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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Also inside this week: Opinion split on Esplanade road plan • Glenorchy kirk's 200th anniversary • Saints held at home

Argylls to get the Freedom of Renfrewshire

THE ARGYLL and Sutherland Highlanders are to be given the Freedom of Renfrewshire at a homecoming ceremony in Paisley on June 20.

The 400 servicemen and women in the 5th Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Scotland (SSCOTS) will march through the town in a ceremony to mark Armed Forces Day.

Renfrewshire Council gave the proposal its unanimous backing at a recent meeting.

Most of the regiment is due to start returning from overseas this month, with the rest due to return by early May.

Lady Evelyn almost ready for move

THE *Lady Evelyn*, which has lain dangerously on its side at Oban's North Pier for months on end, has finally been righted.

Derek Grier, who bought the dishevelled vessel in October last year, managed to complete enough temporary repairs to allow the boat to float in order to attach temporary legs.

More long-term legs, in the form of telegraph poles, are to be brought in this week, with the intention being to get the boat towed to the Gallanach side of the Sound of Kerrera as possible.

Speaking on Tuesday, Derek said: "So many people have stopped by to say "I can't believe you got that floating!"

"I'm hoping to get it towed by next weekend."

Landslide risk closes main A83

AN INCREASED landslide risk saw the southbound carriageway of the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful, adjacent to the junction with the B828, closed during this week's torrential downpour.

The route was shut off by Strathclyde Police on Monday lunchtime, and was still closed at the time of going to press.

Motorists were also hit when the diversion route, via Crianlarich, was also affected this week, although this has since been re-opened.



Fèis Latharna's fiddle group got down to some serious sounds on Tuesday morning 16. t14feis2

Record numbers flock to Fèis Latharna

FEIS LATHARNA – a week long celebration of Gaelic arts and culture got off to a great start on Monday at Oban Primary Campus.

This year the voluntary group had its biggest ever turn out with 121 students aged between eight and 18.

Joanie Garvin, chairwoman of

the organising committee, said: "This year we have extended the programme we are offering to children. Not only are we offering our widest range of instru-

ments such as accordion, fiddle and tin whistle but children can also choose to go canoeing in Gaelic or join in with a mini Highland Games event."

Jane Smith, from Oban, whose mother lives in a west coast care home, is horrified that due to cuts in spending, her mother will be charged for every single item she uses.

Jane explains: "We were told that we would be putting my mum into a loving care home, and yet here we are a few years

Provost Petrie lifts first Smile in Argyll

Lifetime achievement accolade for services to area's tourism

PROVOST William Petrie was honoured with the first Argyll and the Isles Tourism Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award was presented by His Grace the Duke of Argyll.

The award, nicknamed the *Smile in Argyll* award, was presented to the provost during the first Argyll and Isles Tourism Summit attended by more than 120 delegates.

Introducing the award, chairman of VisitScotland Dr Mike Cantlay spoke about Provost Petrie's dedication to the tourism industry calling him 'the public face of tourism' in the many different organisations he was charged with which promoted

Argyll and the Isles beyond the area's boundaries.

Provost Petrie said: "As a council we are conscious of how important tourism is to our economy and we are committed to developing the industry in whatever way we can. I would like to give my grateful thanks to the council for giving tourism a platform here today and to everyone who attended."

"You can now move forward to promote your own businesses individually knowing that you have an umbrella body in Argyll and the Isles Strategic Tourism Partnership which is dedicated to working on your behalf."



Provost Petrie received the Smile in Argyll Award at the Argyll and Isles Tourism Seminar from His Grace the Duke of Argyll, right, and chairman of VisitScotland Dr Mike Cantlay. 16. t14smile1

Concern rises over care charges

Fears over 'Easyjet' mentality of hidden costs in care homes

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by
LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

"There is a looming crisis, ... we are probably due to be hit the hardest."

former health spokesman Argyll and Bute Council

workers having to travel 30/40 miles to see a client.

"I am concerned that other operators may not be able to burden this cost.

"It is understandable the council needs to adapt and change. The elderly population is on an increase.

"I would say that there is a looming crisis and, because of the unique area of Argyll and the islands, we are probably due to be hit the hardest."

Mr MacIntosh said councils were already in negotiation with the Scottish government in order to look at introducing a pensioner's tax – something in the order of £100 to be paid monthly by the working population to secure services for the elderly.

Neil MacIntyre, of Oban Community Council, told *The Oban Times* said: "At the moment it costs the council double the amount to have someone in an Argyll and Bute Council property than a private run centre.

"The figures don't add up – why does it cost so much more for people to be in a council-run home?"

"We are told that the elderly population in Argyll is about to spiral and more bed spaces are required.

"A new home is due to be open in North Connel later this year, but they said even this might not meet the growing demand for residential care.

"The biggest cost they claimed was staffing and sickness. Is this because they are paying for the many tiers of management in the council?"

"Whatever it is we need to secure good quality care for our elderly people where there are no hidden costs."

later and suddenly we got a new schedule of charges. Tea, coffee and biscuits are on the list. It seems completely unfair.

"I expect charges like this on a cheap flight. But I never expected the EasyJet mentality of hidden costs in a care home. It is a bit tight fisted."

Although care homes in Oban do not seem to have introduced such charging there is a feeling that things in the sector are becoming very tight.

Donald 'Skye' MacIntosh, former Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson on health, said there were great fears about rocketing rates for the elderly when privatisation takes over all the services.

"I worry about the private sector taking over all our services. It may be easy enough in town centres such as Oban, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown but meeting the needs of people in outlying areas, or on the islands may not be so easy for someone else to take over.

"We often hear cases of care

CalMac to investigate Tiree berthing incident

CALEDONIAN MacBrayne (CalMac) has launched an investigation after the *MV Clansman* suddenly pulled away from its berth in Tiree while the link-span was being lowered.

Eyewitnesses reported seeing a cloud of black smoke from the vessel as it dramatically left the pier at Scarinish last Monday, snapping mooring ropes.

One fisherman said: "It just blasted forward. It was incredibly dangerous."

A spokesman for CalMac said: "While berthing at Tiree on March 28, the *MV Clansman* pulled away suddenly breaking the mooring ropes. She was quickly brought under control and safely berthed. "No-one was injured, but we take these incidents extremely seriously and a full investigation is now underway."

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Marine Accident Investigation Branch have been informed.

Oban's derelict Argyll Hotel planning meeting edges closer as council confirms 'regular' talks

ARGYLL and Bute Council claim they have been in a 'regular' dialogue with developers about Oban's derelict Argyll Hotel – but a resolution has still to come before planners.

A healthy debate on the future of the hotel has ensued all week on *The Oban Times* Facebook page – with many different views on what should happen to the building.

A group of Oban-based businessmen wrote to the paper, claiming: "Deliberate delays in granting the long overdue planning permission for The Argyll Hotel are a disgrace and reflects very badly on the Oban Town and the Isles Area Committee."

"The chair of the area committee should be firmly instructing

the head of planning to immediately grant planning which is clearly in everyone's best interest and undoubtedly the will of the people who employ them.

"If this was a developer from outside the town wishing to spend £4,000,000 in the town and create 60 jobs the council would be bending over backwards to help. Why are they not helping a local? We need clear direction from this area committee and not a continuous stream of fancy words, excuses and broken promises."

Argyll and Bute Council replied to the claims, stating: "The area chairman cannot instruct planners to grant permission – the code of conduct and governance does not allow this.

"There is a laid down procedure for planning applications and planners have not been slow in advice/assistance to the applicant/agent. The chair of the area committee has had regular dialogue with the head of planning and the applicants in an attempt to have this application determined."

"The council is aiming to bring together all the required information for the April Planning Protective Services and Licensing Committee meeting. The meeting is a public one and will be held in Kilmory on April 20.

"All reports will be in the public domain after the meeting and can be accessed through the council's website on www.argyll-bute.gov.uk."

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Barra leads the way with tele-health care technology

THE ISLE of Barra is leading the way with remote healthcare after NHS Western Isles launched a trial of its new computerised tele-health consultation system.

Under the Side by Side scheme - run in partnership with mobile communications giant O2 - islanders need not travel to the mainland for a medical consultation, instead being able to simply sit in front of a computer to talk to a specialist.

The cutting edge technology allows doctors to share scans and test results in real time with their patients using a unique 'mosaic' display.

'Digital whiteboard' It also allows medical professionals to attend meetings without travelling and collaborate online using a 'digital whiteboard.'

A nurse can also be on hand to make any physical examinations

a consultant may require.

It's hoped that the system will cut down on travelling time and costs for patients and doctors alike.

With a journey to the mainland by ferry taking five hours alone, that could be a major boost to all concerned.

After being launched in Barra, the Side by Side scheme has since been trialled in Uist and Stornoway.

Hopes are high that the system will make a big difference.

Consultant surgeon and professor of remote and rural medicine for NHS Western Isles, Andrew Sim, said: 'It will open up new ways of looking after patients, so that patients can be seen at an earlier stage in their management and they will get the treatment they need more rapidly.'

'It will also mean that clinicians won't have to travel so

much. These two things are going to make a huge difference to the way we work.'

He also thinks it will make working in healthcare in the Western Isles more appealing.

'One of the problems that we have in remote and rural areas is recruiting people to this environment,' he said. 'If we could introduce advanced methods of communication such as Side by Side, we could attract people

here as it would make jobs more exciting and professionally challenging.'

Progress reports will be delivered after three months and six months to determine the success or otherwise of the programme.

Only local physicians will make use of the system during the initial trial. The next step will be to look at using the system to support services delivered from the mainland.



Well-known Gaelic singer dies

WELL-loved Gaelic singer Ishbel MacAskill has died at her home in Inverness.

The 70-year-old, originally from Point on Lewis, was known for her unique voice but also for her work with the feis movement and for her promotion and teaching of the Gaelic language.

She had supported the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music at Plocton and recently joined the campaign to keep it open.

Tributes to the singer have been paid from people throughout the Gaelic and traditional music communities.

Volunteer firemen hold seminar

A VOLUNTEER seminar at Oban Community Fire Station brought together volunteer units from all over the area.

The day's training included using the command area's new flood pod along with the high reach equipment recently installed in the station.

Chief officer Brian Sweeney told the men and women that they had tackled some challenging operational incidents.

He said: 'I am proud to state on each occasion you attended you made a huge difference by using the skills, knowledge and equipment that you have asked for.'

Cadet leaders needed in Oban

PEOPLE interested in the military are being called on to volunteer as a cadet leader in Oban.

The Oban detachment of the Argyll and Bute Cadets is urging people who would like experience working with young people to come forward.

Oban detachment commander Lieutenant Caroline Reardon said: 'Running the cadets is huge fun and very rewarding.'

'We are looking for enthusiastic adults to help us keep the detachment running. No previous military experience is required.'

The detachment, located in Tweedie Street, meets every Monday evening at 7pm.

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Tourism summit aims for 'brand'

Argyll and the Isles needs 'umbrella identity' to maximise opportunities

A SUMMIT in Oban may be the first step in securing regional status for Argyll and the islands, in tourism terms.

The event, held last Thursday, saw Scotland's tourism experts debate and discuss with a wide range of hoteliers and tourism providers a way forward to brand and identify the area.

'Stronger together' Mike Cantalay, chairman of VisitScotland said Argyll and the Isles said that the day-long conference gave an opportunity to be 'stronger together.'

He said: 'Argyll and the Isles has forged ahead with identifying who they are and offers all the things that people come to Scotland for such as wildlife, relaxation, scenery, history and walking. There is still a great opportunity to grow its business.'

Organisers have their eye on identifying the area with regional status. This would allow an instantly recognisable European brand.

David Adams McGilp, regional director of VisitScotland, is keen to explore the need for a unifying Destination Management Operator (DMO) for the area.

He said: 'There are 27 destination websites in Argyll, all with different information. There may be an opportunity for one DMO which will link all operators together.'

Further discussion around a 'clash diary' to co-ordinate the planning of events throughout the

region was also on the agenda. 'A what's on plan would make perfect sense for Argyll and the Isles,' claimed Mr McGilp.

Councillor Neil Mackay, spokesman for Culture and Tourism at Argyll and Bute Council, said the day had been a great success.

'There is something unique about Argyll and the Isles as it offers something for everyone including those people who already live here.'

'It is great news so many different backgrounds have come along today. It means that people are keen to develop to the area.'

Calum Ross, chairman of the British Hospitality Association and owner of Loch Melfort Hotel, summed up the day, stating: 'We have looked at a positive way forward today and the Strategic Tourism Partnership will forge ahead with your ideas.'

'What is clear is that we need an umbrella identity and we all need to continue to engage with each other to develop all of our ideas.'

'There are a couple of messages for central government such as lobbying for infrastructure in roads and interconnectedness such as access to the internet and other technologies.'

'All our visitors need to be met with a high degree of customer service. It is clear from meeting with delegates today we are stronger together.'



Brian (left) and Craig MacDonald say they're delighted to be headlining at this year's Tìree Music Festival, which takes place on July 23-24.

Brothers to headline TMF

Wolfstone, Pearl and the Puppets, Manran and Skerryvore sign up for Isle of Tìree's sounds of summer 2011

TÌREE Music Festival has confirmed that X Factor Finalists, The MacDonald Brothers, will headline this year's event.

The brothers, Craig and Brian, flew into Tìree last week for a special acoustic gig at Tìree High School to confirm their appearance and to officially open the box office on this year's Hebridean musical extravaganza, which will this year be held on July 23-24.

The pair also took the opportunity to cut some of Tìree's famous waves.

Craig said: 'We are just back from the Caribbean and we thought we had gone back there after seeing the stunning white

sand beaches on Tìree! 'We can't wait to return in July to perform at Tìree Music Festival (TMF).'

The news comes amidst a host of announcements from TMF. Also appearing this year are legendary Celtic-rockers Wolfstone, Pearl and the Puppets, Gaelic sensation Manran and a special homecoming performance from Tìree's own international touring act, Skerryvore.

New support from this year's festival from Scotland's Islands Fund, Scottish Power Renewables and Argyll and Bute Council means there will be added attractions for all the family, including as interactive

workshops, children's ceilidhs, whisky tasting and barbecues, all of which will take place on the grounds of An Talla, Tìree's community hall.

More news on acts and attractions are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

TMF organiser Daniel Gillespie believes this year's TMF is a not-to-be-missed music event.

He said: 'TMF is the ultimate weekend away for music lovers and will celebrate Scotland's rich and diverse music scene.'

'With performances from one of the greatest Celtic-Rock groups in Wolfstone, to the very best in Scottish-country with Brian Hughes, we

aim to create the musical weekend from heaven in one of Scotland's most stunning locations.'

TMF are hoping that this year's event will build on the undoubted success of last year's inaugural festival, which was an instant sell-out.

Daniel said: 'The increased facilities will make the family friendly festival even more attractive than last year's festival as one of the main events on the Argyll and Isles Tourism Calendar.'

For further information on the event, visit www.tireemusicfestival.co.uk.



Kilmuir pupils Leah Preedy, left, and Grace Morton prepare for the planting season as the north Skye primary school aims to win its Eco-schools green flag.

Kilmuir wins silver by going 'green'

KILMUIR Primary School on the Isle of Skye has boosted its 'green' credentials by winning an Eco-schools silver award flag.

Kilmuir eco-committee P7 members Leah Preedy and Grace Morton told The Oban Times: 'We have worked very hard to get our silver award flag and are now more determined than ever to get our green flag.'

'At our last eco-committee meeting we completed an environmental review checklist of the school and garden. This helped us to find out what we needed to do to get our green flag.'

'We did lots of work to get our silver

flag. We have created a compost rota where P7 pupils take the compost out daily. After it has decomposed we use the lovely fresh soil in our poly tunnel.'

'Recently we sent out our first copy of our Eco-schools newsletter to the community, we also worked hard to reduce our waste by recycling everything we can.'

'We are very proud in our school that nobody litters!'

'We do not have to carry out surveys or make rotas to clean up our playground.'

'We have been very enthusiastic about Eco-schools and are determined to get our green flag!'

Arrochar play areas gain £37,000 from LEADER programme

THE FIRST of three projects to revitalise play areas in Arrochar, Tarbet and Succoth got a major financial boost this week.

A project to renovate the play area behind Arrochar Parish Church will be made a reality this year after the LEADER Programme awarded the project £37,000.

The funding is the latest grant to be awarded to Arrochar and Tarbet Community Council to build a play park after Argyll and Bute Council said it would maintain and insure a park if the community built it.

The park will feature a crazy maze, a mini complex for young children to crawl and climb; swings, including an Olympic swing for balance; a ridge rider and a skate ramp for skate board and BMX enthusiasts.

Secretary of Arrochar and Tarbet Community Council, Mary Haggarty, said: 'We are absolutely delighted to receive this funding. The LEADER Programme grant is the icing on the cake to top a number of grants and community fundraising initiatives.'

The £75,000 project has gained the support of many organisations, receiving grants from the NHS Highland, Lomond and Trossachs National Park and the Awards for All grant programme. The Forestry Commission Scotland donated the materials to build a fence around the park and Scottish Southern Energy donated a workforce to erect it.

Mary added: 'This has been a fantastic project from start to finish. The whole community and a host of businesses have got behind us.'

The Arrochar park is phase one of a renovation programme, which will see the area drained and made ready as a sports field.

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Current members of Canada's 423 Squadron are pictured at the Sunderland gate in Ganavan with Tom Lennox, the Oban man who was a fitter on the Sunderlands with 210 Squadron in 1940. The new gate honours those pilots that flew the Sunderland Flying Boats during World War II.

Local group meets to raise Legion flag again in Oban

DESPITE a public campaign to increase its membership last year, the demise of Oban's Royal British Legion Scotland branch still came as a surprise to many when it was announced at the last Remembrance Day Service.

Meeting
But a handful of those present, mostly ex-service personnel themselves, left the war memorial that day with the intention of reinstating the branch and hope they will be supported at a meeting this weekend to revive it.

Lesley Blair-Simmonds, who was in the Intelligence Corp for a number of years, is one of those behind involved and explained the importance of having a legion in the town.

'There are a lot of wars going on just now,' she said.
'There is another generation of soldiers who will need support and while we must learn from the past we need to be supporting our young soldiers.'

'The community has been very supportive so far but we will need their continued support,'

Lesley added.

It is hoped a number of ex-servicemen and women will be among those present at the meeting. Oban's Archie MacCulloch was a chef in the Royal Logistic Corp and his son, Jonathan, is currently serving with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Archie, who now runs Roxy's Cafe, has already pledged his support to the reinstatement of a legion branch in his home town and agreed it was important to support those coming out of service today.

He added: 'The Remembrance Parade last year was the first time I had heard the legion branch was to close and as we were walking back from it a few of us started talking about getting it going again.'

'However, these things take a bit of time to get moving.'

The meeting to form a new branch of the legion will be held this Saturday in Oban's Soroba House Hotel at 7pm.

All are welcome to attend

5 SCOTS soldiers injured in Afghanistan explosion

TWO soldiers serving with The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland (5 SCOTS) have been injured after an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack on an Army vehicle in Afghanistan.

Reports from the war torn country indicate that the attack occurred on Monday night/Tuesday morning.

The soldiers involved are being treated for their injuries, which are not thought to be life-threatening.

Their families have been notified.

As The Oban Times went to press no further details were available.

Temporary gangway to be fitted at Craignure

THE PASSENGER gangway at the Craignure ferry terminal on the Isle of Mull is no longer fit for purpose.

After months of passengers having to walk from the car deck of the Oban - Craignure ferry a temporary replacement is to be fitted before Easter.

A spokesman for Caledonian MacBrayne said: 'A new gangway for Craignure is to be commissioned by CMAL (Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd) the owners of the gangway with a view to installing the new build by November/December this year.'

'Until the temporary replacement is in place, access and egress by foot passengers to the vessel will continue via the car deck. A luggage van for passengers will be provided until such time as the interim gangway is ready for use.'

'Caledonian MacBrayne apologises to customers for any inconvenience caused.'

Canadian squadron comes 'home' to Oban Bay base

A TEN strong contingent of the Canadian Armed Forces visited Oban at the weekend to see the birthplace of their very own 423 Squadron.

Flying boats
Formed in May 1942, the squadron operated Sunderland Flying Boats from Oban Bay and Ganavan Sands during the Battle of the Atlantic.

Today, the squadron is based at Shearwater, Nova Scotia, operating Sea King helicopters.

