park



Official fuel economy figures for the BMW range: Extra Urban 26.2-78.5mpg (10.8-3.6l/100km).
Urban 14.6-56.5mpg (19.3-5.0l/100km). Combined 20.3-68.9mpg (13.9-4.1l/100km). CO2 emissions 325-109g/km

Offer available on selected BMW 1 Series 5-door, Z4, 5 Series, and 3 Series Coupé models ordered between 1 January and 31 March 2012 and registered by 30 June 2012, subject to availability. Representative finance example is based on a BMW Select agreement for the models pictured, a 116i Sport 5-door, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 7.5p per mile; a Z4 sDrive20i M Sport, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 8.10p per mile; and a 318i Sport Plus Coupé, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 6.6p per mile. *On the road cash prices are based on manufacturer's recommended retail price and includes 3 year BMW Dealer Warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months' road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. ^Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges may be payable if you return the vehicle. BMW Service Inclusive covers servicing costs for 5 years or 60,000 miles on new BMW or 3 years/30,000 miles on any approved used BMW (whichever occurs sooner). Covers routine manufacturer servicing only. Service must be undertaken by Douglas Park Ltd in accordance with manufacturer's servicing schedule. Prices are correct at time of publication and are subject to change without notice. Retail customers only. Finance is subject to credit acceptance and available to over 18s in the UK only (excluding the Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services (BMW FS). Whilst we have close links with BMW FS and commonly introduce customers to BMW FS, we do not work exclusively with BMW FS. BMW EfficientDynamics reduces emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the model range.

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

NOW ONLINE

Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk. Simply use the coupons on this page or visit the website and input your details there

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES
VALERIE DAVIDE PRINT
'Ted', framed, 72cm x 58cm, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562133

BABY EQUIPMENT
PRAM Urban Detour, tan, sturdy, good condition, Oban, £25 Telephone 07765 820857.

BICYCLES
BICYCLE Adams Tag-along, suitable for ages 3-7. Good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720073.
BICYCLE TRIALER Triumph, suitable for 2 children up to 5 yrs, good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720073.

BUILDING / DIY
WORKBENCH BNIB Wolfcraft Mastercut 1000, unwanted gift, (cost £112.99) £49.99 Telephone 01631 710394.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES
DELL DESKTOP PC Dell dimension 2100, P3 cpu, 80gb HD, upgraded DVD drive, 15" TFT monitor, Harman/Kardon stereo speakers, XP SP3 + software, £49.99 Telephone 01631 710394.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES
DISHWASHER full size Siemens, 1 year old, silver, still under extended warranty £150 Telephone 07947 855941.

FRIDGE FREEZER silver 50/50 Beko frost free, excellent condition, 6'6" tall. Full size fridge, 4 freezer draws, £150 Telephone 07947 855941.

DOMESTIC PETS
COLLIE PUPS farm reared, six weeks old, mum can be seen, Telephone 01631 760205.

EQUESTRIAN
HEADCOLLAR thick leather, fit Clydesdale, old, but excellent condition, £25 Telephone 01397 722311 after 7pm.
PADDED GIRTH brand new, Cottage Craft, 40", £10 Telephone 01397 722311 after 7pm.

PONY BRIDLE black Cottage Craft Webbing, as new, £20 Telephone 01397 722311 after 7pm.

FIREARMS
223 WEATHERBY RIFLE fitted with a Zeiss 6 x 42 Dialat - Z scope, screwed for moderator, very accurate rifle. FAC Required £700 Telephone 01397 703778.

GUN CABINET metal, reasonable condition £45 Telephone 01631 562272.

FURNITURE
BRAND NEW BED Deluxe double divan plus luxurious deep memory foam mattress, Ortho sprung, unused in polythene, cost £750, will accept £250, delivered to you, will sell mattress separately. Telephone 07922812345
COMPUTER DESK beech effect, hardly used, good condition £15 Telephone 01631 566896.

DESK beech effect with double doors £35 Telephone 01631 563486.
DIGGER BED yellow Next with mattress, for children 2-6 years. Hardly used, vgc, digger bucket shelf at front. Cost £300 new, £49.99 Telephone 07773 733262.

HEADBOARD super king black leather, 73inch by 33inch excellent condition, £45 Telephone 01631 565194.

GARDEN MACHINERY
R I D E - O N LAWNMOWER Hayter 13/30 Heritage tractor £495 Telephone 01631 770260 Kilmore mobile 07909 794222.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES
PANEL HEATERS Siemens Electrical x 3, 800W £49.99 Telephone 01546 602715.

PAPER LOG MAKER eko-mania press for making logs from recycled paper £10 Telephone 01631 710394.

PLASTIC FUEL TANK 1200 litre, domestic, used, good condition. Buyer uplifts £20 Telephone 01546 886355.

STORAGE HEATERS Dimplex Electric Slimline, two years old, as new £39 Telephone 01631 565927.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS
PEARLISED PAPER & CARD White, Baby Blue & Baby Pink colours available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print, Telephone 01586 554975.

HOME OFFICE
DYMO 320 LABEL WRITER address labels, etc., comes with 2.5 rolls of labels. Internet download needed to install to pc with windows xp or earlier £45 Telephone 01770 700480.

FILING CABINET two drawer, beech £20 Telephone 01631 563486.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM
KITCHEN MIXER TAP boxed new S S tap with all fittings £15 Telephone 01631 720369.

KITCHEN VINYL new, unlaid, neutral colour, 2.60m x 2.24m £29 Telephone 01631 565927.

RANGE COOKER Ariston make, size 900 x 600 x 600h, propane gas 5 ring hob, large electric fan oven & grill, good working order, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562746.

LIVESTOCK
PULLETS Point of Lay Telephone 01786 842788 eves or 07500 264977.
RHODE ISLAND CROSS HENS for sale, hatched 2011, in full lay. Telephone 01583 505204 or mobile 07795 843558

MAIL ORDER
SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

OBAN WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk, Telephone .

MARINE
CQR ANCHOR as good as new, genuine 45lb CQR anchor Drop-forged, galvanised. Made in Scotland. Suitable for 3/8" chain £475 ono Telephone 07767 615184.

MARINE UNDER £250
MOORING ROPE 20 metres of 14mm white staple spun polyprop mooring rope with fairlead protector sleeve. New, spliced and ready for use £20 Telephone 01631 567487.

MISCELLANEOUS
CARD TABLES two in fairly good condition, would probably benefit from new felt however it is not essential £49.50 Telephone 01567 820521.
YALE SECURITY ALARM new boxed kit 1. Security system for 1 room 1 main door and 1 window Further accessories can be bought for up to 20 rooms, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720369.

MOBILE AND HOME TELEPHONES
IPHONE 4S 16gb, white, unused, in sealed box, any network. Unwanted upgrade £400 ono Telephone 01631 562133.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
DRUM KIT "Stagg" five piece junior drum kit, colour red £49 Telephone 01631 564177.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT
BINOCULARS Zeiss 7 x 45 BTP as new £800 Telephone 01397 703778.

PET ACCESSORIES
CAT BASKET wicker travelling cat basket £10 Telephone 01586 552834.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY
PAPER & CARD A4/A3 size, sold in reams or by the box, ideal for copiers, lasers and fax machines. Contact Krisp Print, Telephone 01586 554975.

RAFFLE TICKETS for your prize draw, numbered and perforated to your requirements. Call Krisp Print, Telephone 01586 554975.

WANTED
SCRAP METAL All types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals, Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

WANTED Copper, Brass, Lead, Zinc, Stainless Steel, All Alloys, All types of Cable, Household and Armoured. Best prices paid, Telephone 07770 724851 or 0800 959 6483.
XL DOG CAGE wanted - to purchase or hire. Dog cage suitable for a labrador dog. Telephone 01770 600260.

PERSONALS

TO CHERYL LOUISE CARMICHAEL HAPPY 21st BIRTHDAY
HAVE A CRAZY FANTASTIC WEEKEND ! WITH LOTS OF LOVE AND CUDDLES FROM YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
XXXXXX

This little girl turned forty today that's a fact She said keep it quiet but where would the fun be in that But all joking aside take it all in your stride Raise a glass shout out loud I'm forty and proud.
Look who's forty! Love from all the family

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk
TURN YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS INTO CASH!
UNDER £50 FREE!
Visit the website at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk to input your details and not only will your ad appear online but will also appear in the Oban Times, The Campbeltown Courier, and The Argyllshire Advertiser
ITEMS UNDER £50 ARE FREE
alternatively you can fill in the form below and hand it in to any of our offices (details below)
PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE MONDAY 4.00pm NO MORE THAN 25 WORDS PLEASE
ITEM DESCRIPTION PRICE TELEPHONE
ONLY ONE ITEM PER COUPON
FOR MULTIPLE ITEMS INPUT YOUR DETAILS ONLINE AT www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk
YOUR LOCAL WEST HIGHLAND OFFICES:
OBAN - The Oban Times, Lochavon Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
FORT WILLIAM - The Oban Times, Moore House, The Parade, Fort William PH33 0BA
CAMBELTOWN - The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA32 6AE
LOCHGILFLEAD - Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilfhead, Argyll PA31 8NB

"The Oban Times offers unbeatable reach in Oban, being read by an outstanding 97% of the total population and 9044 more adults than its nearest competitor the Daily Record."

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Tel: 01631 568000 email: adverts@obantimes.co.uk www.obantimes.co.uk

LOCAL services

scrap cars wanted
E B GALL
AUTOMOTIVE RECYCLING
Wanted all scrap cars and vans, top money paid for Mercedes cars and vans and all 4 x 4's. Also catalytic converters.
Yard 37B, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7HU. Tel: 01397 253334 Mob: 07598 701010
Scrap cars bought for cash
Best prices for ferrous and non ferrous metals

window blinds
Chris Craft window blinds
OBAN 01852 300174 FORT WILLIAM 01855 831480
FREE MEASURING / FREE ESTIMATES
FREE FITTING / MADE IN SCOTLAND
ALL BLINDS MADE TO MEASURE
FREEPHONE 0800 371250
Check out our Customer Views at www.customers.chriscraft.co.uk

storm damage
WEST COAST BUILDERS
Maintenance & Repair
STORM DAMAGE - ALSO INSURANCE QUOTES
Brickwork • Plastering • Slating • Guttering • Roofwork • Extensions
Renovations • Landscaping / Patios • UPVC Doors
24 Hour Call
Tel: 01631 710334 or 01631 710851
Mob: 07796390411 or 07730654693

cleaning
1ST CHOICE CLEANING SPECIALISTS
Carpets and upholstery cleaning at its best!
All work guaranteed
Telephone: 07815 036684 or 01631 720322 01631 720297 Evenings

funeral directors
D & A MUNN LTD.
FUNERAL DIRECTORS | EST. 1880
JOINERS AND BUILDERS
BREADALBANE STREET, OBAN
24 hour Family run business
Owned and run by Ian MacInnes and son.
TELEPHONE: 01631 562562
WWW.MUNNS-OBAN.CO.UK

plumbing & heating
HAMISH HOEY & SON
Joiners & Funeral Directors
37-39 Stevenson Street, Oban
Telephone: 01631 562269
24-HOUR SERVICE
We install and maintain plumbing systems
We install and maintain all types of central heating
We maintain all types of boilers
We install underfloor heating systems
JG J M Gillies Ltd
Plumbing & Heating Contractors
Unit 8 Tweedmill Soroba Road Oban Argyll safe
Tel: 01631 565636 Fax 01631 564724 Email information @jmgillies.co.uk

plumbing services
STEVE K Plumbing
Plumbing, installation and repairs
Bathroom fitting including floor and wall tiling.
Distance no object • Tel: 07910 852421

caravans
CARAVANS FOR SALE
ON SITE CARAVANS OFF SITE CARAVANS
from £8,950 from £1,095
Loch Awe Holiday Park
Ideal for temporary use * can be delivered to your location
lochawe holiday park
Contact us on 01866 822 666 lochaweholidaypark@btconnect.com
www.argyllholidays.com

removals & storage
MACQUEEN BROS LTD
Removals/Storage & Self Storage
Full range of packing materials
Glegallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG
Tel: (01631) 564848
www.macqueenbros.com

mobile hairdresser
Ladies Mobile Hairdressing
Cut and Blow Dry from £12
Within the Lochgilfhead and Oban Areas
Please ring for an appointment.
Tel. 0797 985 7931

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS
YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.
Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space for them or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.
1 Advertiser copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.
7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.
8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.
9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication of the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
10 Advertisers under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.
Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, (01631) 568000 Fax (01631) 568001 - www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office

The Oban Times PREPAID ADVERTISING RATES
Private Classifieds
Lineage Rates
Minimum charge £13.85 + VAT (up to 25 words)
thereafter £2.70 per line
Box Number Fee £3.50 (+ VAT)
Births, Engagements, Marriages, Deaths and Acknowledgments
Minimum charge £12.80 (+ VAT)
thereafter £2.50 per line (+ VAT)
In Memoriam:
Minimum charge \$9.45 (+ VAT)
thereafter £2.00 per line (+ VAT)
Trade Classifieds:
See Trade Classified Page for Rates
Trade Display:
£9.63 per single column centimetre
Recruitment:
£16.55 per single column centimetre
Public Notices:
£10.90 per single column centimetre
Properties:
£10.50 per single column centimetre
Private Accommodation to Let/Wanted:
£10.50 per single column centimetre
(all rates exclusive of VAT)
Personals:
£7.42 per single column centimetre
Payment: Pre-payment required for advertisements of less than £50 (excluding death notices)
Please make cheques and postal orders payable to The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, www.obantimes.co.uk

Visit us online
A TOUCH OF SCOTLAND EVERY WEEK!
The Oban Times SUBSCRIPTION RATES (one year)
U.K. £58.00
Rest of World £100.00
The Oban Times Ltd
P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, Scotland, UK
www.obantimes.co.uk
click
VISIT US AT www.obantimes.co.uk

UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL?
The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk

Get an E-edition of The Oban Times delivered to your inbox on the day of publication.
www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

BIRTHS



CRINGEAN

Mark and Jenny (nee Stewart) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter Zoe Leitch, on March 15, 2012. A wee sister for Kate. Second grandchild for Allan and Kay, Taynult and Jack and Helen, Glasgow. A sincere thank you to midwives Ronnie and Fiona.



MACQUEEN

Richard and Stacy (nee Smith) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Matthew John, a little brother for Cailean. Many thanks to both Oban and RAH Maternity Units



MILLAR - GEMMELL

Keith and Marion are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Emily Catherine Millar on March 16, 2012. A little sister for Rhys and first granddaughter for Charlie and Joyce, William and Anne, Oban. Special thanks to Betty MacIntyre and ambulance crew David and Jim.

RUBY WEDDING



MACLACHLAN - TOUGH

At Inveraray and Glenaray Parish Church on March 22, 1972 by the Rev David Kellas, Kenny to Moira. Smell the flowers!

GOLDEN WEDDING



CAMPBELL - MACNEILL

At St Columba Parish Church, St Vincent Street, Glasgow, on March 30, 1962, Iain to Marion (formerly of Tieve). Present address 140 Rannoch Drive, Bearsden G61 2BJ.

DAIRON - THOMSON

At Oban Old Parish Church on April 4, 1962, by the late Rev William MacDonald, James to Catriona. Presently living in Dunblane.



TWORT

John and Jean Twort at Rusthall Parish Church, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, March 31, 1962 by the Rev Norman Mantle.

DEATHS

BATT - Suddenly at home after a long illness on March 22, 2012. Nigel Timothy (Tim) Batt, Lochdon, Isle of Mull. Sadly missed by his family and friends. Funeral Service to be held at Torosay Parish Church on Friday March 30, 2012 at 11.00am. Thereafter to Kilpatrick Duart Cemetery.

BURTON - Elizabeth Cameron (Nee Clark) Peacefully, aged 90, at Lorn & Islands Hospital, on March 10, 2012, in the early afternoon, with her elder son Walter at her side. She is also survived by younger son Alasdair daughter in law Carol, and granddaughters Caitriana, Alexandra, Gillian and Cameron. Funeral at Achnaba Cemetery on Saturday March 31, at 11 am. Donations if desired, in Lieu of flowers, can be made to North Argyll Carers Centre, Albany Street, Oban.

MACDONALD - Suddenly but peacefully, on March 24, 2012, at The Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, in his 72nd year, Ian, of No. 1 Tigh-An-Ur, Kilchrenan, much loved husband of Jane and dear father of Dominic and Lindsay and a beloved brother of Eithel and Christine. Sadly missed. Funeral will take place from Kilchrenan Parish Church, on Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 1.00 p.m., thereafter to Kilchrenan Cemetery. Retiral collection/donations will be taken for the Diabetic Research Wellness Foundation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - We would like to say thank you to everyone for flowers, cards, phone calls, messages of sympathy and comfort on the sad passing of our dear Linda. Thank you to Ewen MacLennan, Rev Lamb, John Fraser, Ella Gill and all the medical teams and to all for help with the catering and at the hall - too many to name individually. The sum raised for Paisley ITU, Belford Hospital and Air Ambulance amounted to £1,725. This is a huge amount, along with the crowds who came from near and far to attend Linda's funeral shows what a wonderful person she was. A wonderful partner, daughter, daughter-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, auntie, niece, friend and work colleague. Our lives have changed without Linda, but she will live on in our hearts forever. -Tottie, Cathie, Hugh, Elspeth, Catherine Ann, Hughena, Duncan, David, Wilma and all the family.

FERGUSON - Jean and family would like to express their sincere thanks to all those who have kindly sent cards and flowers and offered their support and sympathy following the recent very sad loss of Alexander. Special thanks also to the dedicated doctors, nurses and staff from the Lorn Medical Centre including District and specialist nurses who have provided excellent care for many years, as well as the medical and nursing staff from the Lorn and Islands Hospital and home carers. We are deeply indebted to them all for their expertise and compassionate care. Grateful thanks also to Hamish Hoey and family for their professional and sensitive arrangements, to all who attended the service at Cardross crematorium and to the Rev F Booth for conducting a comforting service and delivering a warm tribute. All donations gratefully received in memory of Alex will be forwarded to The British Heart Foundation.

FORSYTH - Jimmy, Ronnie and Margaret would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all their immediate family, relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy and support received following the passing of Mary (Calac). Sincere thanks to Drs Calder and Wilmington, the team at Ballachulish Medical Centre and to the district and Macmillan nurses for their exceptional care and attention. Special thanks to Ewen and John at John McLellan & Co for their caring and efficient service. Thank you to Rev Fr MacKinnon for the Requiem Mass also thank you to Barbara Summers for the beautiful music at the service, to May McCannacher for the flowers and Peggy MacRae and Alexander McCannacher for their help at the church. Thanks also to the Ballachulish Hotel and Isobel Robertson for catering. Finally thank you to all who came from near and far to pay their last respects at the church and graveside. An amount of £653 was raised at the funeral mass and will be donated to Ballachulish Medical Centre and Macmillan nurses. Moran Taing, - 2 Park Road, Ballachulish.

KENNEDY - Kenneth and Fiona MacPhee would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for cards, telephone calls and flowers following our recent loss of Mum Iona. Thanks to all who attended the service, graveside and Rowanree Hotel afterwards. Sincere thanks to Rev Dugald Cameron for his comforting service and to Hamish Hoey and Son for their caring and efficient funeral arrangements. We also wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all the staff of Ward B Lorn and Islands Hospital and Ambulance Crew for all their care given to Mum.

WYLIE - The family of the late William King Wylie (Willie), would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their sympathy and support over the past few weeks, for cards, phone calls and visits we have received. Thanks to all who attended the service at the Salvation Army and cemetery. Our thanks to Envy Mrs P McIntyre for a comforting and uplifting service, to Ewen for the funeral arrangements, doctors and nurses for their care and attention during his stay in the Belford Hospital, also doctors and nurses of Kinlochleven Surgery, Home Carers, Crossroads and the McDonald Hotel for catering. Donations received will be donated to the Salvation Army's missionary work. God Bless You All.

OBAN TIMES BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

MEMORIALS

BURTON - For our boys, David Campbell Burton died 40 years ago on April 2 and Paul Gordon Burton died 16 years ago on March 3. Forever in our hearts and minds.

- The Burton family, Oban and East Kilbride.

CAMERON - Precious memories of Hugh devoted husband, dad, father-in-law and grampa who passed away March 31, 2002. Forever in our thoughts.

- Bella and family.

CLARK - In loving memory of Effie, who died on March 26, 2009.

Thank you for the years we shared

The love you gave and the way you cared

In my heart you will always stay

Loved and remembered everyday.

- Mary, Kilninan, Torloisk.

CLARK - In loving memory of my much loved and loving aunt Effie, died at Kilninan, Isle of Mull on March 26, 2009.

I think of you with love and longing everyday.

Precious, precious memories.

- Love always Mary and husband Bobby.

FRASER - In loving memory of Neil, dear husband and dad who died March 31, 2011.

Sadly missed

Loved and remembered always.

- Cathy, Lorraine, Craig and Ryan.

GRAY - Treasured memories of Morag, a loving mum, gran and great granny, died March 25, 2004.

Time takes away the edge of grief

But memory turns back every leaf

- Sadly missed Irene and family. xxx

MACDONALD - In loving memory of our dear mum and nana Morag, who died March 31st, 2005.

Sadly missed

Inserted by her family Bunesan Mull and Oban

MACKINNON - In loving memory of my dear wife Bella who passed away on March 29 2010.

Two years have gone since you were here

But in my eyes there is still a tear.

In my heart you will always stay

Love and miss you every day.

- From loving husband Donald.

McCAMLEY - In fond remembrance of Joan (nee Matheson), a loving and loved wife, mother and gran who died in Edinburgh April 1, 2004.

Deep are the memories and precious they stay

No passing of time can take them away.

- Bill and all the family.

McCLOUNNAN - Precious memories of my dear brother Calum who sadly passed away on March 27, 2007.

Deep in my heart there is a picture

More precious than silver or gold

It's a picture of my brother Calum

Whose memory will never grow old.

- Christine, Lachie and family.

MOYES - In loving memory of Flora who died March 30, 1990

Fondly remembered.

- By Ted and family at Inverness, Maryburgh, Selkirk and Shetland

PROSSER - Mary. In loving memory of a dear mum, mother-in-law and granny who passed away March 26, 1997.

Love always.

- Frances, Tommy and family.

WALKER - In loving memory of my dear father Archie, who died on March 29, 1996.

Sadly missed.

- Inserted by his loving son Archie.

WALKER - In loving memory of our father and grandfather Archie, who passed away March 29, 1996.

Always in our thoughts.

- Allan and family, Islay, Gartmore and Blanehead.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Sunday 1 April 2012 Palm Sunday

St John's Cathedral, Oban Holy Communion.....08.00 Sung Eucharist.....10.15

Loop System Large Print Hymn Books All Welcome

Norman MacCallum, Provost. (01631) 562323

Kilbrandon Kirk Holy Eucharist.....15.15

St Columba, Gruline, Mull Holy Communion.....11.00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist.....08.00

Evangelist.....20.15

Advance Notice Thursday 5 April 2012 Maundy Thursday

St John's Cathedral, Oban Holy Eucharist.....19.30

St Columba, Gruline, Mull Holy Communion.....19.00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist.....08.00

Compline.....20.15

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN

Campbell Street Church Sunday 1 April 2012 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

Phone-In 'Worship Link' available

Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh (01631) 567076 All welcome

CHARITY DONATIONS

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer

West of Scotland Fundraising Office 1st Floor, Erskine House North Avenue, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR

Tel 0808 100 6000 In memory of Dawn Joyce

CANCER RESEARCH UK

Fighting Cancer on all fronts... CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation

Commitment of over £15 million each year

Cancer Research UK Scotland Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court Clydebank Business Park Clydebank, G81 2LA

Oban Hospice

CARING FOR THE FUTURE Donations always gratefully accepted

Please contact David Mudie (Treasurer) Oban Hospice Ltd The Croft Kilmore

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch Donations always gratefully accepted

Please contact Mrs Lillian Kermode Tynwald, Glenburn, Soroba Road, Oban 01631 571009

FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH

Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy

Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, RO. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

The Clubhouse at Glencruitten Restaurant & Bar Available for Private Functions Great Food Ample Parking Tel: 01631 562868

OBAN TIMES BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Thought for the Week

Same-sex 'marriage'

As we know the Scottish Government initiated a consultation last year on the possibility of redefining marriage so that people of the same-sex be allowed to marry. Many groups and individuals have participated in the consultation, and the Church which I represent is one of the strongest voices against changing the definition of marriage.

We believe marriage is a natural institution formed by a man and a woman, essentially rooted in their complementarity, with its orientation to procreation. Marriage is the relationship at the centre of human living and its essential nature is formed by the union of male and female. Although people in other unions see aspects of marriage, particularly love, reflected in their relationships these should not be defined as marriage. If that gives the union of man and woman in marriage a privileged position over others so be it - exact equality in every area of human living is neither achievable nor always appropriate. To uphold and promote the traditional understanding of marriage is reasonable and does not imply in itself any judgment on those who form same-sex partnerships. Furthermore the state has already taken steps to recognise their status through civil-unions legislation.

From a Christian perspective marriage as a union between a man and a woman has been upheld from the Book of Genesis, by Jesus' own words, and in the teaching of the Church through the centuries. In the Roman Catholic Church marriage is one of the sacraments and, since it enjoys the dignity of reflecting the love of Christ for his Church as taught by St. Paul (Ephesians 5:12), it is a most precious and holy part of our faith. We hope and pray that Scotland also will continue to honour and respect marriage as it has been handed on to us.

Joseph Toal Bishop of Argyll and the Isles

Obituary

Elizabeth Ann 'Betty' MacDonald 13.6.1934 - 6.2.2012



IT IS with sorrow and deep sadness that we record the passing of a beloved daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, Betty MacDonald on February 6, 2012.

Betty, aged 77, formerly of 11 Melanctee, Claggan, Fort William, passed away suddenly at the Belford Hospital. Originally from Fort William, Betty was the only daughter born to Samuel and Ina Rogers, who also had three sons. At three-years old, she lost her older brother Samuel to tuberculosis and shortly thereafter, her father. Eventually remarrying, her mother then had another daughter, Sarah.

Betty attended Fort William school until she turned 15, at which point she left to work as an office clerk at British Aluminium Plant and then briefly at the Imperial Hotel.

As a teenager, Betty came to faith in God, trusting Him as her Lord and Saviour. Throughout the remainder of her life, Betty's faith was of utmost importance and a formidable source of strength for her.

Betty met her now late husband, Neil MacDonald, aged 18 and after a short courtship, the two wed on March 19, 1954. Together they raised five children: Wilma, Catherine, Nora, Neil, and Elizabeth.

Betty and Neil moved to Edinburgh in 1981 as they felt called to serve the homeless and underprivileged living in the city. After Neil's ordination, they spent 12 years ministering with Edinburgh City Mission. Her selfless and generous nature gained much renown, as she spent her days cooking and distributing food to the destitute. So fondly was she recognized by those she helped that she became known as 'Queen' - demonstrating the admiration they held for her.

Although they eventually left Edinburgh, her faithful service to others never ceased, rather it became a distinguishing lifestyle. Alongside her husband and assisting her daughter and son-in-law, Betty was able to travel to

Hungary, Greece, Austria, and Croatia to help distribute aid to poverty-stricken individuals and refugees fleeing the Yugoslavian War.

Betty's family was very precious to her. Each of her five children, married and eventually she became the proud grandmother to 10 beloved grandchildren. Much later, she was blessed further with seven great grandchildren thus far.

Sadly, her husband Neil passed away on June 7, 2004 and was dearly missed by Betty and the family circle. Amidst this loss, she became the uniting member of the entire family - hosting parties, becoming the mainstay for holidays, and even travelling to the USA to attend one of her grandson's weddings.

In recent years and until her passing, Betty continued to demonstrate her dedication to her family by faithfully assisting in the care of her centenarian mother, Mrs Ina Hope.

The well-attended funeral service took place on the February 13, 2012 at Fort William Baptist Church, where Betty held church membership, and was conducted by the Rev David White and Rev Gordon Mair of the Free Church.

Her body was interred alongside her husband's at the Blairour Cemetery in Spear Bridge. Removal of the remains was carried out efficiently and respectfully by J.T. McLellan. Donations amounting to £643.36 collected in Betty's memory were given to Diabetes UK.

She is survived by her mother, Ina; sister, Sarah; brother, Nat; daughters, Wilma, Catherine, Nora, and Elizabeth; son, Neil; 10 grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. All the family miss her dearly and wish to wholeheartedly thank all who showed kindness towards the family, sent cards, called, and assisted in any way during this time of bereavement. This support was invaluable and of great consolation to the family. WL



The pupils are pictured during their professional and entertaining Big Bang Show, as co-ordinated by their schools and Scottish Opera.

Big Bang Show entertains thanks to Scottish Opera

PRIMARY school pupils from Coll, Colonsay, Easdale joined peers at Oban's St Columba's Primary School to put on a spectacular half hour show on science, thanks to Scottish Opera.

The stunning performance, called the Big Bang Show, was put together in just one morning, although pupils from the various schools had been rehearsing the songs for the past five weeks.

A small crowd of parents and people from the community turned up to take in last Thursday's performance, delivering a warm and well deserved round of applause for what was an astounding show.



The first fundraising event of the year for The North Argyll Eventide Home saw £540 raised at a daffodil tea held in Glencruitten Church Hall last Thursday. Fiona MacKillop, Convener of the Ladies' Committee, said: 'The day went really well, we want to thank everyone for all the money raised and say that late donations are also welcome.' The next fundraiser will be a coffee morning in September.

Obituary

Ian MacDonald 7.7.1910 - 4.1.2012



Ian was born in Bellevue Road, Edinburgh. His father ran a light engineering and model making business in Frederick Street.

In 1917 the family moved out to Newbridge on the outskirts of the city where Ian attended Ratho Primary School. Then, travelling by train to Edinburgh, he attended secondary school at the Royal High School. The family again moved, this time to Corstorphine around 1930.

Ian started learning his trade as a piano and organ tuner and restorer with Methven Simpson Ltd (music house). He was proficient at playing both instruments. Ian moved to London to continue his trade until 1940 when he joined the RAF. He trained as a Wireless Operator and was stationed in South Africa until 1945, flying as an operator in planes teaching air crew.

He returned to Methven Simpson, and in 1947 was the standby instrument technician returning the instruments in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh during the early days of the Edinburgh Festival recitals. In 1948 he accompanied a piano which had been gifted to the Iona Community.

Later in 1948 he took advantage of the scheme to train returning servicemen, and studied Technical Drawing and Woodwork at a College in Aberdeen. After completing the course, he was appointed to the position of Technical Master at Keil School, Dumbarton in 1950 and remained there until his retirement in 1977.

Ian was more than just a teacher of technical subjects at Keil School; he was a mentor, a person of high standards, a strict disciplinarian and a person of compassion, who had the ability to reprimand a wayward pupil or correct an immature reaction. At that time it may have appeared harsh; however the pupil on reflection understood and to this day, up to sixty years on, remembered his tutelage and guidance. Mr MacDonald, better known as Wee Aye, left a lasting set of high standards allowing no compromise for thousands of pupils at Keil.

He believed that his classes were about more than just teaching technical subjects. He was very passionate about the subjects he taught and was always seeking perfection in his teaching, by encouraging pupils to develop to the best of their ability. He regarded Woodwork, or time in the workshop as relief and therapy from the intensities of academic study.

The Ian MacDonald mantras that I remember from his classes are as follows;

- Woodwork: measure twice and cut once.
- Engineering drawing: start slowly and gain momentum.</

Two national titles in a row for Chris

15-year-old Lochaber Phoenix boxer was a class apart

LOCHABER Phoenix ABC's 15-year old Chris Bradley has cemented his position as one of the finest young boxers in Scotland by winning the national title for the second year running. Up against John Redpath of Midlothian ABC in his final in the Scottish Amateur Championships at Ravenscraig in Motherwell last weekend, Bradley was a class apart throughout.

Right from the bell the Lochaber youngster used his greater strength to force the Midlothian boxer backwards and was comfortably ahead after the first. In round two Chris' double jab and right crossed checked Redpath's efforts to gain a foothold in the contest and was

looking every inch a champion. Round three saw Bradley use all the experience gained in his years of boxing - realising he was far ahead on points, he used constant movement to frustrate Redpath as his adversary became more ragged. Chris did not concede a single point in the last and ran out a clear winner, landing almost five times as many punches as his opponent.

BOXING

Aitchison, who as a growing teenager has gone through four weight divisions in the last 12 months. He found himself face to face with perhaps the most avoided boxer in Scottish schoolboy boxing, Lewis Hay of Keir Hardie ABC, Scottish and British champion for the last two years. The bout proved that James Aitchison belongs at the highest level in Britain. Neither could establish supremacy in a nip and tuck first round, as Hay was faced with a real challenge to his supremacy. Round two saw both boys show amazing powers of



Scottish champion Chris Bradley, centre, silver medallist James Aitchison, right and Igor Sliwinski, left, did Lochaber proud at the national championships. 20_113b0x01

concentration as their physical chess match continued with neither willing to concede ground. Just two points down going into the last, James had no choice but to leave himself open to counters as he bravely forced the action. At the final bell, James had to be content with silver but also the knowledge that he can compete against the best. The club also had 15 year-old Igor Sliwinski boxing at the

finals, but the fiery fighter hit a roadblock in what was his first Scottish open championships. Up against the much more experienced Aiden Byrne of Clydebank Ospreys ABC in the quarter-final, Igor - who has blown through the Scottish novice and Northern divisions like a tornado in his first full season - lost out by four points. Club official Steve Docherty, who himself officiated over

90 bouts at the finals, said: 'We are all delighted with Chris who has continued to dominate his division over the course of the last year and hopefully this year he can win the British title also. We've got the same hopes for James Aitchison who although he didn't win the Scottish this year has proved if he continues in this vein he can go as far as he wants. Igor has done so much in

his first season that we maybe became a bit carried away with how far he could go in this competition but I firmly believe he has a huge future ahead of him.' Lochaber Phoenix ABC hold their final home show of the season at the Nevis Centre on Saturday. Tickets are available from the venue, Niall Clark (07554994744), Vince Lopez(079793210245) or Steve Docherty (07767 069532).

Alleycats are the scratch champions

TEN PIN BOWLING

THE LOCHABER Building Supplies 10-pin bowling team leagues at the Nevis Centre are now complete.

The scratch division was won by Alleycats with 84 points followed by Council in second spot on 80 with Ardcoe/Nevis Radio in third on 61 points after they all won out 5-0 winners in the final week.

Council triumphed in the handicap division with 62 points followed by Ardcoe/Nevis Radio in second on 59 points. Both teams ran out 5-0 winners in the final week. Alleycats were in third place on 54 points.

Council had the season high scratch game with 660, the best handicap game with 865 and handicap two-game series with 1688. Alleycats had the season's highest two-game scratch series with 1281.

Individual season highs went to Pam Weller (Alleycats) with the top scratch game of 214 and the top scratch two-game series with 369. Les MacFarlane (Phoenix) had the season's high handicap game with 252. Hazel White (Underdogs) had the top two-game handicap series with 465.

Highest top scratch average went to Tony White Locke (Alleycats) with 154 closely followed by teammate Pam Weller on 153. Third was Stewart Duncan (Likely Lads) on 145.

Four local riders take part in trial

SIX DAYS TRIAL

FOUR LOCHABER Motorcycle Club riders will be among 40 Scottish competitors lining up for the Scottish Six Days Trial on May 7-12.

Kevin Dignan (Thistle Gas) will be number 114, Michael Fothergill (Montesa) 115, Gavin Brown (HLS Beta) 163 and Gary MacLennan (HLS Beta) 164.

Kinlochleven joiner Gary MacDonald, a strong contender in recent years, is sitting out this year's event but told The Oban Times he would 'definitely be back' for next year.

The 275-strong field also includes riders from across Europe and from as far afield as America, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Clean sheet for Fort but they fail to score at the other end

Highland League Fort William 0 Rothes 0

FORT KEPT a clean sheet for the first time in months - but couldn't score at the other end either.

In a game purists would rather forget, the Lochaber men edged out Rothes in terms of possession, while the visitors arguably had the best chances.

Fort coach Danny Conlon was upbeat about the result - but was the first to admit the game was

far from a classic. He told The Oban Times: 'When was the last time Fort William has been disappointed with a shut-out?'

'We did not play well on the day and they were there for the taking. Over the 90 minutes, though, I thought a draw was the right result.'

The Fort had high hopes of doing the double over the Speysiders after their fine away win last autumn. They started strongly, and

FOOTBALL

Rothes' defence had to look sharp to block Michael Gillespie's effort, then Darren Quigg headed over when well-placed.

Rothes had a gilt-edged chance to one up after 21 minutes after Mark Gillespie downed Sean McIntosh in the box, but McKinstry's low penalty was snaffled by Robbie Donaldson - the Fort keeper's second successive penalty save.

Michael Dunn should have opened Rothes' account before the break, but he headed past.

Fort's centreback Andy Martin then performed heroics to keep Rothes out, his last-gasp defensive header hitting the bar before being cleared. The shaven-headed defender took a nasty head knock in the process. If the first half was low key the second was even quieter, with chances few and far between.

Martin's turn and shot tested the keeper then MacLeod headed just past as Fort looked for the opening goal.

Sub John Hewitt was looking lively for Fort but his low shot on 78 minutes presented Horn with an easy save.

Fort finished with some kind of a flourish and Mark Gillespie was unlucky to see his dipping volley fly just over in the final minute of injury time.

After their hard-won point, Fort were due to play Clachnacuddin at home last night. Both Danny McIntosh and Farquhar MacRae could make a return to the squad for the away day to Keith on Saturday.



Penalty! Fort's Mark Gillespie brings down Sean McIntosh in the box - but McKinstry couldn't convert. 20_113f001e01

Boxing programme proves a big hit

NETHER Lochaber 'Claymores' Amateur Boxing Club has become the first in Scotland to be put through their 10-week assessment for the new 'Amateur Boxing Academy'.

And the 20-week non-contact boxing training programme for 10-19 year-olds who have never boxed before being has proved a big hit in Kinlochleven.

Amateur Boxing Scotland, who set the academy in January, sent CashBack co-ordinator Craig McAvoy to Kinlochleven High School to assess the youngsters' progress.

Mr McAvoy and Claymores' head coach Martin Glenesk trained and boxed for Rosyth ABC while serving in the

BOXING

forces, while club fitness coach John McDuff spent years as an army training instructor - Mr McAvoy's current position in the army. The close bond between the three men ensured the trainees were put through an extremely rigorous assessment.

As friends and family looked on, Mr Glenesk and Mr McDuff got the squad to demonstrate warm up exercises and footwork, co-ordination and speed skills.