Captain James Marshall took his men to meet volunteer museum staff at Oban's War and Peace Museum, including local man Tom Lennox who was a fitter on Sunderlands with 210 Squadron at Oban in 1940.

The party also visited the RAF Memorial at Ganavan before taking a trip to the former RAF Station Headquarters at Dungal-lan House.

Big Lottery Fund confirms support to Coll's £2.5m community hall

THE largest backer of the Isle of Coll's £2.5million community hall, The Big Lottery Fund, says it is continuing to support the project, despite recent difficulties.

Tenders for An Cridhe came in at higher than expected levels, forcing Development Coll to have a rethink on design, build specification and proximity to the road.

While Mull building firm TSL was appointed to carry out the job, a new planning application has had to be submitted to Argyll and Bute Council for the substantial changes to the project.

Submitted last Friday, the application may not be considered until the summer. But the Big Lottery Fund

have denied speculation that, as a result of the delay and changes to the plans, they were considering withdrawing their £852,329 grant allocation.

A spokeswoman for the Big Lottery Fund said: 'We have been working closely with Development Coll to ensure that the final plans and budget are in place for the work on An Cridhe to begin.'

'We are delighted that they are now in a position to start the ground works and we look forward to the remainder of the work being completed in due course.'

An Cridhe Project manager Emma Grant said: 'We're absolutely fine as far as funding is concerned. There isn't

a problem. We're now just looking forward to starting and getting the new application approved.'

'There's also no indication from planning that the application will be a problem.'

Meanwhile, some ground-work on the entrance road to An Cridhe can start and is soon due to after Argyll and Bute Council confirmed that, as it was covered by a previous application, consent existed.

No work will start on the construction of the hall itself or its foundations until the new application is approved.

Emma said: 'We're allowed to work away on some aspects of our old application as there's an amount of work that's exactly the same.'

Appin man found guilty of police assault

AN APPIN man who accused four Oban police officers of conspiring against him has been found guilty of assault.

Iain Harvey Black told Oban Sheriff Court on Monday that police officers had fabricated a list of charges against him after he lodged a complaint against Strathclyde Police.

However, Black, 51, of Burnside, Appin was found guilty of assaulting a police officer, resisting arrest, committing a sexually aggravated breach of the peace and refusing to undergo a breath test.

Black committed the offences as police officers investigated a suspicion that he had been drunk in charge of a vehicle on August 15 last year. The court heard that Black initially co-operated with officers but refused to provide a specimen of breath. After being taken in a police vehicle he lashed out at a police officer.

PC Iain Young told the court: 'He became aggressive to me and my colleague. He started shouting and swearing at my colleague, pushing towards him. I thought at one point he was going to try and get me in the driving seat.'

Black was transferred to a police van with a caged interior and taken to Oban Police Station where he continued verbal abuse towards the police officers.

Denying all the charges against him Black told the court that the police officers were 'lying' and that this was the 'backlash' of a complaint he made against Oban police force.

Sheriff Eric Brown said: 'If I were to believe the accused I would accept that there had been a conspiracy between these officers against him.'

'I accept that the accused behaved in the manner described in the charges.'

Black will appear in court again on June 1 for sentencing.

Strachur hall gains 'green' funding

THE SECOND phase of a project to make Strachur Memorial Hall warmer and 'greener' has received a major financial boost.

Strachur Memorial Hall Committee has been awarded £7,500 by Keep Scotland Beautiful's Climate Challenge Fund to install a new heating system.

The money will replace the failing radiators in the hall and fund a heating system which will turn on a few hours before events take place in the hall.

Chair of Strachur Memorial Hall Committee, David Fiddes, said: 'We need to be able to handle control of heating in the building. The hall takes a long time to heat up and in the winter people had to come in hours before to turn on the heating. It's far from ideal.'

The committee, made up of users of the hall, embarked on a project last year to become carbon neutral and installed a biomass boiler.

David said: 'We feel very lucky and are delighted to get the support from the Climate Challenge Fund. The funding will create a better environment for users of the hall and save energy.'

Esplanade road plan splits opinion

CHANGES mooted to a 'visionary' road route into Oban has divided opinion.

Last week *The Oban Times* revealed transport spokesman Councillor Duncan MacIntyre's thoughts on securing a two-way road system into the town centre. He believed it would be possible to widen the road on the Esplanade on the seaward side.

The reaction to the story has polarised opinion with many people believing the idea is a mark of genius while others believe it is 'madness'.

Against
Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'I am afraid that it has to be pointed out the Esplanade is a trunk road and therefore it is not Argyll and Bute Council's for us to comment.'

'The decision of the project board at the last meeting I attended was to shelve plans for the development road.'

For
Henry Tarbutt of Easdale Island said: 'What a splendid idea, this road would show Oban off to all

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by LOUISE LEE
lee@obantimes.co.uk

visitors with excellent sea views over Oban Bay to Kerrera.

'A car-free shopping centre would create a restful ambience conducive to shopping and give plenty of scope to shop owners with outside tables and chairs to create an appreciative continental air.'

John MacGregor, chairman of Oban Bay Marine, said: 'Councillor Duncan MacIntyre has his

"There are so many plus points here, it seems to be a genuine win-win situation."

Driving instructor Ewan Morrison

priorities all wrong. With all the council cuts, lay offs, reductions in care of the elderly and removing front line services, why are we looking at spending millions on roads?'

Driving instructor Ewan Morrison said: 'I definitely feel that there are any number of positive benefits which may be available on its conclusion. As well as traffic improvements beneficial to local traffic, there may be numerous elements to enable gains, which affect Oban's holiday trade.'

'There are so many plus points here, it seems to be a genuine win-win situation.'

Paul Sloan, local businessman and a founding member of the Oban Phoenix Cinema Group, said that passing trade was very important for shops on George Street and certainly the cinema will rely on people passing the door to see the programme.

He said: 'It is difficult to deny that entering the town on the Esplanade would offer people one of the most beautiful views imaginable. However I would

encourage Mr MacIntyre to think about towns like Fort William where the pedestrianisation of an area has allowed trade to fall away.

'It would be a great shame to risk the marina project to smooth out the road at Stafford Street and perhaps keeping George Street open is the ideal solution.'

From *The Oban Times* Facebook page John Gallacher said: 'Coming into Oban that way will look so good because of all the closed and near derelict looking shops at the top end of George Street.'

'I think before they go ahead with this that they try to attract business to the area.'

'Or could this be yet another pipe dream for Oban. Catherine Gillies said: 'The only way to make that junction big enough would be to demolish either the Oban Inn or the Columba.'

'If it is the Oban Inn I will lie down in front of the bulldozer.'

But Ian Tirie added: 'The Oban Inn was there before the Columba. So, last in, first out.'

Teenager Shaun named Argyll cadet of the year

A SIXTEEN-year-old Oban boy has been named Cadet of the Year for Argyll.

Shaun Reardon was presented with the honour by the Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Kenneth MacKinnon, at a special awards ceremony last week.

Shaun, a pupil at Oban High School, was also named Best Cadet Non-Commissioned Officer and promoted to cadet sergeant.

Speaking after the awards Shaun, who is a piper with the cadets, said: 'Getting the awards was completely unexpected.'

'I felt quite nervous, but really proud going out to receive the awards from the Lord Lieutenant.'

'I have achieved such a lot with cadets including piping awards, youth first aid and instructing qualifications. I have had fantastic opportunities to travel and have played the pipes for the Queen at Buckingham Palace and Balmoral.'

Three Oban cadets were awarded honours at the ceremony which took place at the cadet training centre in Arrochar.

William Humphries, aged 14, won the Most Improved Cadet award and Jack Whiteley Best Male Cadet.



Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Kenneth MacKinnon, presented Shaun Reardon with the Cadet of the Year award

As a unit the Oban cadets also raised the most money for charity, donating £1,000 to the British Red Cross and Poppy Appeal.

Ardrishaig hosts hustings on local issues

SCHOOL closures, council tax, renewable energy, and roads - the subjects Argyll voters grilled parliamentary candidates on during a hustings debate.

Prospective MSPs for Argyll and Bute from the Scottish Nationalist Party, Conservatives, Labour and the Liberal Democrats were at Ardrishaig to answer questions in a hustings hosted by the BBC Scotland's political editor Brian Taylor.

Argyll voters asked Mike Russell (SNP), Alison Hay (Lib Dem), Mick Rice (Lab) and Jamie McGregor (Con) their stance on

school closures, an income based council tax, re-trunking the A83 from Kintyre to Glasgow, Argyll's role in the renewable energy sector and money spent introducing beavers to Knapdale.

Speaking after the debate Brian Taylor described Argyll and Bute as an 'interesting' electoral seat, said the Ardrishaig debate was one of the liveliest he has ever hosted. He said: 'The audience was excellent and lively. The people we had were polite but robust, they asked some good questions.'

New passenger craft rules would add 'significant' costs

REGULATIONS to be introduced by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) in late 2011 will have a 'significant' cost for Argyll and Bute Council.

The directive will mean small passenger ferries and pleasure vessels carrying 12 passengers or less in waters of 10 degrees or less will have to provide immersion suits.

The plan, called 'unworkable and unreasonable' by operators in last week's *Oban Times* will require the outfits to be available from late September until late May.

Argyll and Bute Council

said: 'The regulations have been written for some time but the MCA have not demanded compliance to date.'

'If we were required to comply it would cost a significant amount of money but it has not been costed to date.'

'Rather than protesting we would ask for a pragmatic approach from the regulator in view of the very short distances our ferries travel.'

'It is our intention to raise this with the MCA this coming month.'

MCA were asked for a comment, but had failed to do so at the time of going to press.



The Royal British Legion Scotland Glasgow and Western Counties Area

A meeting will be held with a view to reforming the Oban Branch of RBLs
The meeting will be on
Saturday 9th April 2011 at 7.00pm
At Soroba House Hotel, Oban

This meeting is open to all ex service members which include National Service, The Bevin Boys, Women's Land Army, Ladies Timber Corp, Merchant Navy Territorial Cadets and Coast Guard.

All welcome and tea and coffee will be available

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Lorn Lines

MEMBERS of Oban Photographic Club met in the Regent Hotel, Oban on Monday, March 28, for the last full meeting of the winter season.

The speaker was well-known photographer and international judge Alan Gawthorpe, from Aberdeen, who gave out the results of the 'open 2' competition which he had been asked to judge.

Alan offered good criticism of the images and members learnt a lot from his comments.

Results: Projected Images - A clean sweep for Stephen Lawson who was awarded first, second and third place, plus the Frank Walton Cup for the best overall image.

Prints: - 1 John Douglas; 2 and 3 Stuart McCracken.

The club will start its renowned 'Summer Show' for visitors to the area, on Monday, May 9, at 9pm in the Regent Hotel. Everyone is welcome.



A raffle at the Oban Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society's (RSCDS) 50th anniversary show has raised £606 for Oban High School Pipe Band. Of that sum, £550 will buy a whole uniform for one member of the band, while the rest will go towards the cost of instruments, insurance, repairs and travel to competitions.



THE tastes, sounds, smells and sights of the continent will return to Oban this Easter, when the International Market sets up camp at Rockfield School.

More than 25 traders from France, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Holland and Poland, many of whom will be wearing traditional costumes, will spend four days in the town as part in the market.

Stalls will feature Fair Trade produce such as arts, handicrafts and wooden carvings from Africa, south east Asia and Latin America, while food lovers will enjoy treats such as Brittany biscuits, Italian nougat, pungent cheeses, saucissons, Tartiflette from the Alps, charcuterie, fresh breads and more.

This will be topped off by a range of Normandy ciders and calvados, a dry apple brandy, to sweep away the spring chill.

The Market will run from 9am until 5.30pm between April 22-25.



SCHOOLS Out after-school club members in Oban were treated to a special show prepared for them by Lorn School of Dance in St Columba's hall last week.

The dancers, all girls aged 11-16 years performed their latest dance pieces in a range of dance styles to the audience of children aged 5-10 years and the club's staff. Teacher Sophie Hamilton helped volunteers from the audience to improvise some puppet theatre as part of the show, using beautiful butterfly puppets and scenery created by some of the dancers.



WITH the town's cinema still closed Oban High School's Young Enterprise Group will be showing two Hollywood blockbusters within a week at the Corran Halls.

Shrek: Forever After will be shown at 2pm this Saturday, while Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 will be shown at 2pm and 6pm on April 16.



THE LORN Gold Duke of Edinburgh group bagged another £500 toward its summer expedition to Morocco through local donations, the sale of raffle tickets and a bag pack at Oban Co-op.

The group is now almost halfway to reaching their £4000 target and are delighted to receive such generous support.

The next major fundraising event will be on Saturday, May 7, at Skippinish Ceilidh House, Oban when adventurers will be using their singing talents and joining forces with the Sequence Choir for what promises to be a very entertaining evening.

If you would like to support the youngsters phone 01631 720448 or e mail jonathan.david.sayer@gmail.com



LORN Archaeological and Historical Society's March meeting had a change of speaker when Anne MacDonald stepped in to talk about Summer Shellings.

Concentrating largely on the north side of Loch Tay she explained in depth the origins and changes in Shelling types over the centuries and included details of the quite rigid regulation under which they operated. Many references and details had come through information held in the Breadalbane Monuments housed in the National Archives in Edinburgh with records stretching back to the 13th and 14th century.

The final meeting of this lecture season will see Dr Tony Polard, a well known figure from TV programmes such as Two Men in a Trench, in Oban to speak on Jacobite Battlefield Archaeology. The meeting starts at 7.30pm at The Undercroft, Glenruiwen Church Centre on Friday, April 8. All visitors welcome.

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Donations of Furniture and Bric a Brac gratefully appreciated.

Oban soldier meets new son for first time

Argyll and Sutherland Highlander completes tour of duty in Afghanistan

REPORT

by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN soldier, Jonathan MacCullough, got the chance to say hello to his new son for the first time after returning from active duty in Afghanistan.

Private MacCullough has been with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland (5SCOTS) in Afghanistan for the last six months, returning last month to prepare for a training course.

He is one of the first soldiers of 5SCOTS to return to the UK after their tour, with the rest due to start returning during April.

Waiting on him on his return to his base in Canterbury was wife Jessica, two-year-old daughter Aimee and newborn son, William, who was born on March 9 - exactly one week before dad came home.

It was an emotional homecoming for Jonathan, the former Oban High School pupil who turned 25 in December while serving in Lashkar Gah.

He said: 'It was really good to see my new boy William. Unfortunately I missed the birth but to see him together with my two-year-old daughter, Aimee, was great. After six months away she's changed so much, it's amazing.'

'My family are going to come down from Oban in the next couple of weeks too, and it will also be their first time to meet William, so I'm looking forward to that.'

Jonathan won't be home for too long though, as on April 10 he starts a six week training course which will promote him to Lance Corporal. After that, he's here all year.

He certainly earned that break after a busy tour in Afghanistan.

He said: 'I was helping to train the Afghan police force. We did eight weeks of training per group.

'At the start it was frustrating. There's a lot of corruption within the Afghan National Police (ANP) and you have to teach them discipline.

'When they first came, they were brutal. It was clear that they were out for personal reasons rather than for policing Afghanistan. Their training was terrible and their shooting was awful. You could put a target in front of them and they would shoot at it all day and never hit it.

'If they didn't like what you were saying they would just walk away, so you had to be careful.

'But after the eight weeks training they were a lot better and the training was very successful.

'They got a lot more respect too from their colleagues and training became easier.'

As well as being involved in training, Private MacCullough took part in some patrols and missions while in Afghanistan and said that, while there were a couple of close shaves, his tour was a complete success.

He said: 'The places that had high levels of insurgency and a lot of Taliban activity were not as co-operative as they could be.'

'I can't say too much but we did go on certain missions. In some senses that's the hardest part because it's more dangerous, but training the ANP was the most difficult thing!'

'But things are getting better there for us. In those places that are occupied the people are really friendly and helpful.'

As well as family matters, he had one or two other reasons to think of home: parcels sent from Oban to our boys.

Containing vital items and messages of luck, they were a great boost to morale.

He said: 'I got two parcels from Oban and received items like socks, sweets, pencils and paper. It was great.'

'It does boost us a lot and we are really do appreciate it. It is good to know people are thinking about you.'



Proud dad: Jonathan MacCullough was reunited with wife Jessica and daughter Aimee on his return home, when he also met his newborn son, William, for the first time.

Volunteers wanted for cycle path

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to help maintain a half-finished cycle path between Oban and South Ballachulish.

The 32-mile cycle and walking path is being developed by the charity Sustrans, with partners Transport Scotland, Highland Council and Argyll and Bute Council.

The drive to recruit volunteers starts with a bike ride at 2pm on Thursday, April 14, at Oban Sea Life Centre.

A public information session will then follow at 6.30pm at Appin Village Hall.

Sustrans' volunteer co-ordinator for Scotland, Sarah Jeffs, said: 'It would be great to see lots of interested local people joining us on foot or bike to explore the beautiful new route being created on their doorsteps, or joining us in the evening to hear more about it.'

'There are currently around 2,000 miles of National Cycle Network in Scotland and the only way we are able to develop and maintain such a vast Network is through the help of our volunteers.'

'There is a volunteer role for everyone, whether people want to get outdoors and physical by helping to maintain a section of the new route, lead guided bike rides and walks for local people or become a wildlife champion and enhance the route for nature.'

For more information, contact Sarah Jeffs on sarah.jeffs@sustrans.org.uk or 0131 523 0192.

Dunbeg man admits possession of stolen goods

A DUNBEG man admitted being in possession of stolen drilling equipment when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Thomas Barr, 29, of 3 Castle Road, admitted being in possession of the goods on November 18 and on January 23.

Sentence was deferred until April 26 for the value of the equipment to be determined.

Oban Valium possession charge is not proven

A MAN accused of being in possession of valium walked free from Oban Sheriff Court last week following a not proven verdict.

Sheriff Douglas Small said that he was not satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that Daniel Kelly, 21, of no fixed abode, had diazepam in Albany Street on March 9 this year.

Kelly, who appeared from custody, was on bail at the time.

Alleged town bar assault ends in bitten finger

A MAN had his finger bitten during an alleged assault at a bar in Oban on Saturday morning.

The incident occurred at about half past midnight. The 31-year old victim sustained no serious injuries as a result.

Anyone with any information should contact Oban Police.

Elderly man struck by car in Oban

AN 83-year-old man escaped serious injury after being struck by a car in Oban's Argyll Square on Saturday.

The man was crossing the road when he was hit at around 11.30am. Police have confirmed that nobody was charged as a result of the incident.

Window smashed

A MAN has been arrested after the window of the Cancer Research shop in Oban's George Street was vandalised at about 2am on Sunday.

A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Shelter Scotland backs calls for housing investment

HOMELESS charity Shelter Scotland has backed calls for greater government investment in affordable homes after revealing nearly 700 households in Argyll and Bute are registered homeless.

Desperate situation

The comments from Graeme Brown, the charity's director, follow similar appeals from the area's housing associations, who say the county is 'sleepwalking

towards a housing crisis' because the Scottish Government failed to come up with the cash to back promises of support for new builds.

So desperate is the situation that Argyll and Bute Council - itself short on cash - last month agreed to bail out the Scottish Government by providing a £7million loan to allow construction on affordable housing projects in Lochgilphead, Dunoon and

Campbeltown to go ahead.

Mr Brown said: 'In the year to March 2010, 679 households were assessed as homeless in Argyll and Bute, further illustrating the urgent need for affordable housing in the area.'

'We are calling for Scotland's political parties to commit to a new era of building many more homes, protecting the ones we have and refurbishing existing housing stock.

'Affordable housing is a top priority in every community across Scotland, but too often fails to receive the political attention it demands.'

Campaign 'Shelter Scotland has been running a campaign to "Make Housing Matter," which included a recent visit to Dunoon.

'The campaign has been backed by thousands of people who have signed up to our call

for more affordable homes.'

In addition to the 679 households referred to by Mr Brown, more than 3,500 families and single people are currently on the Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) waiting list.

The £7million loan from Argyll and Bute Council will accrue interest at the rate of 2.98 per cent until the government can pay it back.

Booklet launched for child awareness week

A NEW booklet designed to make family mediation easier for young children has been launched in Oban as part of Child Contact Centre Awareness Week.

Family Mediation Argyll and Bute in Alexandra Place, opened its doors to the public last Wednesday for the event, which gave interested parties an opportunity to find out what the group does and how it helps children cope when family bonds become stressed or break.

The new booklet, Going to a Child Contact Centre, is designed to help children aged between four and nine come to terms with their situation.

Tough time

Centre manager, Tanya MacDougall, said: 'We're here to help ease the process for children whose parents may be going through a tough time.'

'We do our best to make sure that the relationship between parents doesn't break down.

'The centre provides a very calm, friendly and relaxed atmosphere in a natural environment.'



Volunteers, interested parties and stakeholders gathered at Family Mediation Argyll and Bute in Alexandra Place at the open day for the launch of the new Going to a Child Contact Centre booklet.

Established in 2004 by Cathy Paterson, the service has grown and earned a glowing reputation for its work with families.

It is now looking for new volunteers to help maintain or repair bonds between children and their parents. No experience is required and people of all ages can volunteer.

If you would like to help or want more information on what the role would entail, email fms.argyll-bute@btconnect.com or phone 01631 570101.

Lismore in a spin over rubbish bins

SOME residents on the Isle of Lismore continue to have problems with their bin collections, to the extent that they don't know whether the next collection is for waste or recyclable material.

Each household's two bins are collected on a fortnightly cycle but mechanical problems with Argyll and Bute Council's refuse lorries results in bins not being collected for weeks at a time.

Last Wednesday the refuse lorry came to the island but some residents said their bins were not collected.

The previous Wednesday there was no pick-up at all.

One resident said: 'We're at the stage where we don't know which bin to put out from one week to the next.'

'The council says its fleet of lorries is too elderly; my neighbour is 84 and she still manages to get out!'

Step Aboard Paddle Steamer Waverley for a Great Day Out!



Waverley also sails from: Fort William, Kyle of Lochalsh, Raasay, Coll, Armadale, Broadford & Gairloch!

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Table with sailing schedules for Inverie and Tobermory Pier, including dates, departure times, and destinations like Loch Nevis and Loch Ness.

Book at local Tourist Information Centres or call 0845 130 4647 Book Online www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk

Procurator fiscal questions practice of back-dating medical certificates

A PROBATION and community service cheat managed to obtain medical certificates from the Lorn Medical Centre, Oban, 11 days and 21 days after she was actually ill.

At Oban Sheriff Court last week, Ailsa McNaughton, 20, was found to have breached the terms of the probation and community service handed to her in 2010 for selling methadone to Robert MacDonald, now

deceased, in 2009 (see below). But the procurator fiscal, David Glancy, was disappointed that McNaughton managed to obtain retrospective certificates long after she claimed to be ill, describing it as a 'lamentable practice.'

The first medical certificate was produced on December 15, 11 days after McNaughton missed a probation appointment, and indicated that she suffered

from a single day of stress. The second came 21 days after McNaughton failed to undertake unpaid work on December 22, and signed her off until February 9; citing 'reactive anxiety stress.'

For the purposes of the court, medical certificates have to be issued within seven days of the absence to be valid.

Mr Glancy said: 'Some agencies come out of this trial with a

degree of credit for the patience they've shown with someone who can only represent a bit of a challenge. Some people come out of this with perhaps less credit.'

'On the face of it, it is a pretty lamentable practice whereby someone can go to their doctor weeks later and succeed in persuading that doctor to issue a medical certificate either for a single day or a period of time.

'I fully intend to take this up with the medical practice.'

While unable to talk about specific cases, Dr Erik Jespersen, partner at the Lorn Medical Practice, said issuing retrospective certificates was not normal practice.

He said: 'What I can say is that we are aware of the importance of issuing medical certificates properly.'

'It would not be normal

practice to issue backdated certificates unless there was a specific reason.

'We have looked at our procedures and will ensure matters like this don't arise in future.'

Dr Jespersen believes the new Community Payback Orders (CPO) scheme, which come into force and available to the courts for crimes committed after February 1 this year, has much clearer guidelines and will take

some pressure off GPs.

However, it does allow offenders to self-certify for illness for up to two occasions within each six month window.

Dr Jespersen said: 'It's a much better system. It's quite clear that the responsibility is on the individual to self certify and it's now up to the social worker if they receive more than two self certificates within the period to decide what they're going to do.'

BID4 Oban needs your feedback to biggest ever survey

THE BIGGEST survey of business ideas ever undertaken in Oban has seen more than 600 companies receive the BID4Oban newsletter and a chance to influence the business plan for Oban.

Now its time to get the surveys filled in and returned to have a say on the Oban business improvement district, its size, influence and the projects to be undertaken.

Campbell Cameron BID4Oban town centre manager said: 'We have had a fine response to the BID4Oban proposals which could see some great improvements to the town.'

'Key to those improvements taking place is gauging that the majority of business are in support of the project. We would like to see completed surveys returned to BID4Oban before the Easter holidays.'

The address to return them to is BID4Oban, Rowena, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll. If you prefer to complete an online response email campbell@bid4oban.co.uk

Kilmelford man found with methadone is fined £500

A FISHERY manager from Kilmelford who was previously found guilty of being in possession of methadone, a Class-A drug has been fined £500.

James Gisbey, 37, of 46 The Glebe, had previously told the court that the two bottles were only destined for a relative, a heroin addict, who he said could not be trusted to keep the drug with him.

Sentencing Gisbey at Oban Sheriff Court last week, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This is a serious matter. I accept that the methadone was for (the relative's) use, so in this circumstance I will fine you £500. But please be sure that you don't get involved in this kind of thing again.'

Boy knocked down

A TEENAGE boy suffered a broken ankle after he was struck by a car on Soroba Road last week.

The 13 year old pupil of Oban High School was taken to hospital following the incident at the traffic lights on the junction with Lynn Road.

Nobody was charged as a result of the accident.

Methadone supplier may face prison sentence

A HOMELESS convicted methadone supplier from Oban is facing a lengthy prison sentence after breaching terms of her probation and community service.

Ailsa McNaughton, 20, who gave her address as Room 4, Solas, Albany Street, failed to provide a reasonable excuse for missing probation appointments, on October 4 and December 22, and missing community service on October 30 and December 4, all last year.

A charge that she failed to

provide a reasonable excuse for missing community service on October 2, 2010 was not proven.

McNaughton was put on 15 months' probation last March after being convicted of supplying methadone to Robert MacDonald, now deceased, in 2009. She was also ordered to complete 255 hours community service. However, she appeared in court in July after she breached the terms of her community service in May. The sentence was later reset.

Her latest disregard for the

court will now see McNaughton spend time behind bars, with the sentence to be determined on April 19.

The court heard that McNaughton had lied to social workers regarding her absences in October, saying she had obtained a medical certificate but lost it; however Lorn Medical Centre confirmed no certificate had been issued.

McNaughton did provide certificates for her absences in December but they were outside the required seven day time frame, four and 14 days

late respectively. It was deemed that they were not fit for purpose because they were outside the required timeframe.

Procurator fiscal, David Glancy, said: 'This is about her abuse of probation and community service on five occasions. What we have here is a situation where she has been caught in a lie with her social workers. She has even admitted to lying in the witness box.'

A bail application from defence agent Sandy Mitchell was refused by Sheriff Douglas Small.

'Cost of fuel' stalls Oban court case

Lochgilphead lawyer criticised for failing to collect papers on Oban alleged fraud case

A LOCHGILPHEAD law firm has been criticised by Oban Sheriff Court for claiming the price of fuel prevented them from progressing a trial.

Employees of Rubens Solicitors told procurator fiscal, David Glancy, that they could not collect vital paperwork on the case against Carrina MacPhee, which was scheduled for trial last Tuesday, because they had no other business in Oban and the cost of fuel was prohibitive to making the journey for that sole purpose.

Without the paperwork - disclosure of statements from The Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) relating to charges alleging benefit fraud against MacPhee, 29, of An Cuiltuin, Hazeldean Crescent, Oban - the trial has now been postponed to September 6.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'It's a bit much if your office is saying you're not going to collect the statements because of the cost of fuel.'

'The fact that you haven't seen the statements is through no fault of the Crown. It is not the procurator fiscal's function to go scampering after solicitors

to say you've not picked up your statements.

'This should be taken up with your officer.'

The case has already been postponed on two previous occasions.

Procurator fiscal, David Glancy, said: 'I've got a letter dated 12 January that shows the papers were sent out.'

'To go back to the start, this is a case that started on December 21.'

"I was told that they would not be in a position to come . . . because of the cost of fuel."

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy

'The first intermediate diet was on March 15. The case was continued for week.'

'On March 22, Ruben Murdanaigum appeared. He indicated at that stage that he didn't have the statements.'

'I spoke to Mr Murdanaigum when I was still in the well of the court and I said to him that he should go to my office to pick them up. Statements were copied that day, for a second occasion, but they were not uplifted.'

'On Thursday last week, I was checking the court roll for this week. I saw that the stuff was still waiting and I phoned my friend's office, alerting them to the fact that there were papers waiting for them for this week's trial diet.'

'I was told that they would not be in the position to come and collect them as they did not have business in Oban that day and because of the cost of fuel.'

'So, when my friend says he did not have disclosure, that does not represent the full facts.'

'I think it's fair I make that point.'

Appearing for Rubens was solicitor, Sandy Mitchell. He said: 'I knew there was a background to this. I'm not in a position to take any issue with the court. I will be raising the matter later.'

The Oban Times contacted Ruben Murdanaigum for comment, but he did not respond at the time of going to press.



Pictured with The Wee Ones Cookbook are, back first from left: Calum Peden, Ben Allward, Ross Jespersen and Lynsey MacAllister. Front row: Helen Tinney, Rebecca Kynoch, Patrick Larmour and Rachel Broadfoot. 15_114200kb1

Pupils produce cookbook for kids

OBAN'S very own young apprentice entrepreneurs are hoping to emulate the likes of Alan Sugar and Donald Trump by launching their own recipe book for kids.

The Scot-It company, made up of 56 pupils at Oban High

School, have produced *The Wee Ones Cookbook*, featuring 14 different meals, snacks and treats created specifically with children in mind.

Such is the level of detail that each page of the books is laminated to prevent damage from

the mucky hands of budding wee chefs, while a foreword to the publication was provided by Edinburgh's teenage jam sensation, Fraser Docherty.

The project is part of the team's entry for the Young Enterprise Scotland awards, where they will

compete against schools from across the country to see who established the best business.

The book will be sold in Kitchen Garden, George Street, Oban costing £7.50. Should it sell out, Scot-It stands to make a profit of £200.

Double fundraiser success for Oban's cinema bid ahead of 'bargain hunt' valuation day



Young Finlay Cameron is half-way to becoming Spiderman during Oban Phoenix Cinema's bring and buy sale at the Corran Halls on Saturday, with Lainie Forbes from Radiance Beauty providing the make-up. 15_114900kb2

THE community group hoping to reopen Oban's cinema is £1,300 closer to its goal after two busy fundraisers at the weekend.

Oban Phoenix Cinema hosted a bring and buy sale at the Corran Halls on Saturday afternoon, raising £1,100 following up with a gig at Coasters Bar, Phoenix Live, which gathered the remaining £200.

Support
The sum takes the total raised so far to more than £20,000 and the group's Mikey McManus said they have been delighted by the town's support.

He said: 'It's very, very humbling. People are just giving money to us and it's great to know the town is behind us. 'We've already raised £20,000 in three months so it's really encouraging.'

Anne Robertson has supported the campaign since it began and decided to make the extra gesture of donating all proceeds from her sale table to the campaign.

She said: 'Oban has the best outdoor facilities; but as far as indoor facilities

are concerned, we need more for those rare times when it rains.'

'So, we need a cinema in Oban and I'll keep on supporting it.'

Keen to keep up the pace, Oban Phoenix Cinema will host an antique valuation day at the Caledonian Hotel on Saturday from 11am-3pm.

On hand to offer her professional opinion will be Anita Manning, who regularly features on BBC programmes *Flog It*, *Antiques Road Trip*, *Bargain Hunt* and *Cash in the Attic*, as well as appearing on STV's *The Hour*.

With her will be a team of valuers from Great Western Auctions in Glasgow, who will be able to offer expert advice on paintings, jewellery, silver, ceramics, coins, medals, militaria, collectors items, glass, textiles and works of art.

The entrance fee is £5 and a maximum of three items to be valued can be brought per person.

Mikey said: 'It should be a brilliant day, so anyone who wants to find out if they're sitting on a fortune should come along.'

Landlords need to be aware of current legislation claims tenant

A WOMAN'S misery with private tenancies has led her to call for landlords to be aware of the current legislation.

In the three years she has lived in Argyll she has had to take two landlords through the court system, after they failed to abide to the law.

The woman who did not want to be named said: 'I have had numerous problems with private landlords not following the rules.'

'Private landlords are just not aware of their responsibilities and they are leaving themselves open to criminal charges and fines of up to £5000. A large problem is the council's refusal to follow up on these problems or

letting people away with registering, apparently, because they were not aware of a scheme that has been running for four years.'

Nicola MacPhail of West Properties said: 'There seems to be a lack of knowledge of the law by a number of land lords. This is probably on the most part through no fault of their own. The law is complex and at the moment is continuously changing.'

'I have had some clients come to me and be so relieved that we do ensure that all the basic checks are carried out such as the building is insured, the landlord is registered with the council, electrical and gas testing have are carried out,

'Part of the problem is that there is such a high demand for accommodation. There is a particular shortage of family homes and ensure people are provided with wind and watertight accommodation.'

Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council randomly phones people advertising accommodation to let in the newspapers and through other avenues, enquiring about the let accommodation and requesting the Landlords Registration Number.'

'All adverts advertising rental accommodation should include the Landlord's Registration Number.'

'If communications have failed between landlord and tenant then

in the first instance we would refer them to the Private Rented Housing Panel (PRHP). This organisation aims to ensure the tenant can enforce the Repairing Standard. We would advise tenants to take photographs and document evidence in advance.'

'In certain circumstances we refer them to our own officers. If the complaint is upheld the landlord in question is put on our review list until circumstances are resolved.'

'There should be no excuse for landlords in Argyll and Bute not being registered, as every Council Tax letter contained a flier as a message to landlords, tenants, agents and neighbours.'

There's a £1,000 fine if you don't take part

Everyone's included

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Scotland's Census 2011

It is a legal requirement to fill in and return your census questionnaire. You risk a fine of up to £1,000 if you do not take part, so fill in your census questionnaire straight away.

The census is vital for Scotland and its people. Filling in the blanks helps plan the vital services we all need like schools, transport and shops. Every household in Scotland must fill in and return the census questionnaire.

Find out more at www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk or call the helpline on 0300 123 1702



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ACHA resolve dispute on charges

ACHA pensioners received long overdue payments to the tune of £46,000 after a dispute over charges was resolved with Argyll and Bute Council.

One woman from the Oban area received £1,400 after the authority accepted that regulations would allow them to pay for some sheltered housing service charges.

The problem arose in August 2009 when Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) introduced

a second rent increase in the same year, which the council initially rejected as being eligible for housing benefit. Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council and ACHA have worked together to resolve the issues of Housing Benefit eligibility for tenants. Both organisations wanted to reach a decision that would maximise entitlement to housing benefit for the claimants within regulations and are satisfied that this has been done.'

Mull Lines

GUIDES have enjoyed a very busy term. It started in January when they held a Whist Drive to raise funds for their trip in March. Many of the guides had never played whist before so it was quite a challenge.

Their next fundraiser was the Pet Show. Barbara Weir was the judge for the day and had a very difficult job judging all the animals - cats, guinea pigs, rabbits and lots of dogs.

The first weekend in March saw the guides head to Glasgow for a fun weekend. On Saturday morning they went swimming at the Lagoon Leisure Centre and in the afternoon the guides joined in dance classes at the Right 2 Dance Studio where they learned some Street Dance. After dinner it was off to the SSEC for the musical production of Mamma Mia; the guides were very surprised when four Abba lookalikes joined in the fun.

It was a great evening and we all joined in with all the songs. On Sunday we had time for some shopping before heading home exhausted on the 4pm ferry.

To end a busy term the guides took part in the Drama Festival. The play this year was Pandora's Box.

A big thank you to Gill Govan who directed the play and Andi Stevens who helped with the dance routines. The guides looked stunning in their costumes designed by guider Vanessa MacLean and hair and make-up by guides Charlotte Peacock and Katie MacFarlane and young leader Shannon MacLean.



MULL GUIDES gave a great performance at the drama festival and have all earned their performing arts badge.

They are now all looking forward to the Easter break and Guides will start back on Monday May 9, at 6.30pm, in the Scout Hall, Tobermory, for girls aged 10 years and over.

Guiders Lynne MacLeod and Vanessa MacLean would like to thank everyone who has supported our fundraising events and help them with various activities during the term.



MULL and Iona Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Hastings evening for the forthcoming Holyrood election.

Confirmation of five candidates from Labour, Conservative, SNP, Lib Dem and Greens has been given. Candidates will be there to answer questions about party policies and what they would do for us, if elected. Broadcaster, Lesley Riddoch, will chair the evening.

The event will be at Craignure Hall on Thursday, April 21, with doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Tea and cakes will be available before the meeting.

A silver collection for the Japanese tsunami and New Zealand disaster relief fund's will be taken.



ISLANDERS are doing it for themselves when it comes to potholes on the Ross of Mull.

Ardturn residents who have more pot holes than they do sheep or residents got the ball rolling when they asked the council to provide the 'filling'.

Other settlements followed suit with residents at Kintra and Assapal also using gravel provided by the council.

Already they have used more than 20 tonnes and are hoping for a discount on their Council Tax for doing the work for the authority.



PUPILS of Iona Primary School held a coffee morning on Thursday, March 31, to raise money for the Save the Children Japanese fund.

Children were able to show everyone the work they had done on flight, fair trade and food miles.

They investigated the history of chocolate and made lots of chocolate buns for the coffee morning. The sum of £103.07 was raised and after everyone had left all the children including the pre-five unit went outside to fly the kites that they had made.



MUSICIAN James Grant will be playing a live gig at An Tobar, Tobermory.

The front man of Love and Money who had chart hits including All You Need is Love, Strange Kind of Love and Litedeath will play the gig on April 12.

James has just released his fifth solo album, entitled Strange Flowers.

It features a range of styles, from soul music and radio-friendly rock which sit comfortably alongside big Bond-style ballads and contemporary folk classics.

James will perform with Fraser Spiers who has played with Muddy Waters and Eddi Reader and has recently toured with Paolo Nutini.

For more information on the event, contact An Tobar on 01688 302211



KYLEAKIN

KYLEAKIN Local History Society's talk was held on March 9 when guest speaker was retired Kyle of Lochalsh GP Dr John Adamson, who gave an interesting and entertaining talk on his experiences as a Highland GP and Highland medicine in the past century.

The society also held a quiz in the Community Hall on Saturday, March 26.

The final winter talk will be on April 13 when the speaker will be archeologist Steven Birch with an illustrated talk on 'Recent Excavations of the High Pasture Cave near Kilbride'.

The Book Club met in the playroom at 'Saucy Mary's' on March 23. New members are always welcome.

KILLIN

KILLIN Drama Club has qualified to compete in the Scottish Finals of the One Act Play competition.

The event is being held in Inverness on May 5-7 at the Eden Court Theatre.

Actors David MacAskill and Gordon Hibbert will take to the stage at the final to perform Tim Firth's *A Man of Letters*.

LOCHEARNHEAD

RADIO controlled model water planes, both large and small, will 'Fly In' to Lochearnhead this weekend.

The event at the Watersports Activities Centre and Café will see members of the Scottish Aeromodellers Association converge on the site over two days.

The event takes place this Saturday and Sunday from 10am-4.30pm, weather permitting.

NORTH LORN

CHILDREN from Barcaldine, Ardchattan, Achaleven and Strath of Appin primary school took part in a football fun day in Barcaldine.

A total of 63 children took part in the event led by Martin Rae, Football Development Officer for Argyll and Bute, and assisted by Dale Kupris, Active Schools, and PE teacher Sharon MacKeechne.

The children were split into three groups and each were able to visit the three stations which included football games, a nutrition run-around and team building games in Sutherland's Grove.

KENMORE

TAYMOUTH Castle, near Kenmore, finally looks set for a revamp under ambitious plans by London-based investment firm, the Meteor Property Fund.

The group plans on building 160 luxury holiday homes on the 450 acre estate of the castle to fund the work.

The news comes four and a half years after plans by the Taymouth Group to undertake a £74million transformation of the building into a six-star hotel ground to a halt, with the company going bust two years later.