Mr McAvoy then led a fast-paced drill in which the trainees had to perform punches and defensive moves. By the end, Mr McAvoy was



Martin Glenesk, Craig McAvoy and John McDuff: delighted with youngsters' progress.

delighted with the standard on show after only 10 weeks and praised both trainees and club coaches for their hard work in the gym.

Every trainee passed with flying colours and Kinlochleven High School head teacher John McGilp presented the certificates.

Mr Glenesk said: 'It has been fantastic to see the trainees develop their skills over the past 10 weeks and they have all increased their fitness levels as well as having great fun with all the games. Their dedication and enthusiasm has made running the Academy an absolute pleasure.'



Cashback Academy pupils impressed with their skills.

Packing a punch at Cashback Academy

BOXING

FOR THE past ten weeks Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club welcomed youngsters from local schools Amateur Boxing Scotland's Cashback for Communities Scheme, which helps regenerate money taken from criminals and use it in local communities.

The 10 weeks culminated in a display by 30 youngsters for their families and friends at Caol Community Centre, when around 100 people enjoyed children aged from 10 to 13 put on a demonstration of all the skills they had learned over the course. Their fantastic display was

all the more remarkable in that it was co-ordinated by Craig McAvoy of ABS, who had met the children for the first time only 90 minutes previously.

A 'very impressed' Mr McAvoy said after the presentation of certificates: 'It's a credit to themselves and their coaching team of Niall Clark, Vince Lopez and Steve Docherty that they have learned so much in such a short space of time.'

It is hoped for a further set of courses will be announced shortly after Easter.

Get ready for the season

If you haven't already ordered your promotional printing for the 2012 summer season then now is the time to do so.



Krisp Print offer excellent prices on medium to long run colour brochures and leaflets as well as short run digital printing. We also offer a professional design service to help you make a good first impression where it counts.

Campbelltown • T: 01586 554975
E: staff@krispprint.co.uk
Oban • T: 01631 568015
E: sales@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk



WIN £600

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

N MacKenzie
Killin, Perthshire

D Cruickshank
Kames, Tighnabraich

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.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

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.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name

Address

.....

..... Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here

Primary school ping-pong

TABLE TENNIS

THE ANNUAL Oban Primary Schools Table Tennis Tournament was held last Friday in Oban Primary Campus.

Primary seven pupils from Rockfield, St. Columba's and Park schools took part.

After a long, hard-fought competition Sarah Twort of Park Primary emerged as the winner of the girls' tournament with Rachel MacGregor, also of Park Primary, the runner-up.

The winner of the boys' tournament was Ruairidh Horne of Rockfield Primary with Craig Easton of Rockfield the runner-up.

Over-35s league

FOOTBALL

OBAN Over-35s League Cup: Preliminary round - Hydro 2, Seil 2 (Seil win on penalties); quarter finals - Sail Trim Coach 2, Teachers 6; Spartak 2, Trialists 4; Emergency 2; Taynuilt 5; Seil 2, West Coast Massive 3.

Semi finals are between Taynuilt v Trialists and Teachers v West Coast Massive after school holidays.

Dalmally Golf Club celebrates 25 years



Members get ready for the annual competition. 16_t13dalmally01

LAST weekend marked the opening tournament of the 25th anniversary of the re-establishment of Dalmally Golf Club.

The course was designed by Calum MacFarlane-Barrow and built in 1987. It is still a 'small club' with just over 100 members.

Club captain, Billy McKay, said: 'We have a green keeper but he is our only paid member of staff. Work is done by volunteers from our members.'

Friendly

'I come down from Arrochar to play and the people here are really friendly.'

We play matches against Killin and Taynuilt and everyone knows each other. This club is what golf is all about.'

He added: 'The opening match of the season is the Gents against the Ladies. It is good fun but

GOLF

very competitive - everyone likes to win.'

As part of their quarter-century the club is trying to promote junior golf and some members are going on PGA coaching courses.

Coaching sessions

Janet Buchanan is one of the proposed coaches. She said: 'What we are hoping to do is establish coaching sessions over the summer for primary school children in Dalmally and other youngsters that are interested from other areas.'

'This is a course that the PGA are advocating for rural clubs as much as possible and we are really looking forward to it.'

She added: 'If we don't promote younger members we will not be here in the future.'

Matt burns up the track at Snetterton with two seconds and a third

MOTOR CYCLING

UP-and-coming superbike racer Matt Shellcock from Benderloch has set his sights on the BSB National Superstock 600 championships this season after a blistering warm-up at the weekend at Snetterton.

The 21-year-old and his team took his Yamaha R6 600 to the Norfolk race track to take part in the British Motorcycle Racing Club's National Championships, which is seen as a feeder to the BSB championships and came home with two seconds and a third, out of 37 starters.

The results were more than Matt and his team, including his father, Ian, and coaches and engine tuners Mick and Joe Burns of Diamond Race Products, Newcastle, had hoped for.

Matt said: 'I was shocked and surprised at the result but it made it very worthwhile going down there.'

'The British superbike championships start at Easter at Brands Hatch and this is what I have been building up to for the last three years.'

The superbike championships comprises 13 rounds, with two meetings a month between Easter and October, which are televised nationally.

Matt is also planning to compete in the Scottish Championships at Knockhill, which will also be televised.

Matt, a mechanic for West Coast Motors in Oban, which has been extremely supportive of his motorcycle racing, spent four days in the south of Spain at Cartagena earlier in the month, testing the bike, getting the engine tuned and the suspension right.

And it all paid off at the weekend with excellent results in all the races and places in three.

He trains twice a week with Connel's John MacPhee but the pair race in different categories, with Matt on the 600cc production bikes and John in the smaller specially-built 250cc class in Europe, in a bid to break through into MotoGP.



Matt Shellcock, Benderloch, on his production Yamaha R6 600 in Cartagena, Spain, during pre-season testing.

Celtic Cup's new sponsor

PARCEL company AJG Parcels has made its first shinty delivery by sponsoring the game's oldest tournament, the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup.

AJG Parcels, which is based in Inverness, has 20 vans operating in Argyll, and has struck a two year sponsorship deal with the Glasgow Celtic Society, whose competition began in 1879, 17 years before the Camanachd Cup was first played for.

The competition will be rebranded as the AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup.

SHINTY

Fraser Maclean, operations director of AJG Parcels, said: 'This is our company's 20th anniversary and we felt it was important to do something for shinty, Scotland's oldest team game, and particularly for the Argyll area where our vans are such a distinctive daily sight.'

Three ties in the first round of the AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup will be played this Saturday (March 31) and the final will be held on June 23, at a venue yet to be arranged.

Ewan and Mairi win penultimate race in balmy conditions at Glen Loy

THE PENULTIMATE round of the Alpine Bikes sponsored West Highland Wheelers took place at Glen Loy on Sunday.

A fiendish course had been set by Andrew Foggo and the riders enjoyed the balmy conditions too.

Ewan Thorburn was a worthy winner with Mairi Meldrum taking the ladies race. The full Winter League has been won by Mairi for the ladies.

The men's series has a number

of possible permutations, coming down to a battle between Ben Miller, the current leader Lachlan Blair and John Shirley at the final race at Nevis Range on April 15. Thanks to Colleen and Sile for timing and Fiona for marshalling

Results:
1 Ewan Thorburn 52:09; 2 Lachlan Blair 57:09; 3 Andrew Foggo 58:22; 4 Roddy Wells 60:06; 5 Jesse Wigman 61:02; 6 Davy Gunn 61:12; 7 Gavin

CYCLING

Linfield 62:25; 8 Mairi Meldrum 62:54; 9 Neil Wright 63:28; 10 Spook Munro 63:49; 11 Emma Holgate 68:23; 12 Brian Barbour 68:31; 13 Marek Polowianik 68:46; 14 Andy Rogers 71:14; 15 Brychan Martin 76:29; 16 Peter Martin 76:55; 17 Marian Austin 88:02. Short Course - 1 Gregor Linfield 71:41; 2 Cory Muir 72:23; 3 Gregor Muir 72:24.

Leisure lose

INDOOR FOOTBALL

IN THE Ali Young League at the Nevis Centre, long time leaders Lochaber Leisure suffered their first defeat of the season after they were shocked 4-3 by Achintore FC. TNF United went second after a fine 8-4 win over close rivals Goon Squad, while Bayern Bru notched only their second win when they dumped HWE No-stars 3-0.

Elsewhere, the Granite House edged out Stroke City 5-4 and AA Young defeated Steaua Soakbreast 3-0.

Bankies no match for 11-goal Taynuilt

Central Scottish Welfare League
Taynuilt Amateurs 11 Clydebank 1

THIS was a one-sided match as Taynuilt are likely to play this season, with substitute Kenny McKechnie bagging a second-half hat trick in the 11-1

demolition. Clydebank, who are bottom of the league, did put up some opposition for the first 20 minutes and cancelled out a George MacMillan goal, his first for the club.

However, it was always a matter of how many goals Taynuilt

FOOTBALL

would win by and the home side were never really tested, with a strong spine to the team of Innes Paterson and Davy McPhee at centre back, Craig Campbell and the jinking Scott Maitland in centre midfield and Kris Gillies and Stephen Kelly up front.

Kelly made it 2-1 with the best goal of the match, after being played through by Steven McLeod, and MacMillan got his second just before the break to make it 3-1 at half-time.

McKechnie came on for Steven McLeod, who was feeling the pace at half time, and joined Gillies up front.

The second half served as shooting practice for the dominant Taynuilt as Gillies (2), Kelly, Chris McCaig and McPhee goals, on top of McKechnie's hat trick, made up the 11-1 scoreline.

This match will have served as a boost to the team's morale, as well as its goal difference, but next week will be a tougher tie away to Western Rovers, with six first team players unavailable.

Saturday's match was Allan Beaton's last game for the club, as he goes to Australia at the end of the month. The club wished him good luck on his travels.



Scott Maitland takes on the Clydebank defence during Taynuilt's one-sided 11-1 win on Saturday. 07_t13tay02

Lorne need one win from two to avoid relegation

RBS West Division Two
Oban Lorne 0 Wigtownshire 19

OBAN Lorne will have to win at least one of their two remaining fixtures to avoid relegation after a devastating loss to rivals Wigtownshire.

Having beaten the visitors 13-3 in Stranraer earlier in the season and with the unexpected return of front row forward Robin MacQueen, who had retired following a serious ankle injury at the beginning of the season, Oban Lorne were in confident mood but they failed to score, as Wigtownshire dominated this match.

The game had to be halted after an hour when an ambulance was called to assist Wigtownshire player Eddie Stevenson, who remained motionless on the turf with a suspected broken neck.

Having been discharged over the weekend with no serious injury, Eddie sent a message of thanks this week to Oban Lorne Rugby Club for the initial medical attention he received.

With the sun shining over Glencruitten it was the away side that took control of the game from the start.

Wigtownshire found themselves with a huge period of pressure in the Oban 22 for

around the first 20 minutes of the game. Oban, who were becoming increasingly ill-disciplined at

the breakdown, were also under pressure at the scrum and lineout and crumbled under the relentless pressure to concede the first

try of the afternoon. Oban struggled to get into the Wigtownshire half for the whole of the opening 40 minutes and

RUGBY

were constantly under pressure from a well organised defence. The away side stretched their lead around 30 minutes into the game with an almost identical try to their first. Aided by a well-oiled lineout and a series of pick-and-gos from the rucks they stretched the score to 12-0.

The home side came out in the second half a much better team and looking like narrowing the score on a couple of occasions but went down to 14 men for 10 minutes when Angus MacCallum was yellow carded for an off-the-ball incident.

Oban also missed two kickable penalty attempts that would have narrowed the score to 12-6. Wigtownshire put the result beyond doubt with a late breakaway try to give a final score of 19-0 in their favour.

Oban Lorne travel to take on Strathaven next Saturday.

Oban Lorne
M. Downie, R. MacQueen, M. Flynn, J. MacMillan, L. MacLachlan, S. Smith, A. MacDougall, C. Louw, C. Wright, A. MacCallum, C. Ferris, G. MacEwan, C. Smith, A. Wright, C. MacLachlan.

D. Williams, A. Doak, R. Wright, R. Jackson



Neil Rimmer takes some stopping as he tries to break the Wigtownshire line. 07_t13rugby01



Magnus leads out Scotland under-17s

IT WAS A proud day for Oban's Bradbury family as 16-year-old Magnus, pictured breaking the English line, led out Scotland under-17s against England on Sunday. The much-fancied English side won 33-15 in front of almost 700 spectators at The Greenyards, Melrose but Magnus' mother, Dee, who is president of Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club, said it was a great moment to see her son wear the captain's armband. She said: 'I cried when Magnus led the team out. The best bit was watching my dad at 81 years old having his photo taken with Magnus after the match and seeing his utter pride.'

Jackaroo crew will be back to defend Brewin Dolphin Series trophy

NO SOONER had Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series winner Jim Dick received the Scottish Series Trophy, the prestigious top award, than the Humber-side owner-skipper pledged to return to Tarbert in 2012 to try and defend the title.

Dick, a retired business executive, is set to honour that promise and is presently putting together his campaign which he hopes will see Jackaroo retain the major trophy.

'We have such good memories from last year aside from the enjoyment of winning outright. For us it was as much about

SAILING

enjoying the surroundings, the camaraderie of the team and at the event, and Tarbert itself,' recalls Dick.

The J97 owner is hoping that this year his son Steve, who is a paramedic, will be able to join the Jackaroo team and enjoy the Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series for the first time.

The Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series 2012 will take place over the Queen's Jubilee weekend from June 1 to June 4 in Tarbert, a week later than usual.



The crew of Jackaroo in action at last year's Brewin Dolphin Series.



The race got off to a flying start. 16_t13mle01

Paddy wins OHS Sport Relife Mile

FIRST year pupil Paddy Dunne beat off 65 other participants to come first in the Sainsbury's Sport for the charity and the Oban High School Relief Mile at the weekend. The event, which started and finished at Atlantis Leisure, raised over £250 for the charity and the Oban High School pupil completed the route in 7m 38s.



Ballachulish are dodgeball champs

P5-7 children from south Lochaber primary schools have taken part in an area dodgeball competition in Duror Hall. Teams from Ballachulish, Duror, Glencoe, Kinlochleven and St. Bride's schools met for the annual competition, which saw Ballachulish placed first, Kinlochleven second and St. Bride's third.

Boat Jumble and Car Boot Sale at Craignish

ALMOST 400 people came from far and wide to browse the nautical equipment, clothes and boats on sale at the Craignish Boat Jumble and Car Boot Sale last weekend.

The event, in its 13th year, had 35 tables and car boots and a raffle which altogether raised around £1000 for Craignish Community Company, a local charity which enables and supports projects

SAILING

within the community. Organiser Jan Brown said: 'Thanks are due to everyone who helped to make this a very successful event which was cited by one seasoned 'boat jumbler' as being the nicest of all the boat jumbles that he attended.'

'More and Kyles to renew rivalry for 2012 season

THERE WILL be plenty at stake when Orion Group Premiership leaders **NEWTONMORE** take on Kyles at The Eilan on Saturday.

The Badenoch men whipped the title from under their Tighnabruich rivals' noses last season - and despite the campaign being at an early stage this encounter will provide a valuable indication of the teams' title credentials.

Both suffered shock defeats in their first game, but since then both have won every match - so something has to give on Saturday.

More coach Norman MacArthur knows Kyles will have a point to prove - but remains confident his powerful side has what it takes to get a result.

He told the Oban Times: 'They will obviously be coming up here for the win - but we are going quite well so we'll see how it goes.'

'They have not scored a lot of goals against us and we won't be changing anything, we'll just leave the team as it is. They can create problems, but I am sure we will give them a few headaches as well.'

KYLES ATHLETIC are relishing their trip to Newtonmore this Saturday as they aim to banish last year's painful memories of losing out on the league title to 'More on the last day of the season.'

Many people, including Kyles trainer James Perlich, dismissed talk of the title this season after replacing some of their star players with untested youngsters.

But the doubters have been proved wrong after some sterling displays in recent weeks, including a 5-2 win over Kingussie last weekend.

James said: 'The boys are really excited about this weekend because of the start we have made to the season.'

'We were probably guilty of thinking the younger boys weren't up to the mark yet but I have since apologised to them for that because they are proving me wrong.'

'We need to be optimistic about getting a result against Newtonmore because we have always done well up there.'

Eighteen-year-old Ewan Campbell, who was signed from Fort William over pre-season, scored in another impressive display for Kyles last weekend, with further goals from Roddie MacDonald, Duncan Kerr and Thomas Whyte (2) giving the Tighnabruich outfit a deserved 5-2 win.

'We were set up correctly again last weekend and although the first half was touch-and-go, we managed to go into the break at 1-1,' said James.

'Kingussie are still a good side but their defenders struggled with the pace we had up front and after our third goal we were really able to stretch them. I think the scoreline reflects how well we played in the second half.'

KINGUSSIE will look to put their indifferent league form behind them against Kinlochshiel in the MacTavish Cup first round at Kirkton on Saturday.

Kings went down 5-2 at resurgent Kyles last weekend with a Fraser Munro double their only consolation, but as holders they will be desperate not to make an ignominious early exit.

KINLOCHSHIEL welcome Kingussie to Kirkton in the first round of the Co-operative MacTavish Cup on Saturday in good heart after a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Glenurquhart in the league last weekend.

A fine forecast means 'Shiel

fans will have the chance to see their favourites in action at home for the first time this season.

All 'Shiel's home games so far have been played away because Kirkton has been unplayable - but that has proved no handicap.

The premier division newcomers have a record of two wins, one draw and a single defeat on the road against tough opposition.

Now coach Johnston Gill wants to transfer that fine form to the cup against Kings, although niggling injuries could mean a rethink.

He told the Oban Times: 'Gordy MacDonald has a knee problem and Fraser MacVicar only came on for the last 20 minutes because he has a hamstring problem, so they are both doubtful.'

'Full centre John MacRae got a nasty whack and needed five stitches above his eye, but I think he should be okay. It's one to show the grandchildren!'

'Kingussie are smarting - they are going to turn somebody over and hopefully it won't be us. They are still a good side and you can't underestimate them. They are the holders and they will want to retain the cup.'

Against Glens, Finlay MacRae ran from halfway to pass home a fine goal, but that effort was bettered when Fraser MacVicar smacked home Stephen Callander's corner on the volley. Lewis MacLennan pulled one back, but 'Shiel hung on.



Inveraray's Scott Robertson and Newtonmore's Chris Sellar battle for the ball during last Saturday's game at the Winterton which the Badenoch side won 6-2. Photo: John MacTavish

INVERARAY manager John Smylie was happy with his team's performance on Saturday, despite losing 6-2 to visitors Newtonmore.

Russell McKinley opened the scoring for Inveraray but Newtonmore had bagged three before Stuart Robertson fired in Inveraray's second.

'They were clinical up front,' John admitted. 'I am happy with how we performed but their finishing proved to be the difference on the day.'

'I think they have the form striker in the league in Danny MacRae. Any time we gave him a sniff of a chance, he took it.'

Robertson's goal pulled the scoreline back to 3-2 and restored Inveraray's hope of getting a result but three late goals from the away team put the result beyond doubt.

This weekend Inveraray travel to play Kilmallie at Canal Parks,

a venue that John describes as 'not an easy place to get a result'. He said that about Drumnadrochit, too, and came home with a 1-0 win.

KILMALLIE return to league business on Saturday when they welcome Inveraray to Canal Parks.

The Blues notched their first point in the campaign against Bute last time out, but the Argyll men will present a stiff challenge.