Stamp of approval for young writers



YOUNG writers have been short listed in a competition that encourages letter writing. *Inside the Story* was the theme for this year's Royal Mail task. Easdale Primary School had five finalists - one of the greatest numbers in Argyll. Allan MacFadyen, Holly and Melissa Roberson, Ethan Grier and George Croft were all finalists winning a set of celebration stamps.

BARCALDINE

KIRSTY Jackson-Stark, Education Officer for ALI Energy visited Barcaldine Primary School to lead a renewable energy workshop. This involved the children actively learning about renewable energy by undertaking experiments and challenges with renewable equipment.

BARRA

THE chairwoman of Castlebay and Vatersay Community Council has welcomed news that the Scottish Government has committed to buying a new plane to serve the island.

Work to buy the new plane will start over the next 12 months. The Twin Otter aircraft will fly between Barra, Campbelltown, Tiree and Glasgow.

Karen MacLean said: 'We're very pleased that the government has agreed to buy the plane as it is needed.'

A BARRA social worker has received an award for his work from a national organisation. Ed Lowe, who works in community care in Barra and the Uists, was highly commended for his efforts by The British Association of Social Workers in Scotland.

KILNINVER

KILNINVER Hill has had a clean up thanks to the hard work of residents and 'grabbers' from The Grab Trust.

Packing four black bin liners with rubbish, the litter busters have asked that people drinking coffee from paper cups and miniature bottles of wine do not throw rubbish out the car onto the verge. There were 29 mini-bottles of wine found. The next litter pick is on May 15, 1pm at the Post House.

ABERFELDY

A £1.4MILLION dream to restore Aberfeldy's Birks Cinema and bring it into community ownership is halfway to reality after the group behind it received £650,000 of funding. The Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) cash is a tremendous boost to the project, but conditions attached to the award means that the Friends of the Birks Cinema need to obtain match funding within nine months or the project will be back to square one.

The Friends have been campaigning for five years to turn the old Art Moderne Picture Palace into a modern, 101-seat digital cinema, café-bar and arts venue.

For more information, log on to www.birkscinemafriends.org.uk.

CRIANLARICH

STRATHFILLAN Community Council is encouraging residents of Crianlarich to report every single fault with the water supply to force an upgrade to the infrastructure. The community council has heard in the past that, every time there is a problem in the village's supply - no matter how big or small - the water is turned off for every property in the village.

While Scottish Water have told the community council that they have no plans to update the system, they are prepared to look at installing more valves.

It's hoped that the tactic will help persuade Scottish Water to make improvements ahead of its budget setting process in November. CRIANLARICH and Tyndrum could be set to benefit from two new defibrillators each as part of the Community First Responders (CFR) scheme.

Strathfillan Community Council heard that about 1,000 CFR schemes have been set up across Scotland in the last three years.

The scheme sees Public Access Defibrillators (PAD) made available in the area and members of the community trained in their use, with monthly top-up training also provided. Giving the presentation were Murray McEwan and Bryan Craig, both firefighters based in Crianlarich. They said that implementing such an initiative would not mean a reduction in ambulance staff and could help save lives. The community council agreed and has applied to the British Heart Foundation for four defibrillators.

SUNART

SUNART and District Pony Club has been awarded an £8,000 lottery grant to buy new equipment.

The Ardnamurchan-based club, which competes across the Highlands, spent the money on buying a new Ivor Williams box trailer and new sets of jumps. The trailer will allow all the club's kit to be stored in one place for the first time, and will make transportation much easier.

District commissioner Cheryl Frith told The Oban Times the whole club was 'thrilled' with the award.

She said: 'The trailer will let us store jumps in the dry and all in one place. We have a lot of young members. This will improve their riding and hopefully with better equipment we'll have a better chance of competing in competitions.'

The new gear will be presented to the club by Charles Kennedy at Ardnamurchan High School on April 20.

TIREE

TIREE has been assured that the Public Service Obligation (PSO) to provide flights to and from Tiree will not be unbundled from Campbelltown and Barra.

Ken Crawford from Transport Scotland told the Tiree Community Development Trust via video-conference that the Scottish Government will ensure there is a robust tendering process for the 2013 renewal of the PSO.

He also said that the new PSO would make provision to run a larger aircraft if available, adding that the government was keen to build specific requirements into the tender to ensure capacity and frequency of the service would meet demand.

A trial Sunday service is also scheduled for July and August.

BOWMORE

A NEW biomass heating system, which will heat both Bowmore Primary School and Islay High School, will be installed during the next financial year.

Argyll and Bute Council has agreed to introduce the system, following concerns that the current heating system was



Pictured are members of Taynuilt Playgroup, with Joe and Tom Corns (centre front).

Toddlers to stage colourful parade for the Linda Norgrove Foundation

THE YOUNG nephews of Linda Norgrove, the Scottish aid worker who died in Afghanistan, will be joined by other Taynuilt children in a colourful fundraising parade through the village.

Friends of little Joe, aged three, and 10-month-old Tom Corns are getting together to raise money for The Linda Norgrove Foundation, a charity set up to raise money to support the ongoing, ground breaking work in Afghanistan, initiated by their late aunt.

Taynuilt Playgroup has organised the sponsored walk and the children will be joined by Taynuilt School Nursery and primaries one and two.

The walk will leave the school at 10am on April 19, go through the village and then on

to Airds Bay. Any businesses that choose to sponsor the event can have a flag bearing the company name made up.

Sofie Corns, Linda's sister, said: 'This will be the first of three fundraising events for the foundation that will take place over the spring term and we are touched that the Playgroup, School and Nursery are so keen to support the foundation in this way. We are hoping for a bit of a turnout to cheer the children on their way.'

Any businesses which would like to sponsor this event can do so by contacting Angela McDougall on 01866 822 674.

Further fundraising events for The Linda Norgrove Foundation are a dance to be held in Kilchrenan Village Hall May 14 and a charity auction.

ISLAY

AVANTI Broadband, which provides satellite broadband services to rural Islay homes and businesses, has advised customers that their broadband service is to be transferred to their new communications satellite, HYLAS 1 during April.

The AVC Group has been instructed by Avanti Communications to carry out this transfer, and subscribers will have received postal and email notification requesting them to make an appointment.

Customers will receive new dishes and indoor terminals to continue to receive broadband service.

The transfer timeframe is extremely limited and the schedule for Islay is set in advance, at around April 17. To keep continuous broadband service, Islay customers are advised to make an appointment right away.

If the April 'slot' is missed, it may not be possible for engineers to make the upgrades until June, with probable interruption of broadband service for customers who miss the April appointment.

Gaelic exhibition visits IN April-May 2011 a touring exhibition will visit Ionad Chalum Chille Ile, Bowmore. Twenty artworks from An Leabhar Mòr, The Great Book of Gaelic will be on display from April 1.

An official opening will take place, attended by one of the project's key contributors,

ISLE OF SEIL

ISLE of Seil Golf Club started their fixture list on March 27 with The Rab Marshall Pairs Trophy, sponsored by the birthday boy himself, Rab Marshall.

Twenty members including two country members from Duntocher, Clydebank and Howwood, West Renfrewshire attended the event.

The competition was held over nine holes on the scenic course with prizes for longest drive on the 3rd. Winners were men - P McKenzie, Ladies - D Campbell and nearest the pin at the 4th (I Galloway) and 8th (I Wyllie).

The event was played with Rab's consent as a two ball better ball stableford and was won by Gordon 'Chimney Sweep' McColl and Ian 'The Mexican' Wyllie by 21 pts. In joint second place were John Blackstock and Kyle Gilroy who scored 20 pts and four ties for 3rd who scored 19 points, G Adam and J Wyllie, D Campbell and A MacKintosh, M McDougall and L Mudie, and finally G McKenzie and M Phillips.

Rab would like to give thanks to all that participated and hope they will return again next year.

ARDUAINE

SPRING has sprung a month earlier than usual in the gardens of Argyll.

Despite a long harsh winter, temperatures are already topping 11 and 12 degrees celsius in mid-March.

The unusual variances in weather temperature seem to be forcing plants such as Rhododendron and Magnolia into life a month earlier than last year.

Maurice Watkins, head gardener at Arduaine Garden, noting that the garden is already in full swing, held an accommodation providers orientation day showing off the potential of the garden to welcome visitors and groups.

Maurice said: 'I am hoping that people will come and visit the garden to see this rather unusual early start to the season.'

'We have had some new maps made and there are children's activity sheets and new self-led guided walks around the garden.'



Arduaine Garden is already in full bloom - a month earlier than last year.

GLENBORRODALE

A FUNDRAISING night in Glenborrodale raised about £1,600 for the Kilchoan playpark fund recently.

Campaigners in West Ardnamurchan have been raising money for the playpark for over a year, and the total so far stands at nearly £40,000.

About 50 people attended a special dinner in the hotel, with tickets costing £20 per head. The hosts didn't charge for the event and staff working did not take any wages.

As well as the meal, a raffle was held and donated items such as pottery, milk jugs and egg pots were auctioned off. A jar of rare honey was sold for £35.

West Ardnamurchan Community Council chair Rosie Curtis called it 'a very successful night'.

RAASAY

LAST MINUTE efforts appear to have been made to use up Highland Council's road budget on Raasay before the financial year ended.

The Glen road, which took a severe hammering from logging tractors and trailers last year has been largely retarred.

Tar lorries were ferried to and fro between the island and Sconser last week in an effort to get the work done in time.

LOCHCARRON

LOCHCARRON'S first local producers' market of the year will be held in Lochcarron Village Hall on April 22 from 11am to 3pm.

The markets, staged at regular intervals through the year, include local craft and produce stalls, spinning demonstrations and raffles. The markets have rapidly gained in popularity in recent times.

Email your local news to editor@obantimes.co.uk

CHILDREN'S COMPETITION

Design our 150th anniversary logo!

It's the 150th anniversary of The Oban Times this year and to celebrate we want you to design a special anniversary logo.

There are two categories, under 12s and under 16s. An overall winner and a winner from each category will be chosen. As well as prizes for the winners and their school, the logo will appear in The Oban Times for the rest of the year!

To enter, please send your design on an A4 sheet with your name, age, school and contact details to Oban Times Logo Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or by email to competitions@obantimes.co.uk by Monday May 9.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

DOWN YOUR WAY

This week - Craignish

CRAIGNISH Primary School has enjoyed a fantastic term. Head teacher, Anne Wilson, writes: 'It has been a fantastic term in school with the children achieving widely in many areas both in and out of school.'

'They recently took part in the Mid Argyll Music Festival entering singing, poetry and instrumental classes and achieved notable successes throughout. This festival really provides a fantastic opportunity for the children to showcase their talents, entertain an audience, 'raise their game' and generally boost their own self confidence.'

'Pre-five children also had great success and fun when they raised an amazing £22 for Comic Relief by icing and decorating a selection of buns and biscuits and selling these to their families.'

'The whole community is busy cleaning up the local coastline and an excellent clean up day was held at Craobh Haven on March 20 with lots of families and friends pitching in to help. The Lord of the Isles put on a great spread for everyone afterwards.'

'In this, the school's 150th year, the children are well underway with their big local studies project. This is providing many excellent opportunities for cross curricular working. The children have been making maps of the village, visiting the church and the Old Chapel, working with experts from Kilmartin Museum and using lots of old documents and school log books from the archives in Lochgilphead.'

They are also using oral testimony to find out about the past and, following on from a very successful coffee morning in the village hall, the P5-7 children are currently working as an enterprise company to plan and run an open afternoon for some of the older members of the community to come in to school to reminisce.

'The children will all begin making a commemorative banner later this month, constructing willow pods in their field and creating tourist leaflets for visitors to the area as part of their 150th celebrations. They also hope to bury a time capsule in the school grounds later in the term.'

'On June 24, 25 and 26 the school is organising a Homecoming Weekend event for anyone with past and present connections with the school. There will be a concert on the afternoon of June 24 in the village hall, a ceilidh on the evening of June 25 and a service of thanksgiving in Craignish Parish Church at 10.15am on the Sunday.'

'We hope people will 'come home' from all over the country for this exciting gathering.'

If you would like further information or have any connections with the school/memories, photographs and other ephemera which you would be happy to share with the school children, they would love to hear from you. Email enquiries@ craignish.argyll-bute.sch.uk or telephone 01852 500652.

Check out the school's web site at www.craignish.argyll-bute.sch.uk



PUPILS from Craignish Primary School came away with many merits from the Mid Argyll Festival. 16_14craigpict

CRAIGNISH will host its popular Arts Festival this year. The festival is a celebration of art in all its forms and it promises something for every member of the family.

With everything from exhibitions, music and drama to themed walks, workshops, sailing and storytelling, all interspersed with a scattering of Vikings, scarecrows and pirates, for two weeks between July 24 and August 7, the community and businesses of Craignish are working

together to put on the event for both locals and visitors.

In addition to exhibitions of the work of local artists at various venues, there will be drama, music, workshops, sports and producers markets, with lots of vikings, pirates and scarecrows thrown in.

The event is being headed up by Craignish Community Company. Anyone requiring further information should contact jan@ craignishcommunitycompany.org.uk



CHILDREN from Craignish Primary School made a trip to Lochgilphead Swimming Pool to celebrate its 15th birthday - and one of the pupils' birthdays as well. Staff at the pool gave the children goody bags and party hats. The youngsters were sharing a treat at the end of this term's 'Secret Student' initiative, which has been done to raise standards in behaviour.

SHOOLENIFTY will be in Craignish as part of its Shoole Project with dance company Plan B.

The performance is intended to be an explosive, toe-tapping, foot stomping night out. Featuring highly infectious and energetic live music, the evening brings together the two dynamic forces of Plan B and Shooleenifty in a meeting of music,

dance, performance and a joint passion for really getting people moving.

Part gig, part show, part ceilidh, the project will reinvent the meaning of a good night through this high-octane blend of the Shoole's music and Plan B's unique choreographic style.

Call 01852 500746 for further information.

AN official from the Forestry Commission gave a report on an outbreak of Phytophthora Ramorum in Craignish at the most recent community council meeting.

Dr Stephen Murphy from the Forestry Commission gave a presentation on the disease found at a forest on the Lunga track. Ramorum was first found on Lunga in November 2010 and felling of diseased trees took place before the end of February, as it had to be completed before the new growth takes place in the spring.

Timber lorries taking the wood to the approved processing plant in Troon were not pass through Ardfern.

Mr Murphy stressed that walkers should give to the track and keep their dogs on leads and no-one should remove any material, for example for firewood, from the infected site.

He also encouraged everyone to continue with the removal of rhododendron ponticum which is the initial host of the disease.

There was concern that the infected wood would be transported on open lorries which risked spreading the disease, and also that the bio-security message had not been communicated to the community earlier.

A FEASIBILITY study for a housing project in Ardfern will be revealed at a community meeting later on this month.

Paul Barham, of John Gilbert Architects, will present the findings of the study for building affordable housing in the centre of the village.

The project for housing has been ongoing for a number of years. It is hoped that the

building of housing would offer young families affordable houses in the village, as there is currently a shortage of properties for people to buy.

The presentation will be given after the annual general meeting of the Craignish Community Company (C3) in Craignish Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday April 27.

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Barra with reporter Steven Flanagan.

You can contact him at 01631 568000 or email: sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk.

PLOCKTON

THREE coffee mornings at the Plockton Inn on successive Saturdays have raised hundreds of pounds for computers for Africa, Plockton High School children's trip to Poland and for New Zealand's earthquake disaster fund.

Plockton Primary School also held a coffee morning in the school and raised £341 for new playground equipment, while a race night in Plockton recently raised £1,200 for prostate cancer research.

Meanwhile, the National Trust for Scotland is converting two garages at Plockton car park into a new visitor centre. It will be open at Easter, although it will be largely unstaffed.

Features include a range of interpretation panels, developed in conjunction with Plockton High School and Plockton Historical Society, a notice board and a range of leaflets.

The trust will use half the space, with the other half being used by the association to display old photographs and artefacts from the area.

The trust also hopes to include a new weekly tour of Plockton village throughout the summer.

Historical Society
PLOCKTON Historical Society held a talk in Plockton Hall on March 24.

The speaker was Bill Ramsay from Kyle, who gave a very interesting talk to some 40 people about the HMS Port Napier, the minelayer which blew-up off Kyle in 1940. Robert Kennedy introduced and thanked him.

A win at last!
RUGBY supporters from Plockton who have travelled to Scotland matches for the past nine years and failed to see the team win had a reunion in the Plockton Inn on Saturday, March 19.

The boys watched all three matches on TV and were delighted to see Scotland beating Italy.

Sea kayak venture
ALISON French, from Drumbuie, held a cheese and wine reception in the Plockton Hotel on March 24 to tell people about her new small business.

It is called Sea Kayak Plockton and is offering sea kayaking for all levels, mainly from Plockton but also from other locations in the surrounding area.

Alison is a fully qualified sea kayak instructor. She will also include women only sea kayak days.

Special visitor
RALPH Riach, who was one of the main actors in Hamish Macbeth, visited Plockton for a few days.

Prize winners
TWO Lochcarron Primary School pupils helped their school win top prize at the recent Plockton and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society annual spring bulb and baking show.

The event also included the Marion Gillies Love memorial prize for art for primary schools, which saw 140 entries from seven local schools.

Winner was Lochcarron Primary School, who took away a £150 cash prize to promote artwork. Rhiannon Docherty (Kyle), Arran Thomas Morrison (Kyleakin), Kirsty (Glenelg) and Joanna Shillaken and Beth Murphy (both Lochcarron) all received merit awards. Best individual entry was Hannah Macdairmid from Auchtertyre Primary School.

Small boat club
A RECENT meeting of Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club decided to hold centreboard races on Sunday.

Only two of the 16 members present voted against the proposal - a change from last year, when a survey sent to 75 members of the club resulted in 52 per cent voting against races on Sunday and only 29 per cent in favour.

Charlie M MacRae, one of the club's oldest

Guides and brownies conclude centenary year



1st Fort Augustus Guides and Brownies celebrated the end of their centenary year with the unveiling of their plaque and birdbath. The event coincided with the retirement of the Church of Scotland minister Rev and Mrs Varwell who are due to retire this month and move to Drumadrochit. They were presented with a girlguiding vase, card and flowers by guiders, guides and brownies as a token of their appreciation for all that they have done for girlguiding in the community in the last 100 years.

members, said he was 'very disappointed' with the decision changing a long tradition of the 77 year-old club.

'I, like many others, felt it should have been a decision for the AGM,' he said. Commodore this year is Bob Rowe.

PORT ELLEN

LAPHROAIG Distillery is a case in point of how the Scotch whisky industry has taken off in the past 10 years.

The industry last week reported a 10 per cent rise last year in the drink's export value, leading to a record year for international sales. Global shipments were worth £3.45 billion last year and 1.06 billion bottles of whisky were sold overseas - 60 per cent up since 2000.

John Campbell, manager of Laphroaig Distillery, said: 'We don't have the stock laid down to meet all of the international demands but in the past five years we have doubled the volume of whisky we're maturing, with a view to increasing production.'

FORT WILLIAM

FORT WILLIAM Community Council held its March meeting in the Nevis Centre with nine members and Councillor Bren Gormley present.

Abridged minutes: Secretary Trisha Jordan advised she is awaiting a response from Dot Ferguson, HC Lochaber Area Wards Manager, and Mike Leary, HC Community Works Manager, regarding a solution to the number of unauthorised vehicles using the Parade as a parking area and a short cut to the High Street and the erosion of the gardens and leisure space.

Vice chair Neil Clark went through the planning applications. A number of 'domestic' applications were discussed. No objections. Noted that the Fort

William Christian Fellowship has applied for change of use to a 'Drop in Centre' for the 'Old School' previous Lochaber Housing Association Offices in Fassifern Road.

An email was received from CWP - James Harbison & Co. regarding their plans for a supermarket at An Aird, advising: 'Our plans are very much alive although our intended round of initial consultations were unavoidably postponed before Christmas due to the exceptional winter weather.'

'Also during December, Millers had their outline plans for Blar Mhor consented by the HC and we have been modifying our plans in light of this position. I shall update you further on our plans when I am able to and will be in touch to arrange an initial meeting to brief you on our proposals.'

The chair asked what is happening with the Grand Hotel site. Councillor Gormley advised that he would make enquiries as to what the situation is.

The secretary was asked to make enquiries as to whether or not there was support from other local organisations to carry a Model T Ford to the summit of the Ben as FWCC members were keen to support the commemoration day.

With the support of all parties involved, No Fuss Events will co-ordinate the carry of a specially prepared car to the top of the Ben on Wednesday May 18 to be assembled and disassembled on the same day. There is a cost involved and enquiries are being made to try and cover the full cost of the event through corporate car-dealer sponsorship.

However, if this does not work out, sponsorship will be required through smaller company sponsorships and personal donations. FWCC members were asked if they would agree to sponsorship if this was necessary. Sponsorship was agreed in principle to be discussed further after T Jordan reports back from the next meeting of the group and

the financial situation is clear.

A letter was received from L Maclean asking for our support in objecting to further development of Mussel Farms on Loch Linnhe.

The secretary advised that the chair had also been contacted by Fergie MacLean Camus na Ghael advising of the same issue. N Clark and T Jordan will check this further under planning.

The meeting was advised that the FWCC notice board is now in desperate need of repair. One bolt missing and the backing on each side needs replacing.

The secretary will make the appropriate arrangements for repair and upgrade work to be carried out. Next meeting: Tuesday, April 19.

KILCHRENAN

THE pupils of Kilchrenan Primary School used their maths skills to buy seeds, pots and compost within a given budget at Corachie Clematis Garden Centre. They researched vegetable varieties and chose the ones they could harvest in June for their Growing Soup project. They were also delighted with the spring flowers they bought with their spare money.

Women's World Day of Prayer DALAVICH Church was the venue this year for the Women's World Day of Prayer which was for Chile which has suffered many disasters.

There was a good turnout, with the congregation consisting of residents from Kilchrenan, Inverinan, Avich and Dalavich, and, of course, the minister, Robert Brookes from Taynuilt, who enjoyed taking a back seat. Anne Pascoe from Inverinan should be commended for organising the occasion as should the ladies of the parishes for their excellent buffet supper afterwards.

RSPB Presentation THE Kilchrenan branch of the SWRI was the host to a presentation by Debby Thorne

of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Debby travelled from Mull in very inclement weather to talk to the group and members of the public on 'Birds of Prey', beginning with the ever popular white-tailed eagles featured in 'Springwatch' to the smaller hobby. The two films which she showed were very enlightening and entertaining, as was the life-sized model of a golden eagle and buzzard. Debby said that she was very keen to return to Mull as chicks were soon to be hatched and she was part of the protection unit. Unfortunately, she did not arrive back in Mull until later the next day, due to weather conditions and the ferry being cancelled.

Linda Norgrove Foundation SOFIE Corns, the sister of the British aid worker who was kidnapped in Afghanistan and subsequently killed by American Special Forces in a rescue attempt last October, lives with her husband and two boys in Kilchrenan.

Sofie and her parents have started a charitable foundation in Linda's name to continue the work that she was doing; aimed particularly at helping women and children affected by the ongoing war and poverty in what is considered to be the third poorest country in the world.

Sofie is organising a dance and auction in Kilchrenan village hall to be held sometime in May.

She is asking for donations for the auction which could include anything from firewood, one day's gardening, dog walking or anything which would be worthwhile auctioning. So far she has received more than 20 donations from local businesses, ranging from a salmon fillet to a one week stay at a holiday house on the Isle of Lewis.

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CD review
Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas - Highlander's Farewell
 Third album from the dazzling duo of master fiddler Alasdair Fraser and dynamic cellist Natalie Haas - highly accomplished playing. Alasdair Fraser is recognised as one of Scotland's finest exponents of the fiddle, and for some time now has enjoyed an artistic collaboration with the wonderful cellist Natalie Haas. Their debut album together - Fire And Grace - was voted Album Of The Year at the 2004 Scots Trad Music Awards, and this was followed in 2007 by their recording In The Moment. Once again they unleash their dazzling teamwork, with driving, dancing rhythms and a shared passion for taking the infectious melodies and grooves of Scottish and Celtic music on an exciting new journey.

Highland Heartbeat (with Fiona Kennedy) - Belonging
 Six fine Scottish singers, brought together to perform songs in old and new styles - Fiona Kennedy, Jim Malcolm, Jillian Isbister, Maureen McMullan, Daisy Chute and Darren MacLean. This Scottish music programme was shown from coast to coast in the US on PBS. Introducing new songs such as Raise The Flag (For Scotland) by Phil Cunningham, and The Kist, jointly written by US singer/songwriter Beth Neilsen Chapman and Scotland's Fiona Kennedy. Special bonus tracks include Lochanside, written and performed by Jim Malcolm, and Highland Angels, beautifully sung by Fiona.

McGoldrick, Fletcher and Dinan - Future Trad Collective
 A project from Michael McGoldrick, Ian Fletcher and Andy Dinan - trad instruments within a myriad of musical styles. Celtic jigs, reels, polkas and Breton gavottes fused with everything from AfroCuban Cross-Rhythms, Tabla-driven Funk, Flamenco, Samba, Afrobeat and HipHop to House, Reggae, Disco, Breakbeat and Jungle.

Michael McGoldrick's solo projects have gained him worldwide acclaim, allowing him the freedom to explore a sound that is both inspiring and truly unique. Ian Fletcher first worked alongside Mike as guitarist when they toured Germany with Toss The Feathers in 1994 and soon afterwards, Mike joined Ian on his Inner Space project. Andy Dinan is a master of the fiddle, having won the All-Ireland fiddle championships twice. He has more recently teamed up with Adrian Edmondson and Troy Donockley to become a member of the punk-folk group The Bad Shepherds.

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Oscar, Nessie and Incy Wincy delight young fans

THE Puppet Animation Festival came to Oban's Corran Halls on Saturday, with puppeteer David Stewart entraining kids with the tale of Oscar and the Highland Castle. David's Mousetail Puppets show used fluorescent paint to bring the characters to life, an effect that seemed to go down well with the good-natured audience. David is pictured with main characters Oscar the mouse, Nessie and Incy Wincy Spider ahead of Saturday's show. 15_114puppet



Six of the best for Appin at North Lorn festival

REPORT
 by STEVEN FLANAGAN
 sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

ECHOES of laughter are still ringing from Appin after a distinctly comedy-filled 57th North Lorn Drama Festival was hailed a tremendous success. Adjudicator, Nat Little, had a tough time deciding the winners of each category, but the home teams dominated the awards, receiving six in total.

Appin Drama Group picked up two awards. Not only did their production of Fidelity Farce when they the overall adult title, but the Special Moment in Comedy Award. The Youth Section's North Lorn District Council Cup was picked up by Appin Youth Club Drama Team for Yasna, while in the primary section, first place went to Lismore Primary School for The Fisherman's Wife, with Strath of Appin School grabbing second spot with Pirate Joe. Appin's Comical Carers won the Special Endeavour Award. Proudest of the bunch though was Appin Drama Group's Stuart MacCorquodale, who unusually scooped the Adjudicator's Award all to himself for his performance as Vincent in Fidelity Farce. Mr Little told Stuart: 'That was performance of the week. I've seen professionals that couldn't do it as well as you.'



Pictured with their trophies are, from left: Julie Weir of Appin Drama Club, Ian Craig from Dalmally and Lochawe Drama Society B, Grace MacLeod from Strath of Appin Primary School, Fiona Thomson from Appin Youth Drama Club, Catrina MacKenzie from the Comical Carers and Stuart MacCorquodale, from Appin Drama Club. 15_114appindr2

Rangers set out on Skye Trail

HIGHLAND Council rangers will set out on the first leg of a 96-mile guided journey through Skye and Lochalsh next Tuesday. The route, piloted by Cameron McNeish in 'The Skye Trail', in 10 one-day sections between April and September, will take hikers through Skye then across on the community owned Glenelg Ferry for the final 11 miles to Corran on the mainland. The hike has been refined and extended from last year and takes in stunning cliff-top scenery between Duntulm and Flodrigarry, the landslip areas of the Quiraing and Storr on the Trotternish Ridge.

The trail passes through Braes, in 1882 the scene of a battle between local crofters protesting at the loss of their traditional grazing rights and 50 policemen drafted in from Glasgow, and on to Sligachan. From Sligachan the journey passes through John Muir Trust lands, beneath the Cuillin to Kilmorie and from Elgol to Torrinn. Then via the cleared townships of Suisnish and Boraig to Kilchrist, and out to Broadford, by the Marble Line path, a converted industrial railway track.

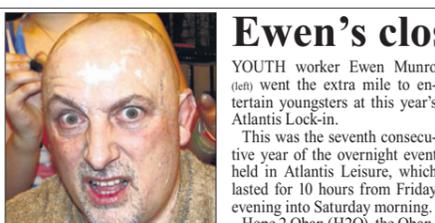
Two new sections of the route add another two days to the journey: first from Broadford to Kylesha and then from the ferry slip at Glenelg over the hills to Corran, taking in well preserved Iron Age forts and the Glenelg barracks, reputedly built with stone robbed from Dun Telve, one of the two brochs in Glenn Beag. Tuesday's walk is a 7km 'cliff and crag' walk from Duntulm to Kilmaluag in north Skye. Places on these walks are limited - to book and for further information contact John Phillips on 01471 820 526 john.phillips@highland.gov.uk.



Finlay, left, is pictured with brother Cameron before Saturday's ceilidh. 15_114ceilidh1

Brothers hit right note at An Comann ceilidh

BROTHERS Finlay, 10, and Cameron Bennet, 13, were the star attractions at the An Comann Gaidhealach Ceilidh at Oban's Masonic Lodge on Saturday - with the younger brother having just won an award. The dynamic duo were instrumental in setting the tone for the evening, with Cameron opening proceedings with a rousing performance on the bagpipes. Finlay followed that up with a performance on the fiddle, then picked up the chanter to show why we took first place at the U12 chanter section of the Highlands and Islands Music Festival.



Ewen's close shave at annual Atlantis lock-in. 15_113h2001

Top trio's Argyll tour

ARGYLL and Bute Concert Tours recently hosted six performances by the acclaimed Scottish Reed Trio. The trio, East Kilbride's Heather Kent (bassoon), Blackburn's Catherine Earnshaw (oboe) and North Yorkshire's Frances Pybus (clarinet) entertained audiences in Rothsay, Dunoon, Bowmore, Ardrishaig, Campbeltown and Oban. All three women are former students of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. The week-long musical tour of Argyll and Bute was featured Dalriada, a brand new piece by leading Scottish composer, Dr Oliver Searle. The composition reflected individual aspects of the six areas hosting the concerts: Bute, Mid Argyll, Cowal, Kintyre, Islay and Oban. Dr Searle, born in Edinburgh in 1977, grew up in Berwick, but has strong family connections with Argyll, in particular with the Isle of Bute.



The Scottish Reed Trio in Oban's St John's Cathedral. 15_113h2001

Ewen's close shave at annual Atlantis lock-in

YOUTH worker Ewen Munro (left) went the extra mile to entertain youngsters at this year's Atlantis Lock-in. This was the seventh consecutive year of the overnight event held in Atlantis Leisure, which lasted for 10 hours from Friday evening into Saturday morning. Hope 2 Oban (H2O), the Oban-based Christian youth work charity, hosted the event for S1 pupils from Oban High School. The fundraiser was also supported by Atlantis Leisure staff, as well as volunteers Oban Youth Café, Oban High School, the SSC (a club for the youth of Scotland) and Strathclyde Police. Organiser Ewen, who has been sporting an unusual hairstyle of late, allowed the pupils to 'cut off the quiff' during the night. Elsewhere, every corner of Atlantis Leisure was used for dance and body-pump, gym challenges, craft capers, a big-screen cinema, console games of every description, swimming, Giant Jenga and Connect 4.

Host of events lined up for museums weekend

STORYTELLING amidst the standing stones of mystical Kilmartin Glen, a glimpse of 18th century life in a west highland village and a fascinating insight into the role of slate in Scotland's industrial past are examples of the eclectic cultural treats being planned by museums in Argyll and Bute to celebrate the first ever Festival of Museums.

This brand new festival for Scotland takes place from May 13-15 where across the country there will be more than 40 day and evening events for all ages are being staged to celebrate Scotland's living culture.

At the Auchincrain Museum, Return to the Shieling will give visitors the chance to experience daily life within an 18th century highland village. On Saturday, May 14, Gaelic walking songs, spinning demonstrations and even butter churning will all be part of the fun. The Kilmartin House Museum is the setting for Sounding the Stones: amidst ancient standing stones and led by international musician and storyteller Bob Pegg, participants will delve into history as through music and storytelling they learn about over 4,000 years of life in Kilmartin Glen - and even learn to make their own instruments.

And for those interested in learning how for several hundred years slate was quarried in the aptly named Slate Islands of Argyll, all will be revealed by volunteers at the Slate Islands Heritage Trust in Ellenabeich on the Isle of Seil. Joanne Orr, chief executive of Museums Galleries Scotland, said: 'The Festival of Museums weekend will offer something for all ages to enjoy. No matter what your interests - period fashion, science, food, Jacobean history or even Neolithic art and history - there will be an event, day or night, taking place. Festival of Museums encourages museums and galleries across Scotland to work together, not only to celebrate Scotland's living culture and history, but to demonstrate that these are amazing places to visit year-round.'

Jim Watson, of Slate Islands Heritage Trust, added: 'Over the weekend of May 13-15 and as part of Festival of Museums, in Argyll and Bute we look forward to offering locals and tourists alike the chance to enjoy great-value, day and evening entertainment that promises to both delight and inspire young and old.' Other museums and galleries across Argyll & Bute still have the chance to get involved. They can find out how by visiting www.festivalofmuseums.com.

US guest to open thatched cottage

THE LEADER of an American historical re-enactment group is to open a thatched Highland cottage - the latest addition to The Highland Council's award winning Highland Folk Museum in Newtonmore.

The cottage, which has been recreated using a photograph taken of a building in the 1800s at Grantown on Spey will be opened next Wednesday at 12.30pm by Elliot MacFarlane, leader of the Canadian and USA based 'MacFarlanes Company'. Volunteer living history troupe MacFarlanes Company has been visiting the Highland Folk Museum for the past seven years to bring their unique interpretation of the rich history and culture of Scotland and the Scottish diaspora in North America.

With the opening of the 'Lost City of Atlantis', S1 pupils were challenged to set the first record for the number of circuits of the new soft play structure, with the initial target of 500 circuits being smashed for a first-time record of 1,540. For further details of H2O, log on to www.hope2oban.org.uk

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 Skipinnish Ceilidh House 9pm-11pm

Every Thursday > Club Night
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Offers received for Glencoe Hospital

OFFERS closed last Thursday for the former Glencoe Hospital, which NHS Highland advertised on the open market in January at offers over £450,000.

South Lochaber Community Company had been given preferred bidder status for a year after they lodged an interest but failed to raise any cash to buy the Victorian building.

An NHS spokesperson told The Oban Times: 'A number of offers have been received for the old Glencoe hospital, these will be considered and a decision will be made in due course.'

Runners line up for Lochaber marathon

THE ANNUAL Lochaber Marathon takes place this Sunday, with a number of prizes up for grabs for those taking part. The race begins at the Nevis Centre, with the 26.2mile route taking in some of the beautiful local landscape along Loch Eil. More than 60 prizes will be handed out at the prize giving at around 4pm.

Registration for the race will take place at the Nevis Centre on Saturday from 2.30pm-6pm and Sunday 8.30am-10.30am.

Winter Feast finale ready for the off

THE FINAL Winter Feast duathlon event of the season will take place on Saturday morning at Nevis Range.

The 'Big Puddin', organised by No Fuss events, is the longest race of the series. It starts with a 5km run followed by a gruelling 22km cycle around Aonach Mor and another 5km run to finish. The race is available to individuals and teams.

Registration for the event will get underway at 9am on Saturday at Nevis Range.

Chef's US TV dates

A SKYE chef is aiming to bring Scottish food to TV audiences across North America.

Michael Smith, head chef at The Three Chimneys restaurant in Colbost, will appear on a number of shows in the USA and Canada this week to showcase Scottish cuisine as part of 'Scotland Week'.

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Scottish champions: Chris, left, and James proudly show off the gold medals they won at Coatbridge.

Young boxers who really pack a punch

AMATEUR boxing in Lochaber has hit the big time after two teenage fighters returned home to Fort William on Sunday night as national champions.

Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club youngsters Chris Bradley, aged 14, and James Aitchison, 13, became Lochaber's first champs for 20 years when they boxed brilliantly to win title fights at the Scottish championships at Coatbridge last weekend.

Scottish selectors have now picked both boys to box for their country at the British championships in Manchester next weekend.

Club official Stevie Docherty said Chris and James' success could prove a real fillip for the sport locally.

He said: 'Hopefully these results will encourage more people to come along to the club and join in training. We've

already had six new boys along this week.

'The high level of discipline you need in boxing tends to bring out the best in most people. We don't just coach people to improve their boxing, we want to help them to live right as well.'

He added: 'Success breeds success, so hopefully this will also inspire some of the other boys at the club.' See sports page for the full report.

Community council back in business

THE NEWLY reformed Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) is up and running again - four years after it folded.

Members met in Kilmallie Hall to elect Gillian Clark as the new chairperson, Dawn Rigby as sec-

retary and Maggie MacKenzie as treasurer.

A committee was set up to organise a website and another to plan a relaunch of the Kilmallie community newsletter. Mrs Clark said one of KCC's first

aims was find out what issues local people are concerned about.

'We plan on working on traffic issues in the village and we hope to keep on top of planning issues as they arise,' she said.

The next meeting is on May 4.

Danger road scare for provost's family

THE NOTORIOUS stretch of the A830 Road to the Isles that cost two local teenagers their lives last September has almost claimed two more victims - the wife and daughter of Lochaber provost Allan Henderson.

Sandra Henderson was driving to Mallaig from Fort William with daughter Ashley Anna in the passenger seat last Thursday afternoon when her car went into a skid at Arrienskill between Glenfinnan and Lochailort around 2.50pm.

Mrs Henderson, who runs The Gantocks guesthouse in Fort William, managed to keep the car under control and slowed down to 35mph.

But closer to Lochailort Mrs Henderson's car again hit a greasy spot - and this time spun right round and ended up facing back towards Fort William in the opposite carriageway.

Both incidents occurred within

EXCLUSIVE by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

two miles of each other either side of Rannachan bend, where friends Kirsty Bryden and Roddy MacInnes drowned after their car spun off the treacherous road into Loch Eilt on September 29.

A shaken Mrs Henderson phoned her husband to tell him what had happened, then contacted police and Transport Scotland to inform them about the dangerous condition of the road.

She told The Oban Times: 'The first time we skidded was two corners before where the fatal crash was then two miles further on it happened again.'

'It was really frightening. We were only crawling - it was like it happened in slow motion.'

'We were very lucky there was nothing coming the other way.'

'I contacted the authorities as I was supposed to, but I really feel something must be done about it. If we had been going the other way we could have ended up in the water.'

She added: 'So many of the locals are complaining about how unsafe the road is. Nobody knows what is causing it, but there are rumours that lorries coming through from Mallaig are the problem.'

Fort William police confirmed an incident had been reported to them about suspected diesel on the road surface being a hazard.

A spokesperson said: 'Officers attended and patrolled from Mallaig to Glenfinnan to check the condition of the road. No evidence of a diesel spillage was found. Scotland Transerv also attended.'

Transport Scotland erected a crash barrier at Rannachan corner last month following a

vociferous campaign for safety improvements led by Kirsty's dad John and mum Jan.

Local people have long argued more must be done to ensure HGVs using the road do not leak diesel or hydraulic oil on to the road surface.

A Transport Scotland spokeswoman said: 'We have been made aware of this incident.'

'Any personal injuries reported by the police are recorded on our accident database and regularly reviewed in line with our commitment to ensure the safety of the trunk road network.'

'We are also currently investigating other incidents on A830 between Glenfinnan and Lochailort, reported to us by the police.'

Ashley Anna, now of Melbourne, Australia, is home in Lochaber to get married. She ties the knot with Pete Whitehead, of Hereford, England, next Friday.

Warm welcome for Indian High Commissioner

DRIVING rain did nothing to dampen international relations when Lochaber extended a warm welcome to the Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom on Friday.

His Excellency Nalin Surie, accompanied by his wife Poonam and Consul General to Scotland Anil Annand, dropped into Nevis Range as part of a whistlestop tour of the Highlands.

Provost of Lochaber, Allan Henderson, presented his guests with two bottles of limited edition 25 year-old Ben Nevis whisky before the party visited the almost completed Pine Marten Café at the resort.

Determined For London-based Mr Surie, it was his second attempt at visiting the north of Scotland. 'We had planned to come here in January, but it snowed too much,' he told The Oban Times.

'But we were determined to do it this time and I am very glad we have.'