Club chairman Hugh MacIntyre expects a full squad to be available, although a doubt hangs over Allan MacDonald, who is still recovering from a nasty leg injury sustained in the 2-1 home defeat to Lovat on March 10.

MacIntyre told The Oban Times: 'John Stewart is fit again and Ross Lavin should be OK as well.'

'Inveraray are a strong team. Last year we played them twice and beat them twice but we'll see how it goes. We always seem to have enough pressure, but we have not been getting the goals. Hopefully that will change on Saturday.'

Meanwhile, Kilmallie seconds had a fine 5-0 win over Lewis Camanachd in North Division 3 last weekend. The team plays Strathglass at Canal Parks on Saturday at 12pm. Throw up for the Inveraray game will be at 3pm.

LOVAT make the trip to rivals Beaulieu for a tasty-looking local

SHINTY

ted to gain a point last weekend is likely to be starting places for this weekend's Celtic Society Cup match at Glenorchy.

'I didn't expect to get anything up there because I had a weakened team,' said Barry. 'If I am honest, I thought they would rip us apart but the boys who did travel did a great job. They didn't get a chance to play the free-flowing shinty we had anticipated and we knew who their danger men were.'

'It was a very workmanlike performance but I didn't feel like we were under the cosh either. 'I didn't feel on top of the world going up there, but I did coming down the road.'

Despite Glenorchy's relegation to South Division One last season, Barry knows the Dalmally men will be dangerous after a good start to the season.

FORT WILLIAM have no game on Saturday as defender Neil Robertson is involved in another match - at the altar.

Neil was the target of some good-natured ribbing from the touchline during last weekend's 8-1 rout of Caberfeidh in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup first round at Black Parks.

The groom-to-be came through without any debilitating injury, although a whack on the head from a caman momentarily had wedding-goers concerned - coach Peter MacIntyre included.

He told the Oban Times: 'He did get a knock on the head, and I thought 'Oh my God, that's his teeth gone' - but he was OK.'

MacIntyre was delighted with the performance against Cabers, not least because tactical switches paid off.

Gary Innes knocked in four by half time to put Fort out of sight, while after the break Gordy MacKinnon notched two with Daniel Stewart and Ryan Campbell also scoring. Kryzanowski netted Cabers' consolation.

MacIntyre said: 'Gary Innes made a big difference. He relished being a bit further out and he got a bit more space than he used to at full forward.'

'A result like this has been coming - we have been playing well and not getting the goals. Now we have given ourselves a bit of confidence.'

LOCHABER face Lochcarron at Spean Bridge for the second time in two weeks - this time in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup.

If last Saturday's North Division One duel is any kind of a form guide, Lochaber must start as firm favourites after a comprehensive 5-1 victory.

Coach Michael Delaney has few injury worries, although Stuart Callison took a bad knock on the hand, which required an x-ray in hospital.

'It came back clear, so hopefully he can play on Saturday,' Delaney told The Oban Times. 'It was a good mature performance on the day. It's good that we are finding a wee bit of consistency.'

Lochaber were too strong for Lochcarron, and must be considered real title contenders on this form.

Doubles from Zander Ferguson and Sean Nicolson, and a goal from Callison did the damage, while Lochaber could only muster a Kieran Murray goal in reply.

SKYE CAMANACHD switch from league to cup business this weekend when they travel to Strathglass in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup first round.

The Skymen are in fine fettle after last Saturday's gritty 2-0



Fraser MacDonald of Kyles Athletic gives Kingussie's Craig Dawson a wee push in the back during last weekend's game. Photo: John MacTavish

win over Inverness at Pairc nan Laoch, a result that keeps their early season title charge right on track.

A first half strike from Iain Nicolson and a late clincher from Jordan Murchison proved enough, but Skye had to work hard for the points.

Coach Willie MacRae was a happy man after the win - but acknowledged it was done the hard way.

'We left it a bit late to get the second goal, but we were well on top,' he told The Oban Times. 'They just did not have their shooting boots on.'

'I think we had to get our confidence built back up after the Lochaber result, but the lads seem to be on form again.'

MacRae should have a full squad available for the trip to Strathglass, although Neil MacVicar will be absent as he will be in Lewis at his grandparents' golden wedding celebrations.

MacRae said: 'The boys played them a couple of weeks ago, so they know what to do. We will have to dig deep.'

OBAN CAMANACHD are already eyeing up the forthcoming Oban derby, as they sit out this weekend's fixture card.

Oban Camanachd co-manager Diarmid MacMillan said: 'We have a large squad to choose from going into the local derby in two weeks time against Oban Celtic.'

'With everyone wanting to start, we as coaching staff will select the squad which we think will give us the strongest opportunity.'

'It is great to see so many at training, which we do two nights a week with large turnouts. This tells us we have committed lads who all want to play and it makes our job far easier.'

Glasgow Mid Argyll, one of the teams thought to be challenging Camanachd for the title, were the visitors to Mossfield last Saturday, but despite the scoreline, the home side always looked in control after two Johnny Will goals in the first half.

Into the second half, substitute Matty Rippon scored with a cracking drive before GMA got their first minute later.

Camanachd scored yet again through Rippon but allowed GMA another goal soon after to complete the 4-2 scoreline.

'We just didn't play the way we can play,' was how **OBAN CELTIC'S** David Hamilton tried to explain his side's surprising 3-0 defeat at Aberdeen.

Celtic had a handful of gilt-

edged chances by the time Ally Shaw opened the scoring after eight minutes.

The lacklustre performance has incited David to urge his players to 'dig in' this weekend in the Celtic Society Cup, or risk struggling through the season.

'Too many of our players had an off day last weekend and we passed up too many chances,' he said.

'We deserved to get beaten because we didn't play well. But it is disappointing to go there and get beaten like that.'

'This weekend we need to all dig in. I've told the boys they can't expect to be world beaters every week but if you show a bit of dig and effort, things will come off for you.'

Despite watching his side lose their first three league games of the season, **TAYNUILT** manager Davy Thomson is refusing to hit the panic button, insisting his side will now begin to pick up points after playing three of the best teams in Marine Harvest South Division One.

Last weekend's 3-1 home defeat to Glenorchy gave their local rivals the bragging rights in east Lorn but Davy remains positive about the season ahead.

'We seem to be a little bit shy at the moment because against Glenorchy we dominated the opening 15 minutes without having anything to show for it.'

They scored two second half goals within two minutes when we lost concentration, but apart from that there was nothing between the teams.'

'We just have to start taking chances.' This weekend's opponents Kilmory have been labelled Taynuilt's 'bogey team', a reputation Taynuilt will want to destroy

come Saturday afternoon. 'They beat us twice last year, although we finished above them in the league,' Davy explained. 'We will need to be on our game.'

Neil Gillies, who was injured after 15 seconds against Glenorchy is doubtful for the weekend.

Former **GLENORCHY** man Stuart Scott hit Taynuilt's equaliser on Saturday to cancel out a David Smith strike but two Keiran McKay goals in two minutes secured Glenorchy's third win on the trot.

The Dalmally men will know all about this weekend's Celtic Society Cup opponents, Bute, who won South Division One at a canter last season.

However, with the team's confidence returning and an unbeaten record to protect this year, Glenorchy will believe they can progress to the next round at the expense of their Orion Group Premiership opponents.

Ally Cunningham scored twice for **KILMORY** as they drew with newly-promoted Strachur in Lochgilphead.

The Mid Argyll men are at home again this weekend against Taynuilt in the only scheduled South Division One fixture.

LOCHSIDE ROVERS will have the support of the fixtureless Oban Camanachd squad for a tough tie at home to Ballachulish this Saturday.

Although free-scoring at one end of the park, the Oban side will be hoping to tighten up a leaky defence.

Daniel MacKinnon scored twice in last weekend's 5-3 victory over a physical Tayforth team.



Results

Saturday 24 March

Co-operative MacTavish Cup 1st Round
Fort William 8-1 Caberfeidh

Orion Group Premiership
Glenurquhart 1-2 Kinlochshiel
Kyles Athletic 5-2 Kingussie
Lovat 0-0 Bute

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Beaulieu 5-4 Strathglass
Lochaber 5-1 Lochcarron
Skye 2-0 Inverness

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Aberdour 3-0 Oban Celtic
Kilmory 2-2 Strachur
Oban Cam 4-2 Glasgow MA
Taynuilt 1-3 Glenorchy

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Aberdeen U2-0 Fort William
Glenurquhart 1-2 Kinlochshiel
Kingussie 1-1 Skye
Lochaber 1-4 Lovat
Newtonmore 4-1 Glengarry

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Ardnamurchan 3-3 Inveraray
Bute 10-0 Glasgow MA
Col Glen 4-0 Aberdeen
Lochside Rovers 5-3 Tayforth

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Boleskine 5-0 Lochcarron
Inverness 1-4 Caberfeidh
Kilmallie 5-0 Lewis
Strathglass 0-3 Lochbroom
Strathspey 0-6 Beaulieu

Fixtures

Saturday 31 March

(Throw-ups 2.30 unless stated)

Co-operative MacTavish Cup 1st Round

Lochaber v Lochcarron
Graham Irving
Glenurquhart v Inverness
John Matheson - 3pm
Strathglass v Skye
Graeme MacMillan
Beaulieu v Lovat
Deek Cameron
Kinlochshiel v Kingussie
Evan MacRae

Glasgow Celtic Cup 1st Round

Aberdour v Glasgow MA
David Mitchell
Glenorchy v Bute
Robert Baxter
Oban Celtic v Strachur
Colin MacDonald

Sutherland Cup 1st Round

Bute v Skye
George O'Rourke - 12noon

Orion Group Premiership

Newtonmore v Kyles Athletic
Billy Waterspoon - 3pm
Kilmallie v Inveraray
Duncan Kerr - 3pm

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Kilmory v Taynuilt
Duncan Kelly

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen Uni v Kinlochshiel
Callum Duff
Glengarry v Kingussie
Daniel MacRae
Glenurquhart v Lochaber
Neil Ferguson - 12noon
Newtonmore v Lovat
John Angus Gillies - 12noon

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Glasgow MA v Aberdour
Jim Innes
Kyles Athletic v Inveraray
Ted McDonald
Lochside Rovers v Ballachulish
Innes Wood
Tayforth v Col Glen
Douglas Ferguson

Marine Harvest North Division 3

Beaulieu v Lochbroom
Donald MacRae
Caberfeidh v Boleskine
Iain Kennedy
Inverness v Lewis
Ronnie Campbell
Kilmallie v Strathglass
Robert Morrison - 12noon
Lochcarron v Strathspey
John MacLeod



Fort's Mark Grant keeps close control despite Caberfeidh's Kevin Bartlett's challenge 20. Photo: John MacTavish

League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	4	3	0	1	15	7	6
Lovat	3	2	1	0	5	2	5
Kinlochshiel	4	2	1	1	10	9	5
Kyles Athletic	3	2	1	0	12	6	4
Fort William	3	1	2	0	5	2	4
Bute	4	0	3	1	3	7	3
Inveraray	2	1	0	1	3	6	2
Kingussie	4	1	0	3	8	14	2
Glenurquhart	4	1	0	3	5	11	2
Kilmallie	3	0	1	2	5	7	1

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beaulieu	4	3	1	0	13	7	7
Skye	4	3	0	1	11	11	6
Lochaber	3	2	1	0	13	3	5
Inverness	4	0	2	2	5	9	2
Lochcarron	4	0	2	2	5	12	2
Caberfeidh	2	0	1	1	4	5	1
Strathglass	3	0	1	2	7	11	1

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Camanachd	4	4	0	0	17	2	8
Glenorchy	3	3	0	0	7	2	6
Glasgow MA	4	2	0	2	9	6	4
Aberdour	4	2	0	2	5	12	4
Kilmory	3	1	1	1	8	7	3
Oban Celtic	3	1	0	2	3	6	2
Strachur	4	0	1	3	3	7	1
Taynuilt	3	0	0	3	2	12	0

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	4	4	0	0	19	3	8
Skye	4	3	1	0	12	4	7
Glengarry	4	3	0	1	10	5	6
Kinlochshiel	3	2	0	1	6	7	4
Aberdeen Uni	4	2	0	2	5	6	4
Fort William	3	1	0	2	2	4	2
Glenurquhart	4	1	0	3	5	9	2
Lovat	4	1	0	3	6	14	2
Lochaber	4	1	0	3	6	16	2
Kingussie	4	0	1	3	6	9	0

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Col Glen	4						

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes,
postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,
Burnbank, Burnside Street,
Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Oban lads to attend Glasgow Thistles training camp

YOUTH RUGBY

THREE talented under-16 Oban rugby players have been selected to attend the Glasgow Thistles training camp in Perpignan this summer.

They are: Christopher Budge (winger), Jamie Bate (number 8) and Fergus Bradbury (prop). The boys were selected on their abilities displayed at a recent under-16 skills camp at Hamilton.

They will travel with the squad and train at the superb facilities in Perpignan under the supervision of some of the best Scottish coaches. This will give them a valuable insight into what it is like to tour with a professional squad and the work rate required.

Whilst in Perpignan they will also undertake qualifications in coaching and first aid. The trip is subsidised by the Leonardo da Vinci foundation but the boys have to find £1,000 each for the remainder.

High school girls lose out in the final

GIRLS RUGBY

OBAN High School's under-15 girls team took the runners-up spot in a recent sevens tournament at Scotstoun, Glasgow.

Having topped their pool by winning all five matches, the 10-strong Oban squad strolled through their semi-final match. Although the girls lost a highly competitive final by five tries to four, they didn't go home empty-handed, as Emma Thompson was named top try scorer.

Coach Emma Roxburgh said: 'All the girls played fantastically well and were just unfortunate at the end. Considering many of the girls are quite young and the team are just starting out I am very pleased and extremely excited to carry on their fixtures for the year.'

'This team has a lot of potential already and I am very proud of them.'

The team thanked Mary Fyfe, who drove the mini-bus on the day.

Squad: Rona McGlone, Charlotte Lawson, Claire Macpherson, Laura MacCallum, Holly Strachan, Beth Anderson, Emma Thompson, Ciara Colthart, Morven-Macfadyn-Donald and captain for the day Lauren Lawson.

Saints youths - results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Antonine 3, Under 13s 1. Scoring for Saints was Lomond MacPherson. Under 14s 4, FC Thistle 0. Saints goalscorers were Kieran Hendry, Ross MacMillan, Stuart MacLean and Louis McGuire. EDFC United 4, Under 15s 0; Under 16s no game.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Under 14s no game; Kilpatrick v Under 15s; Under 16s no game.

Union strike but Donald fires in six

Four hat-tricks in three games for on-form Saints front man

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
**Oban Saints 7
Kilbowie Union 1**

SAINTS hitman Donald Campbell netted six goals on Saturday to claim his fourth hat-trick in three games.

Kilbowie Union were the visitors to Glencruitten and the Clydebank side were unlucky to find the Oban team in sparkling form, especially striker Campbell who had netted 27 league and cup goals by the full-time whistle last weekend.

The tally is a tremendous feat no matter what standard of football you play in.

Saints opened the scoring in the 8th minute when Alan Miller and Lewis Cameron

set up Campbell who made no mistake from close range.

The home side were playing some good stuff and came close again in the 15th minute when Willie Gemmill fed in Lewis Cameron, but Union keeper Blair Flynn made a good save from Lewis's shot.

Saints increased their lead in the 21st minute after some good work by PJ Sinclair and Keith Millar allowed Donnie Campbell to steer the ball home.

The visitors lost the services of centre half Robert Donnelly with a leg injury midway through the first half.

Kilbowie were already struggling to get to grips with the Oban side, but all credit to them they came back into the game

FOOTBALL

and Jay Malarkey had a good effort that flew inches past Graham Douglas' post and another effort came back off the crossbar just before the half-time whistle.

After the restart the home side continued in the same form and increased their lead when Donald Campbell raced along the byeline before being taken down by Craig Dunn leaving referee Jimmy Litster, who had a good game, no option but to point to the penalty spot. That man Campbell stepped up and drilled the ball past Blair Flynn to net his own hat-trick and give his team a 3-0 lead.

The Oban side should have



Donald Campbell nets the first of his six goals during Saints 7-1 win over Kilbowie Union at Glencruitten last Saturday. t13saints02

increased their lead in the 59th minute when Donald Campbell squared the ball to Myles McAuley, but the Saints midfielder made a complete hash of things missing from only a couple of yards out with the goal at his mercy.

Saints were stunned a minute later when the defence failed to clear a corner and Gordon Murray was on hand to net from close range to give Union a glimmer of hope of getting back into the game.

However, any hope they had was killed stone dead in the 67th minute when Donald Campbell

raced to the byeline before cutting the ball back for Asen Gaydardzhiev and the Bulgarian made no mistake thumping the ball high into the net to make the score 4-1. Kilbowie were a dispirited side now and a mix-up between the keeper and a defender allowed Donald Campbell to nip in between them, and roll the ball into an empty net.

Although Union never gave up and were pushing players forward they were leaving spaces at the back which the quick-fire Saints forward line were exploiting time after time and it was no surprise as the game drew

Marke Dans 'A' are league champions

POOL

AFTER a hard fought season Marke Dans A have won the Oban and District Pool League title for season 2011/2012.

Led magnificently by outgoing captain James Scott the Markies boys recovered from a poor start to the season to go on an incredible run of 13 wins in their final 14 league matches.

It's the second time in three seasons the title has gone to Markies, despite the sterling efforts of last season's champions Lancaster A.

The win was sealed on the final night of the season thanks to a 7-2 victory over the Clarry, ensuring Markies finished two points ahead and regained their number one spot in Oban.

Argyll teams reach Brewin semi-finals

GIRLS RUGBY

BOTH Argyll U15 and U18 girls reached the semi-finals of the Brewin Dolphin National Cup this season.

Both matches were played on home soil.

The U18 girls were drawn against Stewarty Sharkettes in their semi-final of the Brewin Dolphin Cup and this was played at Oban Lorne grounds.

Several of the players from both teams had been included in last summer's Scotland U18 squad and were aware of each other's capabilities.

In an evenly-matched and physical encounter, it was Stewarty's pacy wingers who made the difference and the away side ran 29-19 winners.

The U15s lost to a more experienced Grantown Academy 26-0.

Both teams were delighted to play in their brand new strips sponsored by Oban Rotary.

Tobermory Golf Club results

GOLF

JUNIOR Winter Stapleford played on March 24: 1 Iain Wilshire, 21points; 2 William MacCrone, 18points; 3 Lewis Brown, 16points.

2012 Opening Foursomes, The Jim Lavery Trophy: 1 Graham Davidson and Ross MacCrone, net 63; 2 Paul MacKinnon and Lewis Wilshire, 68 net; 3 Donald Alan MacLean and Lewis Brown 71.5 net.

The Hairy Legs Trophy was won by Iain Wilshire and Ally Macleod.

Taynuilt Open Invitational

GOLF

TAYNUILT Golf Club New Clubhouse Open Invitational held on Sunday, March 25.

1 John Blackstock / Mary Philips, Isle of Seil GC, 36 pts (21) bh; 2 David Shanks / Ann Shanks, Dumbarton GC, 36 pts (19); 3 Michael Urwin / Ann Urwin, Taynuilt GC, 36 pts (22).