'This is my first time in Lochaber and the Highlands.'

'I had not realised how big Loch Ness was or how beautiful the area is.'



Poonam Surie, High Commissioner to the UK Nalin Surie, Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson and Consul General to Scotland Anil Annand outside the new Pine Marten Café at Nevis Range on Friday.

'I have travelled widely in Switzerland, and my impression is that Scotland is prettier. My wife and I hope to come

back in June with our daughter.' Councillor Henderson said: 'As Provost of Lochaber I am honoured that the High Com-

missioner chose Lochaber, The Outdoor Capital of the UK, as one of his stops during his short Scottish vacation.'

Turbine protesters take to the streets

PROTESTERS from Seil and Kilmelford marched through to the streets of Edinburgh to campaign against wind turbines.

The women also made sure a letter and petition were handed to Alex Salmond to raise the issue of a windfarm at Clachan Seil.

Christine Metcalfe from Loch Avich and Sarah Henderson of Clachan Seil representing said they were demonstrating to voice their concerns amongst others from all over Scotland.

Mrs Henderson said: 'We are concerned about the amount of wind turbines being constructed throughout Argyll and Scotland with disregard to the impact that this has on our beautiful countryside and the effect this has on those that reside in and visit areas where wind turbines are in situ.'

A Scottish Government spokeswoman said: 'While we value the contribution well-sited windfarms can make, the Scottish Government is committed to protecting Scotland's landscape and natural beauty and agree that



Christine Metcalfe from Loch Avich, left, and Sarah Henderson representing PACT (People against Clachan Turbines) from Clachan Seil demonstrating to voice their concerns amongst others from all over Scotland, at the number of wind turbines being constructed throughout Argyll and Scotland.

windfarms should not be built without careful consideration of their potential impact on the environment before any decision is made on whether they should be given the go-ahead.'

Call for action over offshore development

HIGHLAND Council leader Michael Foxley is urging west Highland coastal communities to consider non-violent civil protest to claim their rightful share of lucrative offshore renewable energy developments.

Councillor Foxley is furious Crown Estate Commissioners have signed a private deal with Bristol-based Marine Current Turbines to pursue a four-turbine tidal power scheme at Kyle Rhea, to the exclusion, he claims, of local people.

The Fort William and Ardnarnach councillor has been a longstanding critic of what he regards as the Crown Estate's unaccountability, and told Scottish select affairs committee MPs in Inverness last week things had to change.

Councillor Foxley has now written to committee chairman Iain Davidson, condemning the Crown Estates Commissioners for having 'no local involvement, no local consultation and no consultation with the planning authority...despite the proposed scheme having a very significant landscape impact on a

spectacularly beautiful coastline'.

He states: 'The proposed scheme will be constructed close to local communities who have lived on and worked the land for generations. They see their shore waters as an extension of their land.'

Reform 'This is a prime example of why there is a pressing need for radical reform of the Crown Estate Commissioners to make the management of the Crown Estate more accountable to the local communities that are affected by its arbitrary decisions.'

He told The Oban Times: 'I think our coastal communities should take direct action when faced with disgraceful exploitation such as this.'

'I and local councillor Charlie King took action to blockade the A830 at Morar in our 1990s campaign for improvements - and this should be no different.'

'People living in coastal communities need to make it clear they are very angry about how the use of their inshore waters is being decided without their involvement.'

'We are not talking about a North Sea oilfield here - this is right in front of their homes on the seabed, which is an extension of their land. It is a bit like a colonial power and a developer getting together to impose their development on a third world country.'

A spokesperson for the Crown Estate said: 'The Agreement for Lease with Marine Current Turbines (MCT) of Kyle Rhea is the first stage in a process to explore potential for the development of a tidal energy farm.'

Access 'The agreement does not permit construction but instead provides MCT with exclusive access to the seabed to allow exploratory work to be undertaken prior to a formal consents and planning application being submitted to Marine Scotland and other relevant regulators.'

'As the relevant elected authority, the Scottish Government will undertake consultation prior to reaching a final decision on whether the development should proceed, ensuring democratic accountability,' he added.

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15 Years Ago Those Were The Days The Oban Times Thursday, April 4, 1996. Curtain falls on old Argyll and Bute District Council. Islanders abusing use of complimentary trailer. Health chiefs play down Western Isles cancer scare.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD. Across: 7 Curved beak flier (6), 8 Energised (6), 9 Information unit (4), 10 Choke (8), 11 American car, Sally's? (7), 13 Actuality (5), 15 Out of bed (5), 17 Stays behind (7), 20 Maker of falsies! (8), 21 Muslim leader (4), 23 Recommend (6), 24 Cut out (6). Down: 1 Decision makers (4), 2 Patron (6), 3 Bi-coloured (3-4), 4 Speak without thought (5), 5 Image for one on computer (6), 6 Ancient language from before 100 bc (3,5), 12 Wobbly (8), 14 Checking place (4,3), 16 Emphasise written words (6), 18 Each (6), 19 Uncertain (5), 22 Domed recess in a church (4).

OT

Police files

Smashed

A BATHROOM window was smashed in a property on Torlundy Road, Caol, at about 3.30pm on March 26.

Oil theft

A QUANTITY of heating oil was removed from a tank at a house on Caledonian Road, Corpach between March 16 and 26.

Destroyed

A WOODEN bench hanging in Inverroy Forest was taken down and destroyed sometime between March 18 and 31.

Any person with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000.

Members of the public may also report any crime/offence or anything suspicious by telephoning Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Motorist crashed into parked car

A FORT WILLIAM man who crashed into a parked car has been fined £150 and given three penalty points.

John Gallacher, of 8 Brown Court, had previously denied the charge, but changed his plea after a trial at Fort William Sheriff Court heard from four witnesses.

He admitted driving without due care and attention and without reasonable consideration for other road users when he collided with the unoccupied car while trying to park in Moray Place car park on July 3.

Gallacher, aged 53, was found not guilty of being unfit to drive through drink or drugs at the time of the accident.

Sentencing Gallacher, Sheriff Paul Crozier said: 'This was very much the lower end of the scale of careless driving.'

Painting winners

LOCHABER Archaeology Society has announced the winners of its schools painting competition.

Over 100 pupils from Spean Bridge, Banavie, Caol, Inverloch and Upper Achintore all submitted paintings of the decoy factory at Torlundy, built during World War Two to draw German bombers away from the nearby British Alcan smelter.

Winners are: 1. Jack MacCallum, P7 Spean Bridge - £50; 2. Natasha Findlay, P7 Upper Achintore - £20. Jack's winning picture will also appear in an LAS pamphlet on the decoy plant.



The SeaGen tidal turbine at Strangford Lough: four could be coming to Kyle Rhea off Skye

Development worker to draw up blueprint for future of Arisaig

ARISAIG Community Trust is to employ a local development worker to help draw together a blueprint to guide plans to regenerate the Lochaber village.

At the trust's first AGM in the Astley hall last Tuesday, chair Ann Martin told the meeting that funding from Highlands and Island Enterprise and LEADER had made the key post possible.

The job would be initially for a six-month period, but Ms Martin told the 40-plus members present she had 'every hope' of a further two years' funding.

'The first task of the worker would be to carry out a community consultation prepared in conjunction with HIE, which would form the basis of the trust's management plan and lead to a list of potential projects,' she said.

Talk

Also at the meeting, Karen Paterson of Community Energy Scotland gave a talk on community renewable energy schemes, some of which ACT hopes to follow through.

The election of directors saw

all five current directors being reappointed and two new nominees joining the board.

Of the 250 population of Arisaig who are on the electoral roll, more than 160 are members of the Trust, with around another 12 Associate and Junior members.

The development worker post, part of HIE's Growth at the Edge development programme, has a closing date of 15th April 2011.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from Hilary Trodd on 01687 450740 or from h.trodd@homecall.co.uk.

Tide turns in favour of seabed device

Developer secures 25-year lease from Crown Estate

THE FIRM bidding to develop Scotland's first tidal energy farm off the Isle of Skye has announced it has secured a site lease from the Crown Estate.

Bristol-based Marine Current Turbines (MCT) will now press ahead for permission to build four SeaGen turbines on the seabed between Kyle Rhea, the narrow straits between Skye and the mainland.

The company would not divulge how much the Crown Estate would charge in rent, but told *The Oban Times* if the project went ahead the lease period would be 25 years.

The project is projected to have a maximum output of eight megawatts and the capacity to power up to 8,000 homes by harnessing fast tidal currents.

MCT, who aim to have the tidal farm up and running by 2014, says the project, estimated at £40million, will be funded by a combination of private sector finance and, potentially, the UK Government's Low Carbon Innovation Fund and marine energy development cash.

The company expects to submit a planning application to Marine Scotland in early 2012 once all initial surveys and impact assessments have been completed.

Hailing the deal, MCT CEO Martin Wright said: 'Securing

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

the Crown Estate's approval is a vital part of the process to deliver Scotland's first tidal farm and set the UK on the path towards having a significant marine energy industry within the next decade.

'Tidal energy can deliver to the UK new jobs, predictable low carbon generation and greater energy security. The UK and Scottish Governments recognise the opportunity that tidal and wave energy offers and we hope that they will give greater incentives over the next 12 months to the market in order to make it happen.'

The Oban Times understands the turbines will be sited at the northwest end of the narrows, nearer Skye, and new electricity lines will have to be laid to carry

the power from Kyleheia to a sub-station at Broadford for transfer to the National Grid.

Over the past 12 months MCT has undertaken environmental and technical studies and consulted a range of local and national organisations including Highland Council, Marine Scotland, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the Northern Lighthouse Board, the RSPB, the Glenelg and Arnisdale Development Trust and the RNLI based at Kyle of Lochalsh.

But Mike Taylor of Kyleakin and Kyleheia Community Council said MCT had yet to contact them.

'I'm hoping when it gets to the planning stage we will put some feedback into it,' he told *The Oban Times*. 'We have had no contact with them at all as a community council, either privately or officially.'

He added: 'The community at Kyleheia are getting nothing out of this initial phase. They have said if it goes ahead there will be community benefit, but as of now the only people benefiting are the two landowners on either side.'

MCT already operates its SeaGen tidal turbine in Strangford Lough near Belfast. Click to watch at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_0dJw9AsI.

"Tidal energy can deliver new jobs and greater energy security."

Martin Wright MCT CEO

Driver hurt in bridge collision

A man was taken to Belford Hospital after his Scotrail maintenance van crashed into a railway bridge on the A830 east of Glenfinnan and burst into flames at around 11am on Monday. The driver was able to escape the vehicle before it caught fire and was treated for suspected minor chest injuries. The road was shut to allow Fort William fire brigade to put out the flames, and the railway line was also closed for a short period to allow railway workers to make sure no damage had been done. A number of flammable items had been removed from the back of the van and put on the roadside, including a generator and tins of paint.

Litter pick help plea

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Trust and the local angling club are looking for local residents to help with a community litter pick next Saturday, April 16.

The meeting point for the clean up, which runs from 9am to 1pm, will be the area in front of the public toilets. Refreshments and lunch will be provided at the KCT office.

Anyone interested in helping can contact Moira at KCT on 01855 831 779 or email moira@kinlochleven.co.uk.



Potholes pose problems at busy roundabout

LARGE potholes have reappeared on a busy Fort William roundabout - less than a month after being filled in.

The foot-deep holes appeared on the An Aird roundabout on the A82 during the winter, and work was done to fill them at the beginning of March.

But local residents called *The Oban Times* to say the potholes are back as wide and deep as ever.

Scotland Transerv customer service manager Cathel Macaskill told *The Oban Times* repairing the

road would be a priority.

He said: 'The partial failure of the road surface on the A82 at Morrison's roundabout, following recent maintenance work, is under review.'

'Further remedial work will be prioritised.'

Vice-chairman of Highland Council's transport, environmental and community services committee Brian Murphy said: 'Hopefully they will do the job properly this time.'

'It needs to be turned out and done properly,' he added.

Work to start on Lochaline's new school

HIGHLAND Council has this week awarded a contract to replace one of the West Highlands' most remote schools.

Work at the 21-pupil Lochaline Primary School will see the existing building demolished apart from the hall, and a two-classroom primary and fire station built in its stead.

The project also includes refurbishment of the nursery facility.

Highland and Islands Fire and Rescue Service are contributing £300,000 towards the £3.2 million cost of the project.

MacGregor Construction (Highland) Ltd will begin work at the end of April with an expected completion date of summer 2012.

Biomass boiler
The new school will feature a biomass boiler and will comprise two classrooms, resources area, community room and new kitchen.

The nursery unit will be upgraded and the existing school hall converted into a dining/gym hall. A floodlit MUGA (multi use games area) is being provided also in the grounds.

The imminent rebuild meant other tenants

had to be rehoused. Last year slow-worms were found on site and bats were noted occupying parts of the building.

Both are protected species and were relocated following guidance from SNH.

The four local councillors - Donald Cameron, Michael Foxley, Bren Gormley and Brian Murphy - are delighted that work is about to start on the eagerly-awaited school.

Sub-standard

Councillor Foxley said: 'The school board, head teacher, education management and I have worked hard over the past decade on the siting and the detailed design of this new community primary school, which will replace grossly sub-standard buildings and provide our staff, pupils and residents with a modern learning environment.'

'The inclusion of the fire station is the first for mainland Scotland and demonstrates the way forward for shared services in the Highlands.'

The development has been designed and managed by the council's housing and property service for its clients, the education, culture and sport service.

Six months ban for 'unfit' driver who caused collision

A ROY BRIDGE pensioner who caused a crash on the Road to the Isles had his licence revoked before the accident took place.

Colin Hall, aged 77, of 2 Glenspean Park, Roy Bridge, pled guilty to driving without due care and attention on the A830 on January 27, driving when his licence had been revoked and driving without insurance.

Hall's licence was withdrawn by the DVLA as they deemed him not fit to drive, but after his wife she suffered a migraine during a shopping trip she asked him to drive them home.

He pulled onto the A830 from the Coal industrial estate junction without noticing a car coming from his right. The other car smashed into the side of Hall's vehicle, damaging both cars.

The driver of the other car, Colin Nolan, suffered whiplash and bruising and could not work for two weeks after the crash.

Hall, who was not at Fort William Sheriff Court due to health problems, was fined £493 and banned from driving for six months.

Partner handed over drugs to police after row

A FORT WILLIAM man who breached a probation order by possessing 31 diazepam tablets has been fined £300.

Steven Munnerley, of 27 Ross Place, left his partner's house after an argument on November 24, leaving behind the class C drugs, which have an estimated value of £30.

When he returned three days later and tried to force his way into the flat his partner phoned the police and handed over the drugs.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard Munnerley, aged 38, who has a long history of drug problems, was serving an 18 month probation period for a previous possession charge. Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said his client was now drug free and this incident had been a lapse.

Sheriff Douglas Small allowed Munnerley to continue his probation, warning him: 'You really are in a very precarious position if you start dabbling with drugs again.'

Pet alsatian to blame for 'stabbing' incident

A MALLAIG stabbing victim has told a court his wounds occurred when his collie alsatian jumped on him, knocking him onto the knife his brother was holding.

William Grant told Fort William Sheriff Court he came home to find his 53-year-old brother Stewart drunk and making himself a sandwich. They started arguing, causing William's dog to become agitated.

The dog jumped on William's back knocking him forward onto the five-inch knife Stewart was holding. The court heard he had been using the filleting knife to cut cheese.

William explained any other cuts might have been caused by the dog biting him, saying: 'The dog got very excited, it could have been my dog that bit me. Stewart never meant to attack me, it was just an accident.'

Stewart Grant, of 8 King Street, Inverness, was found not guilty of assaulting William Grant by striking him repeatedly on the body with a knife to his severe injury. The incident happened at 22 Lovat Terrace on August 30.

Show stopping £430 for charity

AMATEUR theatre company Lochaber Showstoppers' charity fashion show at M&Co in Fort William last Friday has raised over £430.

The cash will be split equally between Cancer Research and Showstoppers, whose next production is 'Sweet Charity' at The Nevis Centre, Fort William on May 12, 13 and 14.

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Businesses urged to open toilets for use by the public

LOCHABER businesses are being asked to provide public toilet facilities as part of a new Highland Council scheme.

The council recently announced the closure of public toilets in Kinlochleven, Kilchoan, Lochaline and Arisaig as part of cost-cutting measures.

The 'Highland Comfort Scheme' has been set up to encourage local businesses and organisations in those areas to provide

facilities in exchange for a monthly payment.

TEC Services committee vice chairman Councillor Brian Murphy said: 'Not only do the businesses and groups taking part get a confirmed income, but there is the potential for more customers, especially tourists, to come through their doors.'

The closing date for interested businesses is April 21.

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

One-stop online shop

THE idea of bringing all of Argyll and the Isles' tourism operators under one umbrella website, as was mooted at the day-long summit in Oban last week, is one which should be developed as soon as possible.

More and more, visitors are organising their holiday and leisure time online and the easier it is made for them, the better.

It was reported there are currently 27 'destination' websites in Argyll, all carrying different information.

What is needed is a one-stop online shop - Argyll and the Isles could do worse than emulating the excellent VisitOrkney.com website which serves its tourism sector so well.

And while we're on the subject of tourists, can Scot Rail please keep the windows of the train to Oban, Fort William and Mallaig clean and let our visitors enjoy the spectacular views?

GLASGOW LETTER

Busy Youngsters in Glasgow

IT may be the Easter holidays for schoolchildren in the Glasgow area but for many of those involved in learning Gaelic it has been an exceptionally busy time.

First up was Cothrom na h-Oigridh run by the Glasgow Skye Association and held in Partick Burgh Hall and then at the start of the holidays, more than 100 youngsters signed up for the week long Feis Ghaidhlig Glaschu, held once again in the comfortable environs of Hutcheson's Grammar Primary Department.

There is, of course, a link between the events as the Glasgow Skye Association was heavily involved in the creation of Gaelic Medium education in the Glasgow area and most of the children attending Feis 2011 come from the schools involved.

Indeed there are more Gaelic speaking children at this Feis than at any other in Scotland! With Mairi MacLeod at the helm the Glasgow Skye recognised many years ago the depth of musical and Gaelic talent and gave them the opportunity to perform and the wider population the chance to hear them on stage.

This year's concert was up to the usual standard, and possibly even better, as the sizeable audience was treated to performances from pupils attending Sgoil Ghaidhlig Glaschu and the primary schools at Meadowburn and Condorrat together with dancers from the Jeffrey McFadden School of Irish Dancing.

In a varied programme there was piping, reciting and the playing of fiddle, chanter, piano, accordion, bodhran and clarsach as well as folk groups, highland dancing and ensemble and solo singing.

Quite a busy night for chairperson Kirsteen Grant who thoroughly enjoyed being among so many gifted youngsters.

Unfortunately, Mairi MacLeod was unable to attend but I am sure we would all like to send her our best wishes.

The theme of variety is one which continued at the Feis where the youngsters were divided into three separate age groups to enjoy the activities on offer: accordion with Robert Nairn, clarsach-Karen Marshalsay, stepdancing-Joy Dunlop, drama-Mairi Morrison, drumming-Carolyn McKee, art-Eoin MacColl, whistle/chanter-Andrew MacPherson, fiddle-Megan Henderson, shinty-Kirsty MacLeod, singing/football-James Graham and Taekwondo-Kenneth Combe.

Choosing from this wide selection, the youngsters in the oldest group concentrate on three subjects while the younger ones get the opportunity to try out and have fun with their selection.

If you are impressed with this array of tutors, there will be a tutor ceilidh at 7pm this evening (Thursday) in the school which is on Kingarth Street, off Pollokshaws Road and they will even have their own ceilidh band which should add to the fun.

Not to be outdone the youngsters will showcase the skills they have acquired throughout the week at an informal 'do' on Friday afternoon.

Well done to Helen Buchanan and her committee who worked so hard to organise this event.

Glasgow Local Mòd

THE above Mòd will take place on the evening of Friday, June 17, and on Saturday, June 18. The syllabus is now available from the Secretary Helen Buchanan, tel 0141 9469601.

Charity Ceilidh

A FURTHER reminder that the Clydebank Ceilidh tomorrow evening (Friday) will be in aid of Erskine Hospital and will be held in the Napier Hall, in Old Kilpatrick, at 7.30pm. Murdo MacDonald will be in the chair and the other artists will be singers Joy Dunlop, Iain MacLean and Sandy Sinclair, accordionist John Carmichael and piper Willie Brown.