Robbie gains SFA coaching award

COACHING

CONGRATULATIONS to Oban Saints youth team coach Robbie Johnston on passing his SFA Level 4 coaching course

Harry is accepted into Glasgow School of Sport

BADMINTON prospect Harry Mobe has been accepted to the Glasgow School of Sport in

Bellahouston, following a three-month selection process. The 11 year old from Taynuilt,

BADMINTON

who recently won the Argyll and Bute Badminton Championship, first applied to the school in December last year with references from Taynuilt Primary School, PE teachers and Oban Badminton Club.

Versatility

Since then he has conducted fitness and badminton skill test and, last month, went through further fitness tests, showing versatility across sporting disciplines of gymnastics, athletics, hockey and badminton.

In addition, Harry had to attend an interview with the headmaster and deputy headmaster of Bellahouston Academy and the director of the School of Sport. He will start at Glasgow School of Sport on August 15.

Harry's mother, Karen, said: 'This has been an enormous achievement for such a young person.'

High standard

He had to compete against hundreds of other sports people across a number of sporting disciplines, all achieving to a high standard, as only 20 places were available across the whole of Scotland.

'Harry is so excited about starting his next chapter in secondary school and says he is ready for the challenge.'

'He has said to me that he is going to work really hard and hopes one day he might bring a higher profile medal back to Taynuilt.'



Harry Mobe has been accepted to the Glasgow School of Sport. t13harry01

New clubhouse at Taynuilt Golf Course opens its doors

GOLFERS of all ages turned out to celebrate the official opening of the new Taynuilt Clubhouse on Saturday.

The clubhouse, which cost £62,000 to build, was funded in part by Sport Scotland with the remainder being made up from fundraising activities and donations.

Caroline Jamieson, Taynuilt's oldest resident aged 95, had the duty of cutting the ribbon, officially opening the golf course's new clubhouse.

She said: 'It is so nice to be thought of for this, I am really honoured. I hadn't seen the clubhouse until now and I have to say it is really beautiful.'

'I remember the old golf course that was here. I used to go and have a game on it with my sister but I was very young then.'

Club history

Inside, displays of photos taken at the course over the years were on show, as was a display on the history of the club.

The new clubhouse was built over two years with the help of volunteers and club captain, Mairead Sim, said: 'We are absolutely thrilled with the new clubhouse, the bulk of it was built by volunteers and it is just an amazing achievement.'

She added: 'It is a very important day in the diary of Taynuilt Golf Club.'

Hamish Grey, Chief Executive, Scottish Golf Union was also there for the opening. He commended the club in their efforts: 'Without vibrant clubs like

yourself we would not be able to grow the game. I commend Taynuilt Golf Club for trying to ensure that all local youngsters are linked to the club.'

GOLF

He added: 'You should rightly be very proud of what you have achieved here.'



Caroline Jamieson opens the clubhouse with club captain Mairead Sim. 16_t13taynuilt01.jpg

Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds light west, north westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 10°C

Friday Cloudy
Winds light, north westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 10°C.

Weekend Cloudy
Outlook Winds light, north westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 11°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 29, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 03.06	1.7	09.05
Fri 03.47	1.9	09.52
Sat 05.30	2.1	11.20
Sun 07.10	2.0	14.17
Mon 02.07	3.0	08.44
Tues 03.07	3.3	09.39
Wed 03.50	3.6	10.21

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardnishraig	-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		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

website: www.northwestmarine.co.uk
Address: 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG
Ph: 01631 565740 Fax: 01631 565780
email: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk

FRIDAY

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.

The Oban Times

FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8088

Thursday 29 March, 2012

www.obantimes.co.uk

77 pence

Token two inside
SEE PAGE 7

hotel break
giveaway

What's on this
Easter



Renewables Now
FEATURE ON PAGES 14 & 15

For all the latest news video and photos log on to www.obantimes.co.uk Find us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter

Popular councillor to stand down

POPULAR Lochaber councillor Donald Cameron has decided not to seek re-election to Highland Council on May 3 because of ill health.

The 63-year-old was elected as an Independent to represent Fort William and Ardnamurchan in 2007. His decision means the ward has lost two of its four sitting councillors through retirement. Council leader Michael Foxley has already announced he will stand down.

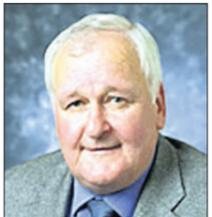
Councillor Cameron told *The Oban Times*: 'Because of illness I won't be standing. I would like to thank the electorate for the opportunity to represent them. I would like to wish all the candidates all the best in the coming election. During my five years, the main issues have been the threatened closure of Invermorist House and how the white elephant that was Fort William's waterfront development was stagnating other possible developments elsewhere. However, I am pleased we now have the Blar Mhor going ahead.'

He added: 'I would have liked to go for a second term to see the £40million greater Fort William schools project completed.'

'Another important issue is the need to set up a harbour trust for Fort William and Corpach to develop fully the potential of Loch Linnhe.'

Meanwhile, the SNP has become the first party to name its Lochaber candidates ahead of today's deadline for nominations at 4pm.

Kilchoan man Niall Rowantree will stand in Caol and Mallaig, while sitting councillor Bren Gormley and Fort William man Willie (Keelie) MacDonald will contest the Fort William and Ardnamurchan ward, where Kinlochleven sub postmaster Andrew Baxter is also standing as an Independent.



Donald Cameron: not standing.



9 771468 629072



Caol pupils celebrate music festival success

Caol Primary School was among the winners at Lochaber Music Festival, which concluded with a concert in Kilmallie Hall to wide acclaim after five days of competition. Caol won the choirs primary age 12 and under own choice class with two pieces - 'Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head' and 'Any Dream Will Do'. See full festival report, results and photos on page 4. 20_1131est06

Drug dealing body builder back behind bars

LOCHABER ex-strongman Louis MacLean is back behind bars - this time for peddling cocaine across the UK.

At the High Court in Edinburgh, the Fort William body builder was sent down for four years and nine months after admitting being concerned in the supply of drugs.

MacLean, aged 38, was trapped after a 14-month covert police investigation, dubbed Operation Asteroid, from September 2009 to November 2010.

Officers netted MacLean after spotting him passing on a kilo of cocaine worth £24,000 in a Spean Bridge car park. He had already been caged in 2004 for five-and-a-half years for cannabis dealing.

The operation targeted

MacLean's drugs ring which included his brother Peter, who was jailed in 2011 for six and a half years for dealing cocaine.

Police said the gang posed 'a significant risk of harm' to Highland communities and bringing its members to justice was 'a very high priority'.

Five men have now been jailed for a total of 25 years 10 months as a result of Operation Asteroid.

Complex operation

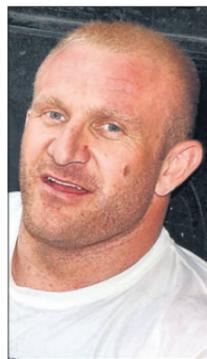
Boss of Northern Constabulary CID Detective Superintendent Gordon Greenlees said: 'The sentencing of Louis MacLean today signifies the culmination of a significant and complex operation with the aim of dismantling an organised crime gang headed by this

previously convicted drug dealer.

'Without doubt the communities of the Highlands, and in particular Lochaber, will be a safer and better place to live because of these convictions. Cocaine with a potential street value of £469,500 was seized during the operation.'

Lochaber Area Commander Chief Inspector David Bushell said: 'This conviction will have a positive impact on the local community and we will continue to target drug dealing as a priority.'

Sentencing MacLean on Monday, Lord Tyre told him that despite having a family, he was involved in an industry 'that brings death and misery to its victims'.



Louis MacLean: jailed for drug dealing - again. 10_1131maclean01

Photos go on show to mark ten years of Glencoe Heritage Trust

GLENCOE Heritage Trust is to hold a photographic exhibition in early summer as part of its 10th anniversary celebrations. The display will cover the period from the 1950s until 2000.

Trust secretary Ros MacDonald told

The Oban Times: 'It is hoped to secure an archive for future generations to understand how people lived, worked and took part in local events in the Glencoe, Tighphuirst and Ballachulish areas.

'If anyone has pictures they could lend

towards the display, they will be guaranteed to be returned to their owners. This is an opportunity to record in pictures life as it was then, before it is lost forever.'

For more information contact Ros on 01855 811490.

Whisky plant decision delay

But pensioner ready to open distillery if it gets green light

AN ARDNAMURCHAN pensioner whose cottage lies just yards from a proposed distillery is to open the new whisky plant - if it gets the go ahead.

Maggie MacKinnon, at 92 one of the peninsula's oldest residents, accepted an invitation from developers Adelphi Distillery Ltd chairman Keith Falconer that she should cut the ribbon.

The revelation follows south Highland planning committee's controversial move on Tuesday to defer a decision on Adelphi's plans until a visit to the Glenbeg site on April 17.

Councillors will meet locally later that day to rule on the application, which is recommended for approval.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* in Lochaber House after Tuesday's deferral, Mr Falconer said: 'Maggie will do us the honour of opening the distillery.'

'Her face broke into a massive great smile when we asked her and she said she would be delighted.'

Ms MacKinnon confirmed

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by

STEPHEN NORRIS

snorris@obantimes.co.uk

her acceptance of the offer to *The Oban Times* on Tuesday afternoon.

Opponents of Adelphi's plan, led by local photographer Michael MacGregor - whose Otter Lodge holiday accommodation is near the proposed distillery - claim one reason it should be rejected is because it would be too close to Ms MacKinnon's home.

Mr MacGregor said after the deferral: 'We are delighted and relieved that the planners and councillors have agreed that a site visit is necessary before making any decision on the proposed distillery.'

'We hope that by standing in the tiny peaceful hamlet of Glenbeg they will realise the many sensitivities associated with the site, not least the proximity to the home of a 92-year-old lady, and will agree what an inappropriate and ill-considered choice it is. Other viable sites exist.'

A disappointed Mr Falconer said: 'Any form of a delay is still a delay. We would have preferred not to have the site visit and got a clear approval so we can start work right away. But we recognise the concerns of the community and that the council has to be seen to be doing the right thing.'

'We are absolutely convinced that what we are proposing is very much in the best interests of the community and we are determined to start building this season.'

'We must be breaking ground in the next few weeks otherwise we will never get the foundations done by the autumn rains.'

'The builders are lined up and it takes 13 months for our stills to be ordered and delivered.'

Adelphi's 'farmhouse' malt distillery would produce around 250,000 litres of spirit a year, making it one of Scotland's five smallest in terms of capacity. If approved, it would be built on a former sheep fank and rough grazing next to the B8007, 10 miles east of Kilchoan.

Blar Mor Gaelic school £1m premium

PREPARING a site for Fort William's new £6million Gaelic school could be around £1million more expensive at the Blar Mhor than at Ardgor Road in Caol, *The Oban Times* has learned.

A report to Highland Council next Thursday will show that clearance costs at the Blar will be £738,000 - with access and service infrastructure taking the bill to £1.2million. Site development costs at the council-owned Ardgor Road are believed to be around £250,000 - a difference of £1million - because peat has already been removed.

Councillors must now decide whether the advantages of building at the Blar are enough

to justify the extra cost. The site forms part of Miller Developments' retail, industrial and community hub and is close to Lochaber High School. The Ardgor Road site is next to a housing scheme.

As exclusively reported in *The Oban Times* on March 8, Fort William Gaelic parents group, An Gearasdan Comunn na Parant, prefer the Blar - but would accept Ardgor Road as its 'urgent priority' is to have a standalone Gaelic school in Fort William. Lochaber councillors have also conditionally backed the Blar, with Bill Clark by far the most sceptical amid warnings of escalating costs.

RET ferry campaigners praise rally support

CAMPAIGNERS seeking to retain RET on hauliers' ferry fares to the Outer Isles have praised support for a demonstration through Stornoway on Saturday.

Around 90 lorries and vans joined a mile-long cavalcade and hundreds of people marched to attend an open-air rally.

Outer Hebrides Transport Group co-ordinator Gail Robertson said the turnout was 'amazing'. The removal of RET, which pegs tickets prices to the equivalent cost by road, will mean sharp increases in transport haulage costs.

Affordable Websites & Graphic Design

from local designers with over 20 years experience working with businesses of all sizes in the Highlands & Islands

responsive website design that works on tablets, smart phones & desktop computers from £749 + vat
company brand design logo & stationery design from £599 + vat
business start up package responsive website & branding £1199 + vat

PELICAN
01478 612558
pelican-design.com

Disabled people to advise on planning under new Highland Council guidelines

DISABLED people in the Highlands are to have a major say in the planning process under new guidelines agreed with Highland Council.

The historic deal will see all eight disability access panels in the region advise on planning applications and building warrant applications before any decisions are made.

At a meeting in Corpach, the Alliance of Access Panels agreed to work with council planners to adjust proposed developments to ensure they will be disabled-friendly and accessible to all.

The new protocol will govern all schemes involving access issues, including shops, pubs, restaurants, public offices, footpaths, picnic areas and other outdoor projects.

Ken Johnston, chairman of Lochaber Disability Access Panel, who hosted the meeting, described the move as 'momentous and far reaching'.

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

He told *The Oban Times*: 'This was indeed a breakthrough meeting and we are hugely indebted to the council planners for their ready willingness to involve disabled people in the process of decision making.'

'No one is in a better position to give advice on disability access requirements than disabled people themselves. Decisions that are based on sound inclusion principles will also benefit the population as a whole and in particular the elderly, infirm, parents with prams and others suffering temporary injuries or disabilities.'

The Alliance welcomed the council's willingness to agree a deal that over time should mean a 'barrier-free' environment for all those with

mobility problems. Keith Robertson, disability access officer and acting manager of the Scottish Disability Equality Forum, said: 'This is a significant breakthrough in our continuous drive for better access for disabled people in The Highlands.'

'A number of people from both the local authority and access panels have put in a lot of effort and work to make this protocol happen and we must ensure that we use it to its fullest potential.'

'I am so proud of the effort that all the stakeholders have contributed and the potential benefit that will ensue for disabled people who live in or visit the Highlands of Scotland.'

Attendee, Fort William architect David Mee said the trend today was to design 'inclusively' from the word go, rather than add on disabled access as an afterthought.

Landmark Forest Adventure Park

Fun, discovery and adventure in the Highlands

- Runaway Timber Train
- Wildwatercoaster
- Bamboozoleum
- Climbing Wall
- Ropeworx
- Skydive
- Treetop Trail
- Steam Powered Sawmill
- Working Clydesdale Horse
- Shops, Restaurants and much more...

FULLY OPEN 20th March to 28th Oct. See web site for news, attractions and special events.

Landmark Forest Adventure Park, Carrbridge, PH23 3AJ
www.landmarkpark.co.uk t: 0800 731 3446
See website for opening times.

CONSERVATORY SOLUTIONS

(Scotland) Ltd

Glaring problems? We have the solution!

Jim and Mary's two kids Jessica and Robert were now at the stage where they enjoyed running around and causing mayhem. More space was needed so they built a conservatory.

Suddenly, it all went wrong. Jessica ran into a wall. Tears of misery were flowing fast. It was just a minor bump, but it could have been worse.

Turns out that she had been blinded by the glare coming from the sun while running about and hadn't seen where she was going.

There is a solution to this: with our unique take on a new conservatory insulation technique, we were able to reduce the glare. We could also reduce rain noise and regulate the temperature so the conservatory stays warm in winter and cool in summer.

Finish the job your builder started and make the most of your conservatory all year round.

01389 750 005
07968 524 351
www.conservatory-solutions.co.uk

Trust bid to revive Morar gala day

MORAR Community Trust is trying to raise funds to revive the local gala day, which was last held more than 30 years ago.

It is hoped to hold the community day out on the games field on June 4, which coincides with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Trust chairperson Tiina Heinonen has asked Morar Community Council (MCC) if it would be willing to give a donation towards setting up costs.

The trust will also apply for other funding. Councillor Henderson told MCC members that funds may be available from a discretionary fund.

Treasures of the Earth celebrates 20 years

CORPACH gemrock museum Treasures of the Earth will celebrate its 20th anniversary on Saturday with a free entry open day.

The popular visitor attraction was officially opened in March 1992 by the Bishop of Argyll, the Right Reverend Roddy Wright, who had previously been a priest at St Annes - the building which became home to the museum. The open day will also be a fundraiser for the Nevis Radio transmitter appeal.

Dunvegan phone box cash stolen

PORTREE police have reported that moneyboxes from two BT phone kiosks in Dunvegan were broken into and removed sometime on Thursday March 22.

Anyone with information should contact Portree Police Station on 01471 612888 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.



Like a phoenix from the ashes: the new development in Fort William's West End takes shape. 20_113weth01

Chain allays fears over pub opening

PUB CHAIN JD Wetherspoon says its new pub in Fort William's West End remains on track - despite tough trading conditions.

Earlier this month, the company announced it was scaling back an expansion programme from 50 new outlets in 2012 to 40 because of rising excise duty on alcohol and business rates.

The news prompted some observers to speculate the Lochaber capital could be one of the casualties.

But company chairman Tim Martin said Fort William was 'very much on' - and invited local residents to help choose a suitable name for the outlet.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are looking forward to opening a pub in Fort William

in due course. We always aim for our pub names to have a historic link with the town and have come up with a number of suitable names.'

'We are keen for people in the town to be involved with the pub naming and look forward to hearing their views.'

The company drew up a shortlist of possible names after researching history, landmarks and landscapes.

Options include: The Grand Hotel, The Great Glen, The Castle Ridge, An Gearasdan, The Long John MacDonald, The Wishing Stone, The Castle Ridge Bothy or Fraser's Bothy.

No opening date has been set for the new pub, which will form part of Ashford

Property's High Street development currently taking shape on High Street/Gordon Square. The £8m complex is programmed for completion by August.

A Travelodge will occupy the two upper storeys with retail outlets including JD Wetherspoon, Cotswold Outdoor and Superdrug at street level.

JD Wetherspoon reported an 11 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £35.8 million in the six months to January. However, like-for-like sales shrank 0.7 per cent in the six weeks to March 4 as more consumers opted to drink at home.

What do you think the pub should be called? Email us at fort@obantimes.co.uk or have your say on Twitter/Facebook.

Developer on track to start at Blar Mhor

THE DEVELOPER behind a huge retail, industrial and community hub on the outskirts of Fort William should have all site infrastructure in place by mid-November, *The Oban Times* has learned.

Miller Developments 105-acre project on the Blar Mhor includes a 75,000sq ft Tesco, shops, food and drink outlets and an extension of the Blar Mhor industrial estate.

A joint police and ambulance service headquarters, a Gaelic primary school, an all-weather sports pitch and, eventually, a new Belford Hospital will also feature.

As the new hub will mean more traffic, Miller's outline planning deal with Highland Council means they must build two new roundabouts to improve access and complete all service roads prior to construction starting.

Upgrading of the mini-roundabout at Lochybridge at the A82/A830 junction to a full roundabout is underway and should be completed by May 25. Land constraints mean the 36-metre roundabout will be realigned several metres towards Ben Nevis Distillery.

Miller managing director David Milloy said some disruption to traffic will be unavoidable after April 23, but three-way traffic lights will be manned at peak times to maximise traffic flow.

'It will be significantly larger than what is there currently,' he said. 'The capacity of the roundabout will be increased and it will free up vehicle movements.'

By mid-June, work will start on a new five-leg roundabout on the

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk



David Milloy of Miller Developments: looking forward to work starting on the Blar Mhor. 20_113blar01

A830 serving the main road and the new development, including the Tesco superstore. One leg into Blar Mhor Industrial Estate will become the northern spur for the long-awaited Caol link road, which will connect to the An Aird roundabout in Fort William.

This second phase of works will also include the removal of between 0.5m and 3m of peat from 10 acres of land, with peat heaped to form a bund around the site's northern perimeter. Access roads to the planned Gaelic school, new police/ambulance HQ and the relocated Belford Hospital will follow.

All work should be completed by mid-November, allowing Tesco to get underway early in

the New Year. The six-month build time could see the new store open by August 2013.

Mr Milloy said combined investment for Tesco, the police/ambulance centre and all Miller's infrastructure would total around £17million for construction alone.

He said: 'The fact that there is now visible and significant investment, this becomes a real development - and that allows us to widely market the site's availability.'

'We are confident it will attract other retailers to the area given that Tesco will be open next year. Later this year, Miller will be seeking detailed planning consent for the retail park so that we are ready and we can react.'

'Once we have a clearer idea of who is coming we can design the retail park accordingly, with a view to being on site in 2013. Clearly, it will take a number of years to see the development through.'

He added: 'If you look at Scotland and towns the size of Fort William, you would be hard pushed to find any other town in Scotland that has not had significant development in the form of a supermarket for as long as Fort William has gone without.'

'Once Tesco is open and there's an appreciation of the overall picture, there's every reason to be optimistic that two or three years from now there can be a significant, thriving commercial development to compliment the High Street.'

'This will attract further investment, not just at Blar Mhor but in the High Street as well. I hope this will give an impetus and an uplift to the whole town.'

Tree felling could close A82 says Forestry Commission

FURTHER full closures of the A82 south of Fort William cannot be ruled out during a three-year programme to harvest mature trees above the road, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) has said.

The West Highlands' main artery was shut over a weekend in December so engineers could bring down a dangerous 250-tonne rock north of the Corran Ferry. Now it has emerged further traffic management will be required as surveys on the steeply sloping hillside in Glen Righ Forest continue into the summer ahead of felling starting this autumn.

Traffic cones and roadworks signs have been in place at the site for several weeks as preparations for felling continue.

The steeply sloping terrain is giving foresters a major technical headache as they seek to prevent loosened boulders and soil tumbling onto the carriageway during felling.

FCS also wants to make sure the slope is left in a stable condition once the trees have been

removed. Dangers to the A82 include unstable rock crags, loose boulder fields, boulders resting on trees, soil slips and existing forest road edge slips.

FCS said: 'Felling and extraction beside the A82 will need short periods of closure for both public and operator safety, where traffic management is required.'

'However, we have not yet identified the need for a further full closure but it might be required at some stage during the three-year programme.'

Alan Dickerson, who manages the project for the commission, said: 'We've hopefully been pretty unobtrusive for the last month or two because we've been focussing on strengthening the in-forest road and securing the rock face, putting catch fences in place, that sort of thing.'

'I appreciate that the traffic management is still in place and is not ideal for people but unfortunately it's really the only way we can do the job safely.'

'We'll do all we can to minimize any inconvenience. The plan is to complete the first

phase of geo-technical work by late summer then we can think about planning the felling work.'

'We don't expect this to begin until the autumn but we will keep everyone posted.'

'Traffic management will be in place at various times throughout this period but again we'll keep everyone updated with how our operations are proceeding.'

FCS said it is felling the trees because their size means high winds could bring them down at any time.

'In this event the trees could fall into the road creating a hazard and blocking it or potentially trigger landslips or rock falls that could block the road and present a clear public safety hazard,' a spokesperson said.

FCS is unlikely to replant the area. Once the current trees are removed and the hillside made safe, natural vegetation - low shrubs and ground vegetation - will re-colonise the site.

Longer term, native broad-leaves such as birch and hazel will help stabilise the slopes.



School pupils step out for Sport Relief

Pupils at Fort William Primary took part in a sponsored walk in aid of Sport Relief Clean Water for Africa last Wednesday. The children left the school at 9.30am, with P1-3 pupils walking to the Blarmafodach crossroads and back. P4-7 children walked on to the trig point before making their return - a distance of approximately three miles. Student teacher James Ross, who led the walk, told *The Oban Times* pupils have been carrying out a comparative study of Malawi and Scotland this term. Clean, safe drinking water from a reliable source is not available to more than 35 per cent of the population of Malawi, he said. Meanwhile, Lochaber High School pupils walked round the Camaghael loop road on Friday in aid of Sport Relief. Donations from senior pupils boosted the total raised to £510. 20_113for1p01

New venue for society meetings

LOCHABER Local History Society has been forced to find another venue for its monthly talks - because they have become so popular.

Last year average attendance was 64 but this winter the audience has been numbering around 85 - too many for the Anach Mor suite in Fort William's Alexandra Hotel.

The society will now meet in the Ben Nevis Hotel ballroom tonight

(Thursday) at 8pm for the last meeting of the season, when speaker for the evening will be traveller, photographer and author Alistair Scott.

Mr Scott's recent book 'Eccentric Wealth' focuses on the facts and the fiction that surround the Bullough family on Rum.

As a follow up, the society's annual trip will be to Kinloch Castle on Rum on May 9.

Scotland's first canoe route boost for Lochaber

LOCHABER'S credentials as the Outdoor Capital of the UK have received another boost with the launch of Scotland's first designated canoe route.

Thousands of paddlers are expected to use the 60-mile Great Glen Canoe Trail through the Caledonian Canal from Corpach

Basin to Inverness. According to British Waterways Scotland, around 2,500 canoeists already use the canal each year - a figure likely to rise substantially as the trail becomes better known.

To celebrate the opening, the Scottish Canoe Association and British Waterways Scotland

staged a Great Glen Paddle Festival last weekend.

The canoe trail project secured £270,500 of Euro funding and £150,000 from British Waterways Scotland. Highland Council put up £100,000, Scottish Natural Heritage £71,300 and Forestry Commission Scotland £10,000.

Sneak thieves carry out spate of robberies

FORT William police are warning Lochaber residents to be on their guard against sneak thieves after a spate of minor robberies.

Items were stolen from an unlocked lorry parked at the rear of Glenkingie Street, Caol, overnight between Wednesday March 21 and Thursday March 22 and alcohol was taken from a boat behind Glenkingie Street after thieves pulled the cover back.

The same night, goods were also stolen from a car with a faulty lock parked in Blar Mhor Road, Fort William.

Chief Inspector Dave Bushell warned local people against becoming complacent about the threat of crime.

He said: 'Most crimes involving theft are committed by opportunists. I would like to remind everyone to secure their property and vehicles. Leave nothing of any value in any vehicles, especially

overnight. At the very least, leave any valuables out of sight, in a boot for instance.'

He added: 'As the weather improves, please get into the habit of locking the doors and securing the windows in a locked position, if left partially open.'

Anyone with knowledge of the thefts should contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000.

"The Oban Times is read by over 40,000 people every week making it the largest selling newspaper in the Highlands & Islands"

(Source: Jigsaw data as at 01/01/2011)

The Oban Times
WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Tel: 01631 568000
email: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
www.obantimes.co.uk

Manor House Hotel & Restaurant

Easter Sunday April 8
Join us for a special 3 course Lunch in our Dining Room £28

Overlooking the harbour
Gallanach Road • Oban • 562087

Spring Edition

FREE

holiday

west highland

Arts and Culture
This issue of Holiday West Highland has an Arts theme, introducing popularised cultural destinations and sharing a few local music secrets.

FROM KINTYRE TO LOCHABER YOUR GUIDE TO EXPLORING THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

500,000 readers every season

Caolbeinn Hotel and Restaurant on the Crinan Canal

out now

Available throughout the west Highlands or online at www.holidaywesthighland.co.uk

REMEMBER
x
Easter Weekend Holidays

Friday 6th April - Monday 9th April

Check GP surgery opening times.

If you rely on a repeat prescription, make sure you have enough to cover you over the Easter weekend.
Friday 6th April - Monday 9th April.
Find out more at nhsinform.co.uk

Be Ready for EASTER

NHS SCOTLAND

FW

Lochaber Music Festival ends on high note



Fergus Fraser of Invergarry Primary School won the strings solo (primary) violin or viola (beginners) own choice, class. 20_131est07

LOCHABER Music Festival closed with a stirring final concert in Kilmallie Hall last Thursday night, bringing an end to five hugely successful days of competition.

The concert, featuring the festival's best talent, was one of the best observers could remember.

In her speech of thanks, festival association chairperson Lilian MacDonald reiterated the adjudicators' comments about the wealth of musical talent in Lochaber.

She also acknowledged the essential support of teachers, parents and others in the community in nurturing the talents of young performers.

Lilian also paid tribute to Mrs Margaret Cairns, who had ably chaired the festival for many years, but has had to step down because of ill health.

The trophies and awards were presented by Mrs Jetta Katz of Inverloch, who recently retired from the committee, culminating in Heather Major receiving the premier vocal award and trumpeter Sarah Johnson winning premier instrumental award.

The standard in the Young Musician of the Year competitions on Tuesday evening was also very high. Winners were Rhona MacKintosh, junior, and Helena Rose, senior - coincidentally both playing violin, and both from Roy Bridge.

David Thomson of Lochaber Rotary Club, who sponsored the competition, presented the girls with their prizes.

For honorary secretary Ian Strachan all the effort put in by participants, teachers, adjudicators and festival volunteers was all worthwhile, not least because audience and competitor numbers were up on last year. He told *The Oban Times*: 'It all - or nearly all - went well without the problems of snow that we had last year. The children all performed really well but it was also pleasing to have more adults taking part, including a brass ensemble from the Community Wind Band and a choir from Spean Bridge, Songbirds.'

Trophy winners from Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

D C B Maitland Memorial Quaiich for singing and folk groups - Songbirds; Lochside Gaelic Choir Trophy for Action/dramatised song - Banavie P2/3; Lochaber Choral Union Cup - Banavie School Choir; Mary Milton Trophy - Banavie School Choir; Maitland Piano Trophy - Carys Bilton; Lochaber Music School Junior Trophy - Tanya MacDonald; Lochaber Music School Primary Trophy - Francesca Rose; Lochaber Music School Secondary Trophy - Solene Cargill and Eddie

Benfield; Jean Cameron Cup for secondary cello or bass - Alice Doogan; Lochaber Music School Trophy for Solo strings (open) - Helena Rose; Russell String Duets Trophy - Heather and Jane Mustarde;

Chamber Music Groups Trophy - Lochaber Music School Senior String Quartet; Lochaber Strathspey and Reel Society Trophy - Lochaber Music School Fiddle Group; Thomson Trophy for String Orchestras and Ensembles - Lochaber Music School String Orchestra; Mr and Mrs R Tatler Recorder Trophy - Caitrin Edmond; Millennium Woodwind Trophy (for potential) - Natalie Brayshaw; Moyra M. MacGregor Memorial Trophy for Solo Woodwind - Natalie Brayshaw; Silver Jubilee Trophy for Group Music Making - Invergarry Primary; Margaret Adam Memorial Silver Quaiich for Group Music Making - Spean Bridge Primary; J.R.G. Bruce Trophy for Solo Brass - Rosie Clark; John Whyte Trophy for Solo Brass - Sarah Johnson; Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy for Wind Ensemble - Ben Nevis Brass; Val Howland - Cairney Trophy for Solo verse speaking (age 8 & under) Heather Nicolson; Solo Verse Speaking Trophy (age 9-12) - Lewis MacRae; Church Guilds Trophy for Bible Reading and Dramatisation - Lochside RC P1/2; Kilmallie Country Dance Club Trophy for Endeavour - RSCDS Lochaber 8 & Under; Margaret Rankine Memorial Trophy - Nether Lochaber SCD 12 & Under; Junior Organisations Trophy (10 & under) - Nether Lochaber SCD; Lochaber Burns Club Awards for Singing - John Duncan Clark and Kevin Cameron; Lochaber Burns Club Awards for Poetry - Jane Mustarde and Jordan Roger; Saltire Award for Choir - Lochside RC Primary 7; David C.B. Maitland Award for Piano - Molly Cameron; Bible Reading Awards - Ryan Watchman and John Duncan Clark; Lochaber Rotary Young Musician of the Year Junior Trophy - Rhona MacKintosh; Lochaber Rotary Young Musician of the Year Senior Trophy - Helena Rose; Premier Scots Traditional Music Award - Sandy Cameron; Premier Vocal Award - Heather Major; Premier Instrumental Award - Sarah Johnson.

See www.obantimes.co.uk for full results.



Four of the main prizewinners at Lochaber Music Festival: front left, Rhona MacKintosh, Junior Young Musician of the Year; front right, Helena Rose, Senior Young Musician of the Year; back left, Sarah Johnson, Premier Instrumental Award, and back right, Heather Major, Premier Vocal Award.



Banavie Primary School pupils were placed first for their action dramatised song 'A Squash and a Squeeze' in the under 7 class. 20_131est04



Invergarry Primary School won group music making for both 1/2/3 teacher schools and the open competition. 20_131est05



Lochside RC Primary School choir won the Saltire Society Scots song competition (primary age). 20_131est01

Subscribe Now!

Fish Farmer

Serving worldwide aquaculture since 1977

ONLY £75.00 UK only

For subscription information see website:
www.fishfarmer-magazine.com

Tel: +44 (0)1631 568000
 Fax: +44 (0)1631 568001

Post completed form to: Fish Farmer Magazine, Craigmuck Castle, Craigmuck Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3PE

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE TO FISH FARMER MAGAZINE

Company: _____ Contact Name: _____
 Job Title: _____ Type of Business: _____
 Address: _____
 Post Code: _____ Tel: _____ Fax: _____

I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to The Oban Times Ltd
 Please charge my Credit Card: Visa Mastercard Access Switch
 Card No. _____ expiry date _____
 Signature: _____ Name on Card: _____

Budding chef narrowly misses out on top title

AN ARDNAMURCHAN High School pupil narrowly missed out on winning the UK Springboard Future Chef 2012 final on Monday.

Calum MacIver, 15, booked his ticket at the UK final at Westminster Kingsway College in London after winning the north of Scotland at a cook-off in Inverness.

West Highland College chef Michael Campbell and Crannog Concept's Stewart MacLachlan mentored Calum in the run up to the final.

Calum went through as one of Scotland's two representatives at the UK final on Monday.



Left to right, Stewart MacLachlan mentor chef from Crannog, Calum and Graham Strachan of Springboard Scotland at Westminster Kingsway College in London.

Search on for best new buildings

THE SEARCH has begun for the best new buildings in Lochaber, with the launch of the IAA Highlands and Islands Design Awards.

Acharacle Primary School, designed by Gaia Group was a winner in 2010 for its innovative use of timber.

Held every two years, the awards aim to raise awareness of the importance of good design and architecture and have attracted more than 200 entries across the region since their launch in 2008.

Organised by Inverness Architectural Association - the chapter of the Royal Incorporation of Architects that covers the Highlands and Islands - the awards feature a range of categories and include prizes for best new building, best restoration and best use of timber.

Members of the public can nominate their favourite new building for the Open Award, which must have been completed within the period January 2010 to January 2012.

IAA president Andy Bruce said:

'Since their inception in 2008, the IAA Awards have shown that the quality and diversity of new buildings, alterations and extensions to existing buildings and 'placemaking' designed by Highlands and Islands architects, is second to none.'

'The regional and open awards generate lots of interest right across the area and they're an opportunity for architects, our clients, construction industry colleagues and the public to get involved in considering what an important role good architecture and design plays in all our lives.'

Shortlisted entries for the regional awards are showcased at local exhibitions throughout the summer. Regional winners then go forward to the main Highlands and Islands awards held in November.

Lochaber entries compete in a regional competition, which includes Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross. More details at www.highlandarchitects.org/2012awards.



IAA president Andy Bruce: looking for winning building design.

Police hunt knife wielding thief

FORT William police are hunting a hooded thief who pulled a knife on a petrol station worker in an early morning raid - and escaped with just £50.

The male worker Esso's Ben Service Station on North Road was left shaken but unharmed during the 6.20am robbery on Saturday.

The man, who is in his 40s, was the only member of staff on the premises at the time of the incident. Police described the culprit as male, about 5'8" tall, who was wearing a blue boiler suit, grey scarf and a hooded top. A Northern Constabulary spokesman said: 'We are appealing for any members of the public who were in the vicinity of the Road to the Isles Petrol Station at Lochybridge, the Soldiers Bridge, Lochside and Caol areas between 5.30am and 7am, who may have seen anybody matching the description or anybody acting in a suspicious manner.'

'Anyone who observed this man is requested to contact Fort William Police on 01397 702361 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.'

Ferry appeal

COMMUNITY Land Scotland, the organisation representing the nation's community landowners, has urged the Scottish Government to include the Mallaig-Lochboisdale ferry link in its final 2013-23 ferries plans.

In its submission, CLS also says subsidy levels on the Mallaig-Armadale link must not be cut.

The consultation ends on Saturday.

'Obang' hits a massive 1,000,000

THE OBAN Times' video from the failed fireworks display on November 4 last year has now had more than 1,000,000 hits on YouTube.

The video of the community fireworks display at Mossfield Park in Oban by Pyrol, which failed when all the fireworks went off inside a minute after a technical hitch, went viral on the internet within days of it being posted.

The Oban Times received calls from national and international news channels at the time asking to use the footage of what became internationally nicknamed 'Obang'.

It was also worked into Russell Howard's Good News television show and has become part of comedian Dara O'Briain's latest routine.

Price of postal stamps set to soar

THE PRICE of stamps is set to soar following an increase announced by Royal Mail on Tuesday.

From April 30 first class stamps will rise from 46p to 60p while second class will increase by the same amount from 36p to 50p. The cost of posting large letters will increase from 75p to 90p for first class and 58p to 69p for second class. The increases followed a decision by regulator Ofcom to give Royal Mail the freedom to set its own prices.

Wind energy debate to raise local awareness

A MEETING to discuss the hotly-debated issue of wind energy will be held tomorrow (Friday) at Oban Community Fire Station.

The meeting is being called by Lorn Environmental Action Forum (LEAF) to discuss wind turbines, wind farms and sustainable energy generation in general and the group plans to preside over an impartial and open debate.

As the Oban Times went to press, speakers were yet to be confirmed for the meeting, which will start at 7pm.

NEWSDESK
01397 703003

5-star luxury hotel complex massive boost

Investment in infrastructure and spa tourism welcomed

PLANS are being drawn up to develop a luxury spa hotel on the outskirts of Oban, together with a development of 40 chalets, The Oban Times can exclusively reveal.

Permission for the Tom Liath development near Dunbeg - understood to include the creation of a new footpath to the nearby chapel, Cladh Uaine - will be sought in the coming weeks, shortly after which the developer will consult the local community on the proposals.

It is understood that the hotel will include plans for a leisure centre, which will be available for use by the community.

Access to the site is to be created via a new roundabout on the A85 at the Oban side of the Half Way Filling Station.

The roundabout is being jointly developed by West Highland Housing Association (WHHA), as it will provide access on the village side to some of the 150 homes being developed as part of the Dunbeg Corridor project.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

"Luxury hotel would be startlingly good for Oban."

Gwynneath Neal chair Dunbeg Community Council

Gwynneath Neal, chairwoman of Dunbeg Community Council, said the proposed hotel, which is being aimed at the five-star market, could be 'something special' for the area.

'She said: 'A luxury hotel would be startlingly good for Oban as there's a lack of them here.

'The views there are stunning and for people who have got the money, or just want something special, it will be an exceptional facility.

'It won't be exclusive though and will be open for everybody.' She further welcomed the possibility of new jobs for the area.

WHHA's chief executive, Lesley McInnes, said that her organisation were working closely with the developer on the roundabout on the A85, with the intention of minimising any work required.