Dates for Diary

THURSDAY April 7: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm - Other Roads

Friday April 8: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Erskine Hospital Charity Ceilidh-see above. Accoustic Affair with Ewan Robertson and Rua MacMillan, City Halls, 8pm.

Saturday April 9: Paisley and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh Dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm. Last date for entries for the CLASP competition to be held in the National Piping Centre on April 16th.

Thursday April 14: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm-Dave Gibb.

Saturday April 16: Glasgow Skye Association Annual Spring Concert 'Wee Skye', Partuck Burgh Halls, 7.30pm. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Halls, 8pm-Fraser McGlynn's Band, Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra, City Halls, 7.30pm. CLASP Piping Competition, National Piping Centre, 9am-5pm.

Pub Scene

DEOCH 'n' Dorus will be playing in the Ilay Inn on Friday with Paring Glass on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Ballochmyle on Friday, Doggy Ground on Saturday with Sunday still to be confirmed.

CLARIFICATION

The Oban Times would like to point out that Patricia Maguire, who was named in an article in last week's issue, does not live at 5 Combie Street. The address given for her was, in fact, 5C Combie Street.

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 an email, 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.

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Nether Lochaber WRI - 1960s

Mrs M G Campbell, of Onich sent in this week's flashback photograph, taking readers back to the 1960s when Nether Lochaber had a functioning WRI branch. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. 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

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A chance to lead the way

Sir, As a member of Oban Community Council I am proud to be 'part of the public' and would like to thank Councillor Duncan MacIntyre for stating so clearly that we represent the community.

I was unable to be at the meeting last week, and therefore base this on *The Oban Times* report (and am writing unofficially), but I would suggest that he is incorrect on a range of points.

Firstly, there are community councils around Scotland which actually control their burgh's Common Good Funds - can I refer Councillor MacIntyre to the Scottish Government's draft paper on community councils (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/04/30/093619/1>) which includes this information.

Secondly, with regard to statutes, if Oban Common Good Fund (OCGF) members wish to include community council or indeed any other members then they can hold an EGM to review and change the statute. Designating local councillors to populate the committee is only a mechanism for its administration, and, as indicated above, not a divine right.

Staying with the statutes for the moment with reference to management of the OCGF, this quote is copied directly from the statutes enclosed within the 2010 annual accounts: "The management committee consists of four councillors who represent the two wards of Oban."

Therefore, if councillors wish to stick closely to the statutes, they must either appoint a fourth member, or hold an EGM to change the statute to continue to operate with three.

All changes would, of course, have to be ratified by the charities regulatory body OSCR. Thirdly, the subject of codes of conduct vis-a-vis councillors is irrelevant. OCGF is not a council fund; it is an independent charitable trust. Therefore any code of conduct operated within the council has no currency within the OCGF. Whoever becomes a member is automatically bound by the codes of conduct required by the OCGF Trust, whatever their status as citizens.

What is at issue here is a continuing desire on the part of local people to have some say in how their burgh assets are managed and dispersed, and Oban is not unique by any means.

The government document quoted above, and a think tank paper published in 2005 by the Caledonia Centre for Social Development both recommend an overhaul in how the hundreds of common good funds across Scotland are managed within and by communities.

Oban has an opportunity to lead the way and show how it can be done. Catherine Gillies, Oban.

Don't block involvement
Sir, I have just read the article in *The Oban Times* about the statements made by the Oban Lorn and Isles Area chairman, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, concerning involvement of Oban community councillors in the Oban Common Good Fund.

I wish to dissociate myself from these remarks as I find them quite distasteful and show a complete lack of respect for community councillors, who perform such a valuable role on behalf of all their communities - without any remuneration.

I have personally observed groups of disabled youngsters

Argyll and Bute Council has recently embarked on improving community engagement through the establishment of local area community planning groups.

This has required the full support of the community councils and their representatives.

The sort of disparaging remarks made by Councillor MacIntyre can only undermine these attempts at improving relationships and meaningful involvement of all the parties involved.

The Code of Conduct adopted by community councillors is just as important as the one which governs councillors' behaviour.

There has to be a real will on the part of all elected members to encourage community involvement and this appears to be sadly lacking.

If Oban Community Council wishes to engage and participate in the Oban Common Good Fund then we should be trying to support this involvement instead of blocking it.

I believe Councillor MacIntyre should now apologise to the community council and actively seek to share some of the decision making with them - after all Oban is their town.

Councillor Donald Macdonald April Fool with chainsaws?

Sir, I was shocked to see the photo and article of George Berry, Soroba resident, in this week's issue of *The Oban Times* (31/3/11, page 8), showing him to be operating a chainsaw without any personal protection equipment and obviously demonstrating a complete lack of appropriate chainsaw training.

His lack of basic skills in felling trees in a residential area in Oban are obvious and the man holding the tree with gloves is in a dangerous position.

Unbelievably, there are two small children right next to the chainsaw operator who is obviously not looking at what he is doing. It is obvious that the chainsaw is running and he is halfway through the tree.

This sets an extremely bad example, illuminating an allegedly responsible adult operating a dangerous piece of equipment in an irresponsible and untrained manner in a very public place.

What example is he trying to set with our future generations? If George Berry wants this area to be a place of safety where children can play then he should get properly trained, which he obviously is not, and learn how to use this equipment properly.

Conversely, mature trees are opportunities and platforms for children to learn and play and not to observe an obvious lack of training, foresight and Health and Safety issues with the proximity of children, local residents and adjacent housing.

Is this an April's Fools Joke with chainsaws?
Resident,
Tighnabrauaich.

Cycle track is already well used

Sir, I find it hard to believe anyone would write such a selfishly opinionated letter as the one sent in by the correspondent who claims 'Too much is being spent on cycle tracks' in last week's *Oban Times*.

As a resident of Barcaldine, one of the first areas to have completed track, I can say without any fear of contradiction that the new track is being used by many different representations of society, both midweek and at weekends.

I have personally observed groups of disabled youngsters

being given the opportunity to explore by foot and bicycle areas of great beauty perhaps previously unavailable to them, now on a safe and comfortable surface.

I have seen whole families out together on bikes enjoying this safe cycling environment that, lets face it, wasn't really available in this area before the track was constructed.

The track is used frequently by elderly residents not only out for a stroll but also on mobility scooters, enjoying their local area, on a surface that holds no hidden surprises. Barcaldine, Appin and Benderloch primary school pupils will be able to (and some already do) use this facility as a means of walking or cycling to school.

Toddlers and children, including friends of ours and my own, are using the track to learn how to cycle and skate in a traffic free environment.

And just in case you need another example, 'proper' cyclists as the previous correspondent described them are currently enjoying the track daily, contrary to the suggestions in their letter.

We now have a well constructed, pristine track, that is designed not just for cyclists, that allows all the aforementioned groups to enjoy our fabulous local environment, in many areas that were previously completely unavailable to them.

Also, as this area relies so heavily on tourism and the visitors it brings, many of whom cycle as whole families, the opportunity to have a safe cycling surface which has all the west coast magic they have come to absorb, whilst removing them from our busy 60mph A roads, surely has to be a good thing for everyone.

I would ask the previous letter's author what price can we put on the well being and safety of the less fortunate, the vulnerable, visitors and locals who wish to enjoy our 'lovely countryside' as they describe it?

On a lighter note, I agree that the big, blue, 'due to open spring 2011' signs are perhaps not really necessary.
Ian Stennett,
Barcaldine.

Joined up thinking please

Sir, On Thursday, March 31, I decided to take my wife and three-year-old boy down to Inverary the following day for the afternoon and dinner.

We got down to Oban bus stances and discovered that all but five seats on the 12.45pm number 976 bus to Glasgow had been previously booked.

There were five people in front of us in the queue going to Glasgow who got on the bus.

Annoyed and thwarted, we decided to go over to Mull and hop on a bus to Tobermory for the afternoon and dinner.

We got on the ferry to Craignure at 2pm but discovered on our arrival on Mull at 3pm-ish that there are no connecting busses for that ferry to Tobermory nor Iona.

We decided to head up to Torosay Castle only to be told in the Tourist Information Office that the wee train has shut down and we'd have to walk and the castle was closed anyway.

We asked if there was any other way of getting to Tobermory, a taxi perhaps, and were told that it would cost £40-£60 for the journey, but would have to come back for the 5pm ferry anyway as the last bus from Tobermory connects with that ferry, not the 7pm ferry.

Is this really the best we can offer tourists to Oban and Mull - an afternoon in Craignure? What is the point of having a ferry arrive with no transport connections available, and why

is it that there is no bus from Tobermory to connect with the last ferry from Craignure to Oban? I'm assuming it's the same from Iona.

If there were more advertising warning us that there was no way of getting away from Craignure we wouldn't have travelled, and perhaps gone to spend an afternoon in Lochgilphead or Fort William instead, though through experience I suspect that neither of those destinations would have been available as either. Some joined up thinking would help perhaps.

Colin Martin,
3 Ulva Road, Soroba, Oban.

Beware of disasters elsewhere in UK

Sir, Road development in Oban (Two-way traffic on the Esplanade, *Oban Times*, March 31) may be desirable in order to enhance the experience for both tourists and residents alike and to alleviate the town of the unceasing procession of traffic that is the curse of summer months.

But, those putting forward schemes need to beware emulating disasters already in place elsewhere.

One needs to look no further afield than Fort William, where road development along the shoreline effectively divorces the town from its waterfront, one of the very features that should be used to attract visitors.

Who, here, crosses the busy dual carriageway to wander along the shore and drink in the view? And the number of visitor attractions that thrive there is commensurately few!

There are other splendid (sic) examples in the UK of roads that isolate town heritage or scenery from public gaze.

A classic case of such unthinking, short-sighted development is Kingston-upon-Hull.

Liverpool has done better, as, perhaps, has Cardiff and we should bear in mind both the best and the worst in wishing development on Oban.

One thing to avoid at all costs is any significant infilling of the bay - this is, after all, the quintessential element of the Oban-escape and we do not want to have to explain to future generations that the original meaning of the town name is a mere legacy of nomenclature commemorating a landscape that was, but is no more!

Even more horrendous would be establishment of car parking that would mean the views of Oban Bay and Kerrera are across the roofs of parked vehicles.

If the eminently sensible idea of a ring road skirting the town to the east is given, then thought should be made to establishing a park-and-ride on the approach road from the north.

This would alleviate some of the traffic problem, allow modest development of the Esplanade to free up George Street as an essential canopyed, wet-weather retreat. It would avoid the silly plan to "smooth out" (whatever that means!) the bottleneck at the Columbia Hotel, which would deprive tourists and residents of the splendid North Pier viewing point that we know and love.

Professor Ian Reid,
Parkgate Cottage, Duncraggan Road, Oban.

Generous donation

Sir, Me and my dad were doing a bag pack at Tesco, Oban on Saturday to raise money for our school trip.

An elderly lady went into her purse and generously put £10 in my bucket and I just wanted to say thank you.
Murray Probert, aged 10,
Rockfield School

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Verbal battle begins

WITH campaigns for elections to the Scottish Parliament well and truly under way BBC Radio Scotland decided to broadcast its first Election Hustings from the Public Hall in Ardrishaig last week.

Snubbing all the towns where there might be an intelligent audience, rather than one which seemed to consist of party faithful who dutifully read out the question with which they had been supplied to ensure that the four candidates for the main political would have to concentrate on 'local' issues, did not set Argyll's problems in a wider context.

I was pleased, however, that the BBC, kept the panel to the four main parties and ignored the two 'also rans' who seem only to be standing to flatter their egos or to spite a candidate who was chosen to represent the party for which they were seeking the nomination.

It is to be hoped that those who organise hustings in other locations in Argyll will follow the BBC example and let those who have a realistic chance of electoral success put their points of view as this is regarded as a 'four-way marginal'.

In these strange times it is believed that even the Labour party could be worth a flutter at the bookies. I wouldn't be so sure after hearing their candidate's rather factually inaccurate statements on that radio programme.

Mr Rice's grasp of how local government finance works makes me hope that he did not serve on the finance committee of Birmingham City Council before he moved up to Blairmore to run a guesthouse.

Of the other candidates: Alison Hay and Mike Russell acquitted themselves very well, especially Councillor Hay, making her first stab at national politics. One would expect that Mike Russell, a senior minister in the SNP government and a successful media personality, to be articulate and polished - and he was - but no one can explain how he comes to the conclusion that Argyll and Bute is so well supplied with Edinburgh government finance that there needs to be no school closures here even when there

are schools with no pupils! Jamie McGrigor, the long-time Tory List MSP for the Highlands & Islands, is hoping to grab Argyll & Bute as its constituency MSP as well, but, although Jamie is highly thought of - as is his leader, Annabel Goldie - his party's policies are not. The next few weeks promise both nationally and locally to be a verbal battle of extravagant promises far from reality, especially by Alex Salmond of the SNP which should be regarded with with considerable scepticism.

For those who want to tackle the candidates face-to-face the Oban Hustings is on Monday, May 2, at 7.30pm in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Tourism summit a great success

WELL in excess of 100 delegates from all factions of the tourism industry gathered in Oban's Corran Halls for a 'Tourism Summit' last week.

The programme and the speakers, in many cases, brought fresh vision to the promotion of Scotland as a holiday destination.

Dr Mike Cantley, the relatively new chairman of VisitScotland, gave practical advice as to how to sell ourselves to visitors and how to attract them as did Bob Downie, who is now managing director of RY Britannia and has done a first class job of maximising the former Royal Yacht's visitor potential.

We forget all too often that the West Highlands are not blessed with never-ending sunshine and therefore we need to provide 'wet weather' facilities. We all too often ignore the fact that Oban has too few toilet facilities and these are only open 'office hours'. We also forget that getting out and about into the countryside there are no such facilities at all. Who will get up at an election hustings and ask the candidates if they will pledge their party, if elected, will make it a statutory requirement that local councils provide such facilities and free of charge? I look forward to the next of these summits.

CHA B' IONGNADH BEAGAN TÀMAILT a bhith air luchd-riaghlaidh Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd is iad, a rèir coltais, 'a call dhreuchdan leasachaidh Gàidhlig aig an Oilthigh goirid an dèidh na stèidheachd oiltigh fhaothainn. Gun teagamh, tha an t-ainm aige ann an Gàidhlig agus tha follaiseachd aig a' chànan ann an stuthan margaideachd an Oilthigh, ach cò a-nise a bhios a' cur air adhart a' Phlana Gàidhlig aige?

Gach bliadhna, bu ùghdarras Achd na Gàidhlig 2005 (Alba), tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt cuireadh oifigeil dha buidhnean-poblach sònraichte Plana Gàidhlig a dheasachadh agus a chur chun a' Bhùird airson aonta. Tha na h-ùiread de Phlanaichean Gàidhlig air an aontachadh leis a' Bhòrd mar-tha agus tha iad a' dol an gnìomh agus a' leasachadh inbhe agus cothroman cleachdaidh a' chànan. Am bliadhna, tha mi a' tuigsinn, cuiridh am Bòrd cuireadh gu cuid de na prìomh oilthighean ann an Alba agus bidh e inntinneach fhacinn dè na h-innleachdan a chuireas iad sin air adhart airson cànan a tha iad air a' bhith a' teagasg fad linntean.

Tha Oilthigh Ghlaschu ri mholadh airson na h-ìomairt a the air a chur air dòigh mar-tha oir, ann an dòigh, tha rud a thachras ri linn deagh rùn buidhne, seach òrdugh, nas brìghmoire. Agus feumar a ràdh gur ann mar sin a thòisich cuiscean a thaobh Plana Gàidhlig OGE Institiud nam Mìle Bliadhna cuideachd. Bha fìor dheagh rùn aig an luchd-riaghlaidh dhan Ghàidhlig agus mothachadh gum robh uallach shònraichte aig Oilthigh a bhiodh air Ghàidhealtachd làn thaic a thoirt dha cànan is cultar a tha dùthchail dhan sgìre. Agus rinn e fìor adhartas, eadar oifigeir fhastadh is Plana a dheasachadh is toiseachadh air a chur an gnìomh. Anns an ro-fhaicil air a' Phlana, thuir Prionnsapal OGE Seumas Frisael gum bheil iad daingean mun deastanas a th'aca dhan Ghàidhlig agus gum bheil e na amas aca gum bi an Oilthigh na bhunait sàr-mhathais dhan chànan. Thuir e nach eil iad airson gum bi uallach na Gàidhlig air Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is Colaiste a' Chaisleil a-mhàin ach gum bi teachdaireachd làidir a' dol a-mach chun a h-uile ionad is sgìre eile cuideachd.

Glè mhath, a Sheumais, ach nach fheum thu daoine a' dèanamh na h-obrach?

I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS YEAR, under the authority of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, Bòrd na Gàidhlig will invite some of Scotland's leading universities to prepare Gaelic Language Plans for Bòrd approval.

It will be interesting to see the proposals from institutions which have taught Gaelic for generations, but Glasgow University merits special praise for having appointed a Gaelic development officer of its own volition.

UHI has also published its Gaelic Language Plan and commenced implementation of it, and while its sense of responsibility for the Gaelic language and culture across Scotland is welcome there is concern that dedicated Gaelic development posts are being lost so soon after the formal establishment of the UHI.

A language cannot survive without people, and neither can it be revitalised without dedicated effort.

are schools with no pupils!

Jamie McGrigor, the long-time Tory List MSP for the Highlands & Islands, is hoping to grab Argyll & Bute as its constituency MSP as well, but, although Jamie is highly thought of - as is his leader, Annabel Goldie - his party's policies are not. The next few weeks promise both nationally and locally to be a verbal battle of extravagant promises far from reality, especially by Alex Salmond of the SNP which should be regarded with with considerable scepticism.

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CHA B' IONGNADH BEAGAN TÀ

MONEY MATTERS

“In 2010, real disposable income fell for the first time in 30 years.”



THERE is no escaping the fact that times are hard and money is tight.

The chancellor, George Osborne, presented a budget which was described as 'neutral'.

But if you think you simply don't have as much money in your pocket to spend, you're right - and you're not alone.

In 2010, real disposable income fell for the first time in 30 years, according to a report produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

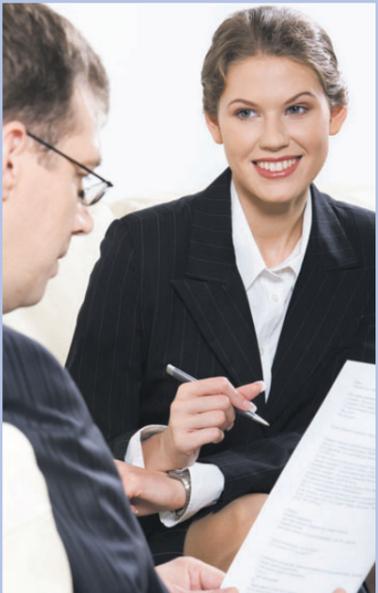
The amount UK households had left to save or spend after tax dropped by 0.8 per cent.

This is blamed on the rocketing price of fuel and rising commodity prices combined with wages which remained largely the same, or in some cases dropped as employees agreed to pay cuts to safeguard their jobs.

According to the ONS, this was also the largest drop in disposable income since 1977 when UK inflation was in double figures.

The report also suggests that consumer spending is likely to be affected as a result. The ONS data showed household spending fell by 0.3 per cent in the final quarter of 2010.

So making every penny count is vital, and with The Oban Times Money Matters feature we hope to offer some of the best financial advice available.



Need some timely advice for your small business? Want to know how to beat the current downturn? We have been advising local businesses since 1949 and can advise you too.

Visit our website for details of our services. Then contact us for a **FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION.**



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While the Budget may not have many adverse effects on small businesses, most are skeptical about the benefits according to a recent survey conducted by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB). A report from the "Office for Budget Responsibility" has revised its growth forecast down to 1.7 per cent for 2011. Added to this, inflation is expected to hold at between 4 per cent and 5 per cent this year before dropping to 2.5 per cent next year.

All of this leaves little room for optimism if you are running your own, small business so what can you do to improve your situation? Come and see us at R A Clement Associates. Your initial consultation is free so call us now on 01631 562643. We can review your finances and suggest how you might increase your bottom line. Sometimes it can help to have a fresh pair of eyes take a look at your business.

On the bright side the 1p reduction in fuel duty is beneficial and the income tax personal threshold, already up by £1,000 from the last Budget, is to climb by another £630 by 2012 too so it is not all gloom and doom. If you would like more information about any of these topics call us today.