She said: 'The developer has been very amiable and we are hoping to put in a planning application in the near future.

'We have land for 150 houses in Dunbeg and we're looking to start the contract for the first 50 by May.'

A spokesperson for the developer, understood to already be a major part of the luxury hotel market, said a statement on the proposed hotel would be available in the coming weeks.

Teenager in custody after alleged robbery in Lochgilphead

A TEENAGER is this week behind bars after allegedly robbing a Lochgilphead newsagent.

Luke Ronald Blackwood, from Lochgilphead, appeared from custody on petition at Du-noon Sheriff Court on Tuesday, accused of robbing RS McColl's Argyll Street store at 7.30am on Monday morning.

The 17-year old made no plea or declaration and was remanded pending further examination.

Wanida McEwan, a supervisor at the newsagent, was working alone at the time of the incident

and said she has had trouble sleeping since the alleged robbery.

Visibly drained, the 39-year old mother of one said: 'I was so shocked but we have been trained and told if this ever happens, just hand over the money.'

In a twist of fate, Wanida had offered to work the 6am shift on Monday to give her manager a break.

While she has since returned to work to keep her mind off the ordeal, Wanida said: 'I will not

be opening the shop any more.'

Blackwood returns to court on April 3.

In a separate incident last week, a Glasgow man appeared at Campbeltown Sheriff Court on a petition alleging assault and attempted robbery with a knife at a convenience store in the town's Longrow area.

Appearing from custody in private, the 38 year-old made no plea or declaration and was granted bail pending further investigation.



Sun shines on vintage ploughing match

The 12th Lorn Annual Vintage Ploughing Match at Shenavallie Farm near Benderloch was a 'fiercely fought' contest in the sunshine. Neil MacPhail, from Skernish Farm, near Campbeltown, won first prize in the Horse Class at the event on Saturday. But the sunny day saw several winners, including Willie Buchanan from North Connel, who took home the overall awards including The Oban Times Ploughman's Perpetual Trophy. See page 16 for the full story.

Parking charge cash pays for Oban's airport

NEARLY half a million pounds has been taken from parking meters lining Oban's streets to subsidise the running of the town's airport.

The Oban Times has learned that an arrangement has been in place since 2006 - two years before the controversial airport opened - which sees £73,000 taken from the approximate £200,000 raised by on-street parking in the town every year.

Argyll and Bute Council's scheme, agreed in principal in October 2003 before the sum was set two years later, has so far seen £438,000 pumped into the airport.

Payments will continue for another three years, taking the total sum paid into the airport from parking to £657,000. Last September, the council said Oban, Lorn and the Isles

collected £476,605 from off-street car parks, on-street car parks and from rentals for events such as the continental market throughout the 2010-11 financial year.

After costs were deducted, the parking surplus was distributed between the four areas in the county that charge for parking, in proportion to the contribution to the surplus. The council said that generated £95,000 to be spent in Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

The latest revelations mean, from that sum, a maximum of £22,000 was spent on improvements to the Oban, Lorn and Isles area - a return of 23 per cent on parking charges.

Confirming the arrangement, Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council did not specify which element of the costs this

was to cover but it was a general contribution to funding of the airports project.'

Oban Airport has been embroiled in controversy from the start.

Original estimates for the upgrade of the Connel airfield, together with new provision at Coll and Colonsay, was put at £4.5million, but the price more than doubled - with Oban Airport responsible for the bulk of the additional costs, costing a reported £9million alone.

When proposed, Argyll and Bute Council said the airport would create somewhere between 100 to 400 jobs, supporting between 50 to 200 jobs with the creation of new business.

Commuters visiting the airport today can take scheduled flights to four destinations: Coll, Colonsay, Islay and Tiree.

Campbeltown pupil stabbed outside school

A 16-YEAR-old Kintyre schoolboy was injured in a stabbing by a fellow pupil outside Campbeltown Grammar School on Monday morning.

The victim was taken to Campbeltown Hospital following the incident which occurred prior to the start of the school day at 9am. The alleged attack happened as a school bus dropped pupils off at a parking area 100 yards from the school building.

It is understood the boy was stabbed in the leg and a police spokesman confirmed his injuries as not life threatening.

The spokesman added: 'A 14-year-old local boy has been arrested in connection with this incident. A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and the Children's Panel.'

There will be increased police presence at the school during the rest of the week and after the Easter holidays.

25 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times



Thursday, April 2, 1987



Oban's railway station comes down

DEMOLITION of Oban's century-old railway station, begun towards the end of last week, should be completed within a fortnight.

The work is being carried out by Burnthills of Johnston who are using special cutting machinery to dismantle the metal framework of the building.

The Victorian structure, which was replaced by a smaller modern station early last year, has stood as one of the town's most famous landmarks since the railway line to Oban was opened over a century ago.

Sadly, the station's famous clock tower will also disappear in the demolition process. The site now forms part of a major waterfront development which is to include a hotel, an international curling rink, heritage centre, tourist information centre, superloo and shopping mall. t13twid01

Safe delivery

MULL mother-to-be Mrs Debbie MacVicar, 19, Salen, was rushed to Oban by lifeboat on Sunday when she went into labour early.

Mrs MacVicar later gave birth to a 6lb 6oz boy at Vale of Leven Hospital. Her husband, Mr Archie MacVicar, is on the staff of a builders merchants in Craignure. This is their first child.



Record entry for Seil 'Superstars'

THERE was a record entry of over 50 pairs for the annual 'Superstars' contest organised by Seil Island Sports Club in Easdale Hall on Saturday.

The competitors - child paired with adult - had to complete a series of sports and gymnastic events against the clock. t13twid04



Two x three at Kinlocheil

A KINLOCHEIL man's pet sheep has given birth to triplets for the second year in succession.

The mum in a million is a four-year-old cross Suffolk called 'Malish', the pet of Johnnie MacDonald - known as Johnnie Ruadh - who lives at Ardarroch, Kinlocheil, near Fort William.

Johnnie said: 'She had triplets last year as well. she was a triplet herself and her daughter just had twins!'

'That's not a bad percentage figure for two animals and Johnnie said: 'These are the only triplets I know of round here.' t13twid02

Region's sub-office officially opened

A £145,000 extension to Strathclyde Regional Council's sub-offices for Argyll and Bute in Lochgilphead were officially opened on Monday by Councillor Gerald McGrath, chairman of the buildings and property committee.

Extensive renovation has also been carried out on the original building in Lochnell Street which is now linked at first floor level to the extension in Colchester Square.

The new complex is named Dalriada House. A major feature of the extension, built by M & K Macleod, is a new marriage room seating 50 guests. There is also a courtyard which can be used for wedding photographs.



Princess to open conference

PRINCESS Anne will open a two-day conference and exhibition centred on freight distribution being staged at the Aviemore Centre on May 7-9.

The Princess is the honorary president of The Chartered Institute of Transport, main sponsors for the event.

'Focus of Distribution' is the theme for the first conference programme which is being held in conjunction with the Scottish Freight, Transport and Distribution Exhibition.

Lochaber society reform

The reformed Lochaber Strathspey & Reel Society came back on to the swing of country music with a series of concerts in the High School over the past week. t13twid03

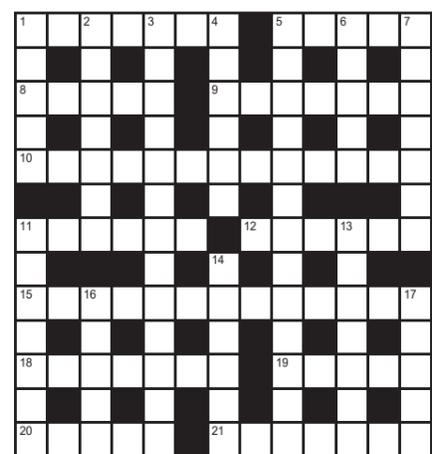
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

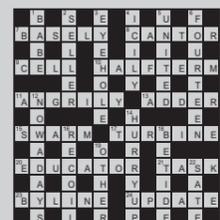
- 1 Nine sided (7)
- 5 Clean (5)
- 8 They sing low? (5)
- 9 Appearance of someone from the past, related (7)
- 10 Wide bodied (6-7)
- 11 Bad feeling (6)
- 12 Character drawn to cheer one (6)
- 15 Good or bad, they let you know what's to come (13)
- 18 One who receives a bequeathal (7)
- 19 Enter (5)
- 20 Chopper blade (5)
- 21 Steadfastly (7)

Down

- 1 Bigwig (5)
- 2 Airhole (7)
- 3 Radio wave detector (6,7)
- 4 Shade (6)
- 5 Gathering at church (6,7)
- 6 Take up space (5)
- 7 Christening (4,3)
- 11 Sound barrier (7)
- 13 On which a frog may sit (4,3)
- 14 Falling star (6)
- 16 Correct (5)
- 17 Threadbare (5)



Last week's solution



VisitScotland open new Oban centre

OBAN'S new VisitScotland information centre will open at its new north pier location next week, ahead of the busy Easter weekend.

Situated at the corner of George Street beneath the Columba Hotel, the new centre in effect replaces the former office at the old St Columba's Church at Argyll Square, with repairs to the building's roof proving too costly.

VisitScotland say the new office, which is part of one of the town's most prominent buildings, has been refitted to a high standard, incorporating the organisation's latest branding and will benefit significantly from the nearby car park.

David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland's regional director for Argyll and Bute, said: 'Opening in time for the busy Easter period is a huge achievement for all those involved in the move. From its new home in the Columba Building, the Oban

"We are delighted the VisitScotland centre is opening in this fantastic location."

**Robert Pollock
Argyll and Bute
Council**

VisitScotland information centre will continue to play a vital role in showcasing the wealth of things to see and do in the local area, with our staff providing valuable assistance and inspiration to visitors from all over the world.'

News of the opening has been welcomed by the town's community council, with chairwoman Marri Molloy on Monday saying the new office was in an 'excel-

lent position'. Argyll and Bute Council's head of economic development and strategic transportation, Robert Pollock said: 'We are delighted the VisitScotland information centre is opening in this fantastic location.'

'The Columba Hotel site is one of the best recognised buildings in town. This will definitely be an exciting new chapter for information provision and tourism in Oban.'

A formal launch will take place later in April to give local businesses a chance to celebrate the opening.

The fate of its former home in St Columba's Church, meanwhile, remains unclear. It is understood the repair bill for the crumbling ceiling is approximately £500,000.

Anyone interested in marketing opportunities at the new visitor centre can contact Alison Feaks, on 01631 567 701 or alison.feaks@visitScotland.com.

McCaig's Tower to host double celebration on same summer's day

Queen's Diamond Jubilee bonfire night to follow Oban girl's big wedding day

THERE is to be a day of double celebration within the granite walls of Oban's iconic McCaig's Tower this summer.

A bonfire to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee was announced in The Oban Times last week - however, there is also a wedding to be held within the monument's walls on the same day - Saturday, June 2. Oban girl Jacqueline Auld will marry David Preiss in the afternoon, with the spectacular bonfire, which may be seen for miles around, set to be lit at midnight.

Confusion over the double date booking was quickly resolved to allow the two events to go ahead at different times.

Father of the bride Iain Auld of Glenberrie Guest House, Oban said: 'We booked and paid for the tower 15 - 18 months ago.'

'When we saw the article in last week's *Oban Times* it was a complete shock.'

'I contacted the council and



McCaig's Tower is to host a double celebration on the same day this summer

was told that our booking is secure and the wedding will go ahead.

Jubilee celebration bonfire organiser Graham MacQueen said: 'This is a hugely important day for the bride and I will make every effort to ensure her wed-

ding is not affected.' Mr MacQueen added: 'The bonfire is also a hugely important thing for Oban - it will make headlines for the town once again.'

He gave assurances that those building the fire would be 'well out of the way' during the wedding ceremony and if possible would build the fire after the wedding.

'We would never want to encroach on her day.'

'If the wedding is finished at 4pm then we will come in at 4pm,' said Mr MacQueen.

Confirming Mr Auld's priority booking of the venue for his daughter's big day, a spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said that they 'had a long standing booking at McCaig's Tower for an event on Saturday, June 2.'

'This event will take precedence over any other which may be booked at the tower for that date.'



Colin with some of the children at Soroba Young Families Group and his own daughter Alayna, who will be attending in the future.

Colin ready to walk 'coast to coast' to aid Oban young families' group

A FATHER is walking from 'coast to coast' to raise funds for an Oban group that supports vulnerable families.

Colin Baxter is hoping to complete the walk from the Solway Firth to Wallsend at Newcastle in three days.

All the money raised from the walk in July will go to help with the running of the Soroba Young Family Group.

Colin said: 'I'll be taking lots

of plasters and Sudocrem but I'm also thinking of walking back the way too. My car will be in Solway and the bus service is not great. I'll see how sore the feet are.'

He added: 'I want to raise as much as possible and would like some of the businesses in the town to realise what a good cause it is and contribute.'

'My oldest daughter went here and my six month old, Alayna,

will hopefully go here too. I'd hate to see anything happen to this place, the kids really enjoy coming here and the more money they have the better it is for the kids.'

Jayne Donn, chairwoman of the fundraising committee said: 'The project really helped me by taking in both my children when I was due to have an operation.'

'But the funding has been

drastically cut again this year, as it has been every year in recent times. We are doing a lot of fundraising activities and the next big thing is the tabletop sale in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on April 29.'

'There will be lots of things there and it will be really good for families. It is the first time we have done something like this and I would encourage everyone to come along.'

Cinema refurbishment continues despite date delay

OBAN Phoenix Cinema will this week take delivery of new seats as refurbishment progresses apace - but the opening date may be delayed.

The not-for-profit company hopes to open the picture house next month, but a number of unforeseen repairs means the opening could be pushed back into May or June.

While no formal decision has been taken, the directors have reassured the community that, when complete, it will be more than worth the wait. Director, Laura Russell, said: 'We are still ambitiously aiming for as early an opening as possible.'

Meanwhile, fundraising is still at a crucial stage, and it is hoped the latest Bring and Buy sale, at

the Corran Halls this Saturday, complete with home-baking, bouncy castle for the kids and a plethora of stalls, will add to the pot. Directors will be on hand to answer any questions locals have about the reopening.

Seats for the cinema can still be sponsored, with £200 regular seats and £1,000 VIP seats still available.

Oban Phoenix Cinema has received funding from Argyll and the Islands Leader, HIE, Crerar Hotels British Hotels Trust, Creative Scotland, Firstport, Just Enterprise and Artemis. For more information or to sponsor a seat, contact Laura Russell at DM MacKinnon Solicitors on 01631 563014 or email lr@dmmk.co.uk.

Light go out around the globe for Earth Hour

MCCAIG'S Tower will be in darkness for one hour this Saturday evening as Argyll and Bute Council supports the World Wildlife Fund's Earth Hour for the third consecutive year.

At 8.30pm, the tower will join millions of households across the globe with the lights

going out in a show of support for people and wildlife threatened by climate change.

Sally Loudon, Argyll and Bute Council's chief executive, said: 'The council has signed up to Earth Hour and I'd encourage local residents, schools, businesses and other organisations to do the same.'

Scotland's self acclaimed Seafood Capital fails to find sufficient support for seafood festival

OBAN, Scotland's Seafood Capital, will not have a Seafood Festival this summer due to a lack of people willing to help organise the event.

It had been previously announced by the local councillor behind the event that it would return this May to coincide with the Scottish Association for Marine Science's Festival of the Sea.

However, the councillor has been forced to admit defeat as the upcoming election has busied his diary, coupled, he says, with few or no volunteers coming forward to help co-ordinate the culinary celebration.

Instead, he will call on local eateries to put on special seafood-inspired menus during the week of

the Festival of the Sea.

The councillor said: 'It came down to just two or three of us doing the work. While I was trying to get people to come and help, it wasn't happening.'

'I also feel that the Festival of the Sea is a big enough event on its own and we don't need to have to events running side by side.'

Connel hears opposition to Glenlonan windfarm

OPPONENTS to an application to build a wind farm in a Glen Lonan beauty spot say no heed has been paid to the possible impact on tourism.

Giving a presentation to Connel Community Council, Dr Jeremy Church said the lack of consultation with the sector - one of Argyll and Bute's biggest employers - was a significant oversight as he believes it could make a major dent on the coun-

ty's income. He said Wind Prospect's plans for 11 turbines in Glen Lonan - which measure 121metres in height to the blade tip - would deter visitors to the area, with 14 scheduled monuments and at least the same number of unscheduled monuments in the vicinity.

He called on the council to refuse the application, saying: 'The council has quite clear guidelines on this and this

application breaches them clearly.'

With 150 applications for individual turbines lodged throughout the county, he warned of 'planning fatigue' when dealing objectively with such applications. Calling on the Scottish Government to abandon its dedication to wind, Dr Church cited the Nobel-prize winning director of CERN, Professor Jack Steinberger, who described it as 'an illusory technology'.

Visit us online

click

VISIT US AT
www.obantimes.co.uk

JAMES SMITH & Company (Connel) Ltd.

NIBC REGISTERED BUILDERS SELECT

Free quotations for all aspects of building works

New Build, Extensions, Renovations
Design and Fit Kitchens and Bathrooms
Plumbing, Heating, Electrical Work
All work carried out to a High Standard and Fully Guaranteed

Tel: Jim 07785 537060
Tel: Stephen 07789 934845

7E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG Tel/Fax: 01631 564955

NEW!

Graphic Design & Digital Print Service based in Oban.

Telephone: **01631 568015** to discuss your requirements

ON NOW SALE

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH FIELD...

FORGED IN FIFE - Artist David Mach on his school of hard knocks READ...

EIGG'S LONE PIPER

Why America loves our deerhounds

THE TITANIC'S SCOTS SCAPEGOAT

The year's best wildlife images

CRAPPIT COD & SHEEP HEID - SCOTTISH CUISINE RETURNS

Inside Drumlanrig with The Duke of Buccleuch

10 OF THE BEST APRIL FOOLS OF ALL TIME

WIN A WEEK IN A HIGHLAND COTTAGE

WIN A FREE BUFFALO LEATHER JOURNAL WORTH £25

SUBSCRIBE TODAY... AND RECEIVE

www.scottishfield.co.uk

Oban lads to attend Glasgow Thistles training camp

YOUTH RUGBY

THREE talented under-16 Oban rugby players have been selected to attend the Glasgow Thistles training camp in Perpignan this summer.

They are: Christopher Budge (winger), Jamie Bate (number 8) and Fergus Bradbury (prop). The boys were selected on their abilities displayed at a recent under-16 skills camp at Hamilton.

They will travel with the squad and train at the superb facilities in Perpignan under the supervision of some of the best Scottish coaches. This will give them a valuable insight into what it is like to tour with a professional squad and the work rate required.

Whilst in Perpignan they will also undertake qualifications in coaching and first aid. The trip is subsidised by the Leonardo da Vinci foundation but the boys have to find £1,000 each for the remainder. They will be commencing their fundraising efforts this week.

High school girls lose out in the final

GIRLS RUGBY

OBAN High School's under-15 girls team took the runners-up spot in a recent sevens tournament at Scotstoun, Glasgow.

Having topped their pool by winning all five matches, the 10-strong Oban squad strolled through their semi-final match. Although the girls lost a highly competitive final by five tries to four, they didn't go home empty-handed, as Emma Thompson was named top try scorer.

Coach Emma Roxburgh said: 'All the girls played fantastically well and were just unfortunate at the end. Considering many of the girls are quite young and the team are just starting out I am very pleased and extremely excited to carry on their fixtures for the year.'