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Accountancy is much more than annual accounts and tax calculations. Although these are important, it is vital for businesses to have accurate information to enable them to interpret how they are getting on and make decisions for the future. We are closely involved with businesses throughout the year advising where required on management issues including employment, asset purchase, investment, tax planning and expansion.

We deal with many new businesses and can offer advice at what is an anxious but exciting time. We can help with business plans and cash flow projections and liaise with banks to help with initial finance. Many of our existing clients have been with us since day one and we have helped them through the initial start up problems, growth and consolidating a long term successful business.

We now have a brand new facility for online bookkeeping giving you and ourselves constant access to your accounts and completely up to date financial information.

For individuals we also offer a wide range of services including tax returns and other tax matters such as inheritance tax planning.

If you feel we can assist you please make an appointment to have a meeting. Our first consultation will be free of charge.

Value of whitefish catch 'highest for a decade'

LANDINGS of whitefish in Scotland are the highest they've been for a decade, provisional government figures have shown.

Fisheries secretary Richard Lochhead is delighted with the report, which shows that landings increased to £152million, while shellfish increased in value to bring another £152million to the economy.

Mr Lochhead said: 'Overall values for the various fish species have held or improved with the exception of mackerel which has dropped from an exceptionally high point in 2009. The overall total of 428 million pounds is a significant figure for the sector and underlines the industry's vital role in Scotland.'

'These figures show an industry producing high yields in difficult times, but we must also remember that profitability remains fragile due to fuel prices and other running costs.'

'What these provisional statistics highlight is that ensuring that mackerel is sustainably managed is essential not only for the stock, but also for the long-term viability of the industry.'

'That's why irresponsible unilateral setting of quotas by other nations undermines the current healthy state of the stock and reduces opportunities for Scottish fishermen.'

Factory Shop named Growing Retailer of the Year

STAFF at Oban's Original Factory Shop are celebrating after the retailer was named 'Growing Retailer of the Year' at the recent Retail Week Awards.

The business beat off stiff competition from competitors across the country, thanks to a 73 per cent increase in sales over the past two years, while the store network increased from 99 to 162. Gwen Cameron, store manager at The Original Factory Shop in Oban, said: 'We feel very proud to have been named Growing Retailer of the Year.'

'It is dedicated to all the colleagues at the store, and to our local customers who have been behind us from day one.'

Angela Spindler, CEO of The Original Factory Shop, said: 'It recognises the amount of hard work our teams have put in.'

Highlands and Islands serve up host of prizes

Strong showing at Scottish Hotel of Year awards

REPORT

by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

THERE was a strong showing from Highlands and Islands hoteliers and chefs at this year's Scottish Hotel of the Year Awards.

Among the grand award winners were Anne Gracie and Ken Gunn, who run **Duisdale** and **Toravaig** hotels on Skye. The couple, who have increased both hotels' turnovers four-fold since taking them over, were named Hoteliers of the Year at the prizegiving ceremony on March 27 at Glasgow's Thistle Hotel.

The grand prize crowned a successful night for the two hotels: **Toravaig's** Ali Gunn, Ken's son, was given the Rising Young Star Manager Award and the hotel's chef, Chris Brayshaw, won the Rising Star Young Chef Award. **Toravaig** also received the Breakfast Quality Special Commendation and the Canapes Award. Ken and Anne's other hotel, **Duisdale**, won the Boutique Hotel Special Commendation and Wedding Hotel of the Year (small).

Anne said: 'We were really



Rising star: Oskars Kalnins, of **Barcaldine House**.



Vivien Devlin, (left) deputy chairman of the judges, and **Denis Coyne**, (right) director of event organiser Hospitality Research Organisation are pictured with **Anne Gracie** and **Ken Gunn**.

honoured and surprised to win the hotelier award because we don't think of ourselves as hoteliers; we just do what comes naturally, entertaining and looking after people.

Effort

'We have worked hard on both hotels but we don't think of it as a big effort because we enjoy what we do.'

Another Skye hotel, **Kinloch Lodge**, was named Fine Dining Restaurant of the Year and the hotel's Isabella Macdonald won a Hospitality Gold Medal. **Kinloch Lodge** also had the Breakfast of the Year (small hotel) and took the Wine and Spirits Award.

Elsewhere on Skye, **The Three Chimneys**, near Dunvegan, was Restaurant with Rooms of the Year and **Cuillins Hills Hotel** receptionist Donella MacIntyre won a gold medal.

Arran's Auchranneil resort was another big winner on the night, claiming a Design Medal for its Executive Lodges, an accolade

that also went to the **Clachaig Inn** and **Kilmichael Country House**.

Sales and Marketing Manager of the Year went to Auchranneil's Claire Richardson, Linda Johnston was named a Dame of Hospitality and Richard Small won a Manager Gold Medal. The resort's Play Barn won the Child-Friendly Award.

Kilchrenan's **Ardanaisie Hotel** followed up a prize-laden 2010 with this year's Intimate Wedding Hotel Award and chef Gary Goldie won Chef of the Year.

Nearby **Taychreggan Hotel** was also celebrating a Chef Médaille d'Or for chef Colin Cairns. **Inverloch Castle** Management International won the management company prize, while the hotel's Jane Watson was named a Dame of Hospitality and **Inverloch Castle Hotel** was named Luxury Hotel of the Year. The Small Romantic Hotel Award went to **Loch Melfort Hotel**.

Small Luxury Hotel of the Year went to **Airds Hotel**, Port Appin, where chef Paul Burns claimed a Chef Médaille d'Or; former Oban chef Graham Campbell, now at **Lake of Menteith Hotel** also picked up this honour.

Another Port Appin establishment, **The Pierhouse Hotel**, won Romantic Restaurant Award.

It was also a successful evening for Duncan and Nadia Walker of **Bridge of Orchy Hotel**, who picked up Management Team of the Year and the Customer Care Award. The hotel also won a Real and Local Food Gold Medal, as did **Crianlarich Hotel**, which was also awarded the Good Value Award.

Barcaldine House was named Rural Restaurant of the Year, while Oskars Kalnins was given a Rising Star Chef Highest Commendation and Johnny Cloete won a Hospitality Gold Medal. A Chef Médaille d'Or was presented to **Glenfinnan House**

Hotel chef Duncan Gibson and Fiona Shedden was given a Hospitality Gold Medal. The hotel was also awarded the Good for the Soul Award.

Jo Currie, from Mull's **Highland Cottage**, was awarded a Senior Chef Fellowship and her small hotel was named the best for Classic and Fine Dining.

Glengarry Castle Hotel's Heather Boyd was Receptionist of the Year and the establishment won Hotel of Relaxation 2011.

A Dame of Hospitality Award was presented to Evelyn MacColl of **Balachulish Hotel** and Hospitality Gold Medals were awarded to Timothy Billings and Geoffrey Dallamore of Arran's **Glenisle Hotel** and to Diane Ferry of the **Inverberg Inn**. The Inn also won the best pub-with-rooms title.

Harris Hotel, Hotel Hebrides, was Scottish Island Hotel of the Year and **Kilcamb Lodge**, Strontian, won The Great Escape Award.

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New tenants sought for restaurant at Melfort

THE Shower of Herring restaurant at Melfort Village near Kilmelford is looking for new tenants from November.

Incumbents, Jean and John Bowman, are set to retire at the end of the tourist season after running the restaurant for the past ten years.

With capacity for over 100 diners, the Shower of Herring enjoys a coveted reputation for a warm welcome with simple, but high quality food.

The manager of the timeshare

holiday village, Christine Roberts said they were looking for someone with experience, preferably a husband and wife team, who can show a dedication to using local produce to create memorable dishes.

For more information on the restaurant, terms and conditions of lease, or to apply to take over the Shower of Herring, contact Christine on 01852 200257 or visit showerofherring.co.uk.

The closing date for applications is April 15.

Delight as Royal Mail scraps charges plan

THE Argyll and Islands branch of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) is celebrating after Royal Mail scrapped plans to charge for collecting mail.

The Royal Mail had planned to introduce a £210 charge to business for collecting mail from delivery offices from April 4, but backed down after intense pressure from the FSB.

The chairman of the Argyll and Islands FSB, Rory MacKail, said: 'We did feel it was a bit rich for Royal Mail to try and charge us for effectively doing their

job for them. But, they are to be congratulated for listening to our arguments and scrapping this proposed charge.'

'Small businesses rely on the postal service and are some of Royal Mail's most loyal customers. We receive orders, invoices and cheques in the post every day and, if we want them turned round by return, we need to receive the post as early as possible. By allowing us to continue to collect it direct from the office, we are saving both ourselves and Royal Mail valuable time.'

Kids go free on trains

CHILDREN will be able to travel free with their parents or grandparents on ScotRail trains this Easter.

The rail operator's Kids Go Free scheme allows up to two children to travel off-peak with each adult.

The ticket also allows free entry for children to a range of tourist attractions around the country.

The move comes as ScotRail launches a new website to keep children entertained while on the train, featuring word searches, puzzles and colouring in pages.



Lamb warning for pregnant women

THE SCOTTISH Chief Medical Officer has issued seasonal advice highlighting a potential risk for pregnant women at this time of year.

Pregnant women who come into close contact with sheep during lambing may be risking their health and the health of their unborn child.

This is because infections such as chlamydia (enzootic abortion of ewes EAE), toxoplasmosis and listeriosis, which are all common causes of abortion in ewes can be passed on to them.

Although these infections are uncommon, and the number of human pregnancies affected by contact with sheep is extremely small, it is important that pregnant women are aware of the potential risks and take appropriate precautions.

If they do become ill, experience fever or influenza-like symptoms, and are concerned that they could have acquired infection from a farm environment, they should seek immediate medical advice.

These risks are not only associated with sheep, nor confined only to the spring, when the majority of lambs are born.

Cattle and goats that have recently given birth can also carry similar infections.

To avoid the possible risk of infection, pregnant women are advised that they should not help to lamb or milk ewes; avoid contact with aborted or newborn lambs or with the afterbirth, birthing fluids or materials (e.g. bedded) contaminated by such birth products; avoid handling (including washing) clothing, boots or any materials that may have come into contact with ewes, lambs or afterbirth; ensure partners attending lambing ewes take appropriate health and hygiene precautions, including the wearing of personal protective equipment and adequate washing to remove any potential contamination.

Farmers have a responsibility to minimise the risks to pregnant women, including members of their family, the public and professional staff visiting farms.

Confidence rising among Scotland's sheep producers

Lack of skilled labour a key concern for larger flocks

A SURVEY of Scottish sheep farmers by Quality Meat Scotland has revealed a significant turnaround in confidence among producers has taken place over the past three years.

Just over 30 per cent of the 327 respondents to the postal survey at the end of 2010 were more confident about their sheep enterprise than they were this time last year while just 11 per cent were less confident.

The most optimistic were farmers in the south west, the only region which recorded an increase in ewe numbers in autumn 2010, with those in the south east region broadly the least optimistic.

'There has been a significant turnaround from the level of confidence found in the 2007 QMS survey when only five per cent of flock masters were more confident of their future than they had been in 2006,' said Stuart Ashworth, Quality Meat Scotland's Head of Economics Services.

Responses to the survey - which had a 12.5 per cent response rate and accounts for around 4.5 per cent of the Scottish ewe population - revealed the Scottish ewe flock continues to be dominated by hill breeds and crosses of hill breeds.

Across the whole survey 47 per cent of ewes were pure bred hill ewes, mainly Blackface and Cheviots, and a further 32 per cent were hill crosses. Lowground breeds and crosses were more likely to be found in the east of Scotland.

Among those businesses that had a ewe flock in each of the past three years, the overall flock was down one per cent in autumn 2009 compared to 2008 and a further one per cent in autumn 2010. Across the whole sample the autumn 2010 flock was one half of a per cent smaller than in autumn 2009.

The rate of change between 2008 and 2009 among the whole sample is greater than that reported in the Scottish Government's December 2009 survey but is less than the decline reported in the June 2010 census. With the rate of decline being less between 2009 and 2010 the



Many more ewe lambs could be kept for future breeding this year

indication from this survey is that the Scottish ewe flock is broadly unchanged for the 2011 lambing. 'Looking forward, 73 businesses indicated a desire to increase their ewe flock during 2011 while 37 businesses expected to reduce flock size in 2011.'

'Once again this is a significant turnaround from the 2007 survey when the low level of confidence was reflected in 25 per cent of those surveying reporting they intended to reduce flock size while only 14 per cent were thinking of increasing their flocks,' Mr Ashworth added.

Looking at planned investments to be undertaken in 2011, respondents reported sheep handling equipment as the most likely area of investment. The second most likely investment will be in computerised animal

records and management information systems with investment in performance recorded stock, ranked as the third most likely investment.

Flock size does have an impact on investment decisions with the use of performance recorded stock, investment in skills training, computer record keeping and sheep housing all more likely to occur among flocks of over 200 ewes than among smaller flocks.

Across all regions there were three main issues of concern.

'Having the greatest influence on the planning process was uncertainty over the future of the Single Farm Premium payment followed by concerns over the future of the less favoured area support scheme. However, both were given a much higher 'concerned score' in the western

regions, dominated by livestock production and LFA land,' said Mr Ashworth.

'The third most consistent concern was that of skilled labour availability with those running the largest flocks, over 300 ewes, expressing greatest concern,' he added.

The survey also revealed a slight trend towards later lambing between the 2009 and 2010 lamb crop years. This trend is likely to continue into the 2011 lamb crop with eight per cent of respondents indicating a later start to lambing while five per cent are going to start lambing earlier.

Despite the challenging weather in early 2010, the weighted average lamb weaning/markling percentage reported by survey respondents was unchanged between 2009 and 2010. Indeed in the northern regions there was some improvement in weaned percentages, it was only in the south east that the lambing percentage declined. However, while the average change in the lambing percentage between 2009 and 2010 was minimal, individual businesses reported a wide range of variation.

At the time of the survey sales of the 2010 lamb crop had not been completed. However, lambs retained for future breeding on the farm of birth increased by over 1,000 head while sales of lambs for future breeding remained at the same level as in 2009. As a consequence more lambs are being targeted for future breeding in 2010.

Cattle trade on rise at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 1,755 store cattle and 110 cows and 115 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday when trade for store cattle showed a rise on the week.

Bullocks averaged 182.05p (+4.85p) and sold to 234.1p per kg for a 410kg Limousin cross from Newton of Logierait and £1,030 for a 620kg Charolais cross from South Kirkland.

Heifers averaged 173.81p (+2.63p) and sold to 208.3p per kg for a 456kg cross from Collavoulin and £1,310 for a 757kg Charolais cross from Bonerbo.

Cast cows averaged 128.18p and sold to 182.8p for a cross cow from Hillview and £1,255 for a Limousin cross from Randerston.

Hoggs from Langbank of Balhaldie sold to £78.50 with Tombane selling Texels to £67.50 and Blackfaces to £66.50. Rhodders sold Blackfaces to £67.

Prime sheep still increasing in value

UNITED Auctions sold 6,004 prime sheep including 13 spring lambs and 5298 hoggs averaging 215.2p/kg (+5.2p) and 693 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.

Suffolk spring lambs from Gillbank sold to £112 with Texels from Aberthunto £100.

Guardswell sold Beltex and Texel hoggs to £120 and 278p per kilo while Stanley sold Suffolks to £118.

Blackfaces sold to £107 from Dyke.

Texel ewes from Airttully sold to £170, with Gartvaigh selling Suffolks to £163 and Mules to £125.

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Tarbert fisherman found guilty of glass assault

A TARBERT fisherman is to pay £500 compensation to a man he hit on the head with a glass during Tarbert Music Festival. Alistair George Rae, aged 40 of 1 A Church Terrace, denied hitting the man in a Tarbert public house on September 18 last year when he appeared at Campbeltown Sheriff Court.

The court heard that he had been a confrontation outside the establishment between the victim's wife and Rae. When the victim then confronted Rae, Rae hit him with the pint glass in his hand.

The victim admitted that he then hit Rae in the face. Rae told the court that he had been in the pub and had gone outside for a cigarette.

He said he had no recollection of hitting the man but had the glass in his hand when he put his hand up to protect himself.

Rae said his spectacles were broken and he had a bloodied nose.

Sheriff Anderson found Rae guilty saying: 'I accept that there was an indecent assault, not to a criminal standard, but that was what triggered the whole of this.' Rae was also fined £250.

Seals need further protection claims campaign group

SEALS remain unprotected, claims a west coast campaign group.

As the mammals come out of the water to rest, give birth, and moult they are vulnerable to harassment.

These often-habitual areas for seals are known as haul-outs. As Scotland is home to a significant proportion of the world's grey seals and an important number of the European species of common seal it is important they are protected.

Mark Carter of Marine Concern said: 'It could be argued that when a seal is hauled-out, it should automatically qualify for protection under the Act, but that is not what is specified; haul-outs must be designated, and that is the reason for the latest Scottish government consultation.'

'We are compiling a list of seal haul-outs in addition to the government, and would urge anyone with information of haul-out locations to inform the government and Marine Concern; details can be found on the www.marineconcern.com website.'

'We have been repeatedly told by both government and Scottish Ministers that seals will be given better protection under the new Act; but this clearly demonstrates the situation for Scotland's seals, even in Special Areas of Conservation and Conservation Areas; Scottish seals are not that well protected at all.'

Kilmarnock driver fined and banned

A KILMARNOCK man has been banned from driving for 15 months and fined £300 after being caught over the limit in Tarbert.

Richie Mullen, aged 28, of 59 Auchencar Drive, Kilmarnock, admitted drink driving on March 27 when he appeared at Campbeltown Sheriff Court last week.

Mullen had 53 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath; the legal limit is 35.

NEWS DESK 01631 568000



Mississippi Mud Turtles are making a new home for themselves at the Oban Sea Life Sanctuary at Barcaldine

Illegal immigrants find sanctuary at Barcaldine

ILLEGAL immigrants will be among the residents of a new refuge for freshwater turtles opening at the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary at Barcaldine today, Thursday.

The new facility will host 18 Mississippi Map Turtles that are not endangered but that arrived in the UK without the correct papers and were confiscated by Customs and Excise officers.

There were more than 100 of them, but the rest are happily ensconced at similar facilities in Weymouth, Birmingham and Scarborough after being delivered into the care of Sea Life by the Heathrow-based Specialist Wildlife Service.

The new sanctuary near Oban is the latest in a network of breeding centres designed to build captive stocks of endangered freshwater turtles lost to re-introduction programmes are needed in the future.

Breed centre 'We will also have snapping turtles, Australian snake-necked turtles, yellow-bellied sliders and box turtles,' said Scottish Sea Life boss Craig Connor.

One of the largest residents will be snapping turtle Grumpy Gordy, named after former prime minister Gordon Brown, who was already living at the sanctuary after being re-homed there over a year ago.

'A lot of the turtles are former domestic pets whose owners bought them when they were tiny and didn't realise how large they can grow and how much care they need,' said Craig.

'Part of the new facility's mission will be to discourage people from making similar purchases in future. 'We're excited to have been chosen to host the first turtle sanctuary in Scotland,' he added.

'It also links neatly to Sea Life's big conservation mission this year which is to raise enough cash to complete a rescue centre for endangered sea turtles on the Greek island of Zakynthos.'

Dingwall prime stock sale sees sharp rise in prices

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 67 prime cattle and 1,685 prime lambs at Dingwall on Tuesday of this week when trade for both cattle and sheep showed a marked rise.

Prime bullocks averaged 181.1p per kilo (+11.6p) and sold to 196p per kilo and £1,313.20 for a 670kg Charolais cross from Alanaha, Nairn. Limousin crosses from Findon Mains, Culbokie sold to 194p per kilo and to 193p per kilo for Charolais crosses from Alanaha and Limousin crosses from Udale, Poyntzfield.

Prime heifers averaged 177.3p and sold to 200p per kilo and £1,180 for a 590kg Limousin cross from Udale, Poyntzfield, to Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall.

Charolais cross heifers from The Cloy, Fortrose sold to 187p per kilo with Limousin crosses from Milldam, Melkie Ussie selling to 184p per kilo.

In the sheep ring, lambs averaged 234.6p per kilo (+14.2p on the week) and sold to 258.5p per kilo for 39kg Cheviots from 4 Bualnaluib, Aultbea, and £112 for 49.5kg Charolais crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge, to John M. Munro Ltd., Dingwall. Suffolk crosses from Torgorm sold to £111.50 with Texel crosses from the same home to £110.50. Blackface lambs from 1 