'This team has a lot of potential already and I am very proud of them.'

The team thanked Mary Fyfe, who drove the mini-bus on the day.

Squad: Rona McGlone, Charlotte Lawson, Claire Macpherson, Laura MacCallum, Holly Strachan, Beth Anderson, Emma Thompson, Ciara Colthart, Morven-Macfadayen-Donald and captain for the day Lauren Lawson.

Saints youths - results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Antonine 3, Under 13s 1. Scoring for Saints was Lomond MacPherson. Under 14s 4, FC Thistle 0. Saints goalscorers were Kieran Hendry, Ross MacMillan, Stuart MacLean and Louis McGuire. EDFC United 4, Under 15s 0; Under 16s no game.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Under 14s no game; Kilpatrick v Under 15s; Under 16s no game.

Union strike but Donald fires in six

Four hat-tricks in three games for on-form Saints front man

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division **Oban Saints 7**

Kilbowie Union 1
SAINTS hitman Donald Campbell netted six goals on Saturday to claim his fourth hat-trick in three games.

Kilbowie Union were the visitors to Glenclutten and the Clydebank side were unlucky to find the Oban team in sparkling form, especially striker Campbell who had netted 27 league and cup goals by the full-time whistle last weekend.

The tally is a tremendous feat no matter what standard of football you play in.

Saints opened the scoring in the 8th minute when Alan Miller and Lewis Cameron

set up Campbell who made no mistake from close range.

The home side were playing some good stuff and came close again in the 15th minute when Willie Gemmill fed in Lewis Cameron, but Union keeper Blair Flynn made a good save from Lewis's shot.

Saints increased their lead in the 21st minute after some good work by PJ Sinclair and Keith Millar allowed Donnie Campbell to clear the ball home.

The visitors lost the services of centre half Robert Donnelly with a leg injury midway through the first half.

Kilbowie were already struggling to get to grips with the Oban side, but all credit to them they came back into the game

FOOTBALL

and Jay Malarkey had a good effort that flew inches past Graham Douglas' post and another effort came back off the crossbar just before the half time whistle.

After the restart the home side continued in the same form and increased their lead when Donald Campbell raced along the byline before being taken down by Craig Dunn leaving referee Jimmy Litster, who had a good game, no option but to point to the penalty spot. That man Campbell stepped up and drilled the ball past Blair Flynn to net his own hat-trick and give his team a 3-0 lead.

The Oban side should have



Donald Campbell nets the first of his six goals during Saints 7-1 win over Kilbowie Union at Glenclutten last Saturday. t13saints02

increased their lead in the 59th minute when Donald Campbell squared the ball to Myles McAuley, but the Saints midfielder made a complete hash of things missing from only a couple of yards out with the goal at his mercy.

Saints were stunned a minute later when the defence failed to clear a corner and Gordon Murray was on hand to net from close range to give Union a glimmer of hope of getting back into the game.

However, any hope they had was killed stone dead in the 67th minute when Donald Campbell

raced to the byline before cutting the ball back for Asen Gaydardzhiev and the Bulgarian made no mistake thumping the ball high into the net to make the score 4-1. Kilbowie were a dispirited side now and a mix-up between the keeper and a defender allowed Donald Campbell to nip in between them, and roll the ball into an empty net.

Although Union never gave up and were pushing players forward they were leaving spaces at the back which the quick-fire Saints forward line were exploiting time after time and it was no surprise as the game drew

to a close that Donald Campbell completed a superb afternoon's work by bagging another two goals to take his own tally to six and give his team a comfortable 7-1 win.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted. 'We were excellent today and obviously Donnie's double hat-trick put the icing on the cake of a good team performance.'

This Saturday Saints face a tough away game against Thorn Athletic. The match will be played in Johnstone with a 2pm kick-off with referee Gary Stephen in charge.

Marke Dans 'A' are league champions

POOL

AFTER a hard fought season Marke Dans A have won the Oban and District Pool League title for season 2011/2012.

Led magnificently by outgoing captain James Scott the Markies boys recovered from a poor start to the season to go on an incredible run of 13 wins in their final 14 league matches.

It's the second time in three seasons the title has gone to Markies, despite the sterling efforts of last season's champions Lancaster A.

The win was sealed on the final night of the season thanks to a 7-2 victory over the Clarry, ensuring Markies finished two points ahead and regained their number one spot in Oban.

Argyll teams reach Brewin semi-finals

GIRLS RUGBY

BOTH Argyll U15 and U18 girls reached the semi-finals of the Brewin Dolphin National Cup this season.

Both matches were played on home soil.

The U18 girls were drawn against Stewartry Sharkettes in their semi-final of the Brewin Dolphin Cup and this was played at Oban Lorne grounds.

Several of the players from both teams had been included in last summer's Scotland U18 squad and were aware of each other's capabilities.

In an evenly-matched and physical encounter, it was Stewartry's pacy wingers who made the difference and the away side ran 29-19 winners.

The U15s lost to a more experienced Grantown Academy 26-0.

Both teams were delighted to play in their brand new strips sponsored by Oban Rotary.

Tobermory Golf Club results

GOLF

JUNIOR Winter Stapleford played on March 24: 1 Iain Wilshire, 21points; 2 William MacCrone, 18points; 3 Lewis Brown, 16points.

2012 Opening Foursomes, The Jim Lavery Trophy: 1 Graham Davidson and Ross MacCrone, net 63; 2 Paul MacKinnon and Lewis Wilshire, 68 net; 3 Donald Alan MacLean and Lewis Brown 71.5 net.

The Hairy Legs Trophy was won by Iain Wilshire and Ally Macleod.

Taynuilt Open Invitational

GOLF

TAYNUILT Golf Club New Clubhouse Open Invitational held on Sunday, March 25.

1 John Blackstock / Mary Philips, Isle of Seil GC, 36 pts (21) bh; 2 David Shanks / Ann Shanks, Dumbarton GC, 36 pts (19); 3 Michael Urwin / Ann Urwin, Taynuilt GC, 36 pts (22).

Robbie gains SFA coaching award

COACHING

CONGRATULATIONS to Oban Saints youth team coach Robbie Johnston on passing his SFA Level 4 coaching course

Harry is accepted into Glasgow School of Sport

BADMINTON prospect Harry Mobeys has been accepted to the Glasgow School of Sport in

Bellahouston, following a three-month selection process.

The 11 year old from Taynuilt,

BADMINTON

who recently won the Argyll and Bute Badminton Championship, first applied to the school in December last year with references from Taynuilt Primary School, PE teachers and Oban Badminton Club.

Versatility
Since then he has conducted fitness and badminton skill test and, last month, went through further fitness tests, showing versatility across sporting disciplines of gymnastics, athletics, hockey and badminton.

In addition, Harry had to attend an interview with the headmaster and deputy headmaster of Bellahouston Academy and the director of the School of Sport.

He will start at Glasgow School of Sport on August 15.

Harry's mother, Karen, said: 'This has been an enormous achievement for such a young person.'

High standard
He had to compete against hundreds of other sports people across a number of sporting disciplines, all achieving to a high standard, as only 20 places were available across the whole of Scotland.

'Harry is so excited about starting his next chapter in secondary school and says he is ready for the challenge.'

'He has said to me that he is going to work really hard and hopes one day he might bring a higher profile medal back to Taynuilt.'



Harry Mobeys has been accepted to the Glasgow School of Sport. t13harry01

New clubhouse at Taynuilt Golf Course opens its doors

GOLFERS of all ages turned out to celebrate the official opening of the new Taynuilt Clubhouse on Saturday.

The clubhouse, which cost £62,000 to build, was funded in part by Sport Scotland with the remainder being made up from fundraising activities and donations.

Caroline Jamieson, Taynuilt's oldest resident aged 95, had the duty of cutting the ribbon, officially opening the golf course's new clubhouse.

She said: 'It is so nice to be thought of for this, I am really honoured. I hadn't seen the clubhouse until now and I have to say it is really beautiful.'

'I remember the old golf course that was here. I used to go and have a game on it with my sister but I was very young then.'

Club history
Inside, displays of photos taken at the course over the years were on show, as was a display on the history of the club.

The new clubhouse was built over two years with the help of volunteers and club captain, Mairead Sim, said: 'We are absolutely thrilled with the new clubhouse, the bulk of it was built by volunteers and it is just an amazing achievement.'

She added: 'It is a very important day in the diary of Taynuilt Golf Club.'

Hamish Grey, Chief Executive, Scottish Golf Union was also there for the opening. He commended the club in their efforts: 'Without vibrant clubs like

yourself we would not be able to grow the game. I commend Taynuilt Golf Club for trying to ensure that all local youngsters are linked to the club.'

GOLF

He added: 'You should rightly be very proud of what you have achieved here.'



Caroline Jamieson opens the clubhouse with club captain Mairead Sim. 16_t13taynuilt01.jpg

Get ready for the season

If you haven't already ordered your promotional printing for the 2012 summer season then now is the time to do so.

Krisp Print offer excellent prices on medium to long run colour brochures and leaflets as well as short run digital printing. We also offer a professional design service to help you make a good first impression where it counts.

Campbelltown • T: 01586 554975
E: staff@krispprint.co.uk
Oban • T: 01631 568015
E: sales@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

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. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

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. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

WIN £600

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

N MacKenzie
Killin, Perthshire

D Cruickshank
Kames, Tighnabraich

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name

Address

..... Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes,
postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,
Burnbank, Burnside Street,
Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Two national titles in a row for Chris

15-year-old Lochaber Phoenix boxer was a class apart

LOCHABER Phoenix ABC's 15-year-old Chris Bradley has cemented his position as one of the finest young boxers in Scotland by winning the national title for the second year running. Up against John Redpath of Midlothian ABC in his final in the Scottish Amateur Championships at Ravensraig in Motherwell last weekend, Bradley was a class apart throughout. Right from the bell the Lochaber youngster used his greater strength to force the Midlothian boxer backwards and was comfortably ahead after the first. In round two Chris' double jab and right crossed checked Redpath's efforts to gain a foothold in the contest and was

looking every inch a champion. Round three saw Bradley use all the experience gained in his years of boxing - realising he was far ahead on points, he used constant movement to frustrate Redpath as his adversary became more ragged. Chris did not concede a single point in the last and ran out a clear winner, landing almost five times as many punches as his opponent. **International career** He cannot rest on his laurels however - Chris hopes to continue his international career and represent Scotland before the end of the season. Also boxing in a final was Lochaber's Scottish champion last year, 14 year-old James

BOXING

Aitchison, who as a growing teenager has gone through four weight divisions in the last 12 months. He found himself face to face with perhaps the most avoided boxer in Scottish schoolboy boxing, Lewis Hay of Keir Hardie ABC, Scottish and British champion for the last two years. The bout proved that James Aitchison belongs at the highest level in Britain. Neither could establish supremacy in a nip and tuck first round, as Hay was faced with a real challenge to his supremacy. Round two saw both boys show amazing powers of



Scottish champion Chris Bradley, centre, silver medalist James Aitchison, right and Igor Sliwinski, left, did Lochaber proud at the national championships. 20_1310x01

concentration as their physical chess match continued with neither willing to concede ground. Just two points down going into the last, James had no choice but to leave himself open to counters as he bravely forced the action. At the final bell, James had to be content with silver but also the knowledge that he can compete against the best. The club also had 15 year-old Igor Sliwinski boxing at the

finals, but the fiery fighter hit a roadblock in what was his first Scottish open championships. Up against the much more experienced Aiden Byrne of Clydebank Ospreys ABC in the quarter-final, Igor - who has blown through the Scottish novice and Northern divisions like a tornado in his first full season - lost out by four points. Club official Steve Docherty, who himself officiated over

90 bouts at the finals, said: 'We are all delighted with Chris who has continued to dominate his division over the course of the last year and hopefully this year he can win the British title also. We've got the same hopes for James Aitchison who although he didn't win the Scottish this year has proved if he continues in this vein he can go as far as he wants. Igor has done so much in

his first season that we maybe became a bit carried away with how far he could go in this competition but I firmly believe he has a huge future ahead of him.' Lochaber Phoenix ABC hold their final home show of the season at the Nevis Centre on Saturday. Tickets are available from the venue, Niall Clark (07554994744), Vince Lopez(079793210245) or Steve Docherty (07767 069532).

Alleycats are the scratch champions

TEN PIN BOWLING

THE LOCHABER Building Supplies 10-pin bowling team leagues at the Nevis Centre are now complete. The scratch division was won by Alleycats with 84 points followed by Council in second spot on 80 with Ardtoe/Nevis Radio in third on 61 points after they all won out 5-0 winners in the final week. Council triumphed in the handicap division with 62 points followed by Ardtoe/Nevis Radio in second on 59 points. Both teams ran out 5-0 winners in the final week. Alleycats were in third place on 54 points. Council had the season high scratch game with 660, the best handicap game with 865 and handicap two-game series with 1688. Alleycats had the season's highest two-game scratch series with 1281. Individual season highs went to Pam Weller (Alleycats) with the top scratch game of 214 and the top scratch two-game series with 369. Les MacFarlane (Phoenix) had the season's high handicap game with 252. Hazel White (Underdogs) had the top two-game handicap series with 465. Highest top scratch average went to Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with 154 closely followed by teammate Pam Weller on 153. Third was Stewart Duncan (Likely Lads) on 145.

Clean sheet for Fort but they fail to score at the other end

Highland League
Fort William 0
Rothies 0
FORT KEPT a clean sheet for the first time in months - but couldn't score at the other end either. In a game purists would rather forget, the Lochaber men edged out Rothies in terms of possession, while the visitors arguably had the best chances. Fort coach Danny Conlon was upbeat about the result - but was the first to admit the game was

far from a classic. He told The Oban Times: 'When was the last time Fort William has been disappointed with a shut-out? We did not play well on the day and they were there for the taking. Over the 90 minutes, though, I thought a draw was the right result.' The Fort had high hopes of doing the double over the Speysiders after their fine away win last autumn. They started strongly, and

FOOTBALL

Rothies' defence had to look sharp to block Michael Gillespie's effort, then Darren Quigg headed over when well-placed. Rothies had a gilt-edged chance to one up after 21 minutes after Mark Gillespie downed Sean McIntosh in the box, but McKinsty's low penalty was snuffed by Robbie Donaldson - the Fort keeper's second successive penalty save. Michael Dunn should have opened Rothies' account before the break, but he headed past. **Heroics** Fort's centreback Andy Martin then performed heroics to keep Rothies out, his last-gasp defensive header hitting the bar before being cleared. The shaven-headed defender took a nasty head knock in the process. If the first half was low key the second was even quieter, with chances few and far between. Martin's turn and shot tested the keeper then MacLeod headed just past as Fort looked for the opening goal. Sub John Hewitt was looking lively for Fort but his low shot on 78 minutes presented Horn with an easy save. Fort finished with some kind of a flourish and Mark Gillespie was unlucky to see his dipping volley fly just over in the final minute of injury time. After their hard-won point, Fort were due to play Clachnacuddin at home last night. Both Danny McIntosh and Farquhar MacRae could make a return to the squad for the away day to Keith on Saturday.



Penalty! Fort's Mark Gillespie brings down Sean McIntosh in the box - but McKinsty couldn't convert. 20_131001e01

Boxing programme proves a big hit

NETHER Lochaber 'Claymores' Amateur Boxing Club has become the first in Scotland to be put through their 10-week assessment for the new 'Amateur Boxing Academy'. And the 20-week non-contact boxing training programme for 10-19 year-olds who have never boxed before being has proved a big hit in Kinlochleven. Amateur Boxing Scotland, who set the academy in January, sent CashBack co-ordinator Craig McAvoy to Kinlochleven High School to assess the youngsters' progress. Mr McAvoy and Claymores' head coach Martin Glenesk trained and boxed for Rosyth ABC while serving in the

BOXING

forces, while club fitness coach John McDuff spent years as an army training instructor - Mr McAvoy's current position in the army. The close bond between the three men ensured the trainees were put through an extremely rigorous assessment. **Demonstrate** As friends and family looked on, Mr Glenesk and Mr McDuff got the squad to demonstrate warm up exercises and footwork, co-ordination and speed skills. Mr McAvoy then led a fast-paced drill in which the trainees had to perform punches and defensive moves. By the end, Mr McAvoy was



Martin Glenesk, Craig McAvoy and John McDuff: delighted with youngsters' progress.

delighted with the standard on show after only 10 weeks and praised both trainees and club coaches for their hard work in the gym. Every trainee passed with flying colours and Kinlochleven High School head teacher John McGilp presented the certificates.

Mr Glenesk said: 'It has been fantastic to see the trainees develop their skills over the past 10 weeks and they have all increased their fitness levels as well as having great fun with all the games. Their dedication and enthusiasm has made running the Academy an absolute pleasure.'

Four local riders take part in trial

SIX DAYS TRIAL

FOUR LOCHABER Motorcycle Club riders will be among 40 Scottish competitors lining up for the Scottish Six Days Trial on May 7-12. Kevin Dignan (Thistle Gas) will be number 114, Michael Fothergill (Montesa) 115, Gavin Brown (HLS Beta) 163 and Gary MacLennan (HLS Beta) 164. Kinlochleven joiner Gary MacDonald, a strong contender in recent years, is sitting out this year's event but told The Oban Times he would 'definitely be back' for next year. The 275-strong field also includes riders from across Europe and from as far afield as America, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Packing a punch at Cashback Academy

BOXING

FOR THE past ten weeks Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club welcomed youngsters from local schools Amateur Boxing Scotland's Cashback for Communities Scheme, which helps regenerate money taken from criminals and use it in local communities. The 10 weeks culminated in a display by 30 youngsters for their families and friends at Caol Community Centre, when around 100 people enjoyed children aged from 10 to 13 put on a demonstration of all the skills they had learned over the course. Their fantastic display was

all the more remarkable in that it was co-ordinated by Craig McAvoy of ABS, who had met the children for the first time only 90 minutes previously. A 'very impressed' Mr McAvoy said after the presentation of certificates: 'It's a credit to themselves and their coaching team of Niall Clark, Vince Lopez and Steve Docherty that they have learned so much in such a short space of time.' It is hoped for a further set of courses will be announced shortly after Easter.



Cashback Academy pupils impressed with their skills.

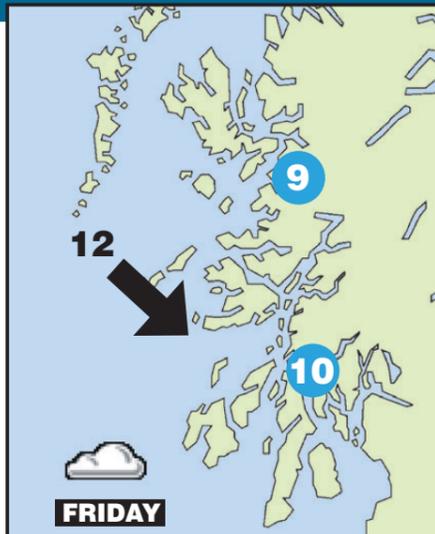
Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds light west, north westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 10°C

Friday Cloudy
Winds light, north westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 10°C.

Weekend Cloudy
Outlook Winds light, north westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 11°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 29, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 03.06	1.7	09.05
Fri 03.47	1.9	09.52
Sat 05.30	2.1	11.20
Sun 07.10	2.0	14.17
Mon 02.07	3.0	08.44
Tues 03.07	3.3	09.39
Wed 03.50	3.6	10.21

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-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		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS



website: www.northwestmarine.co.uk
Address: 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG
Ph: 01631 565740 Fax: 01631 565780
email: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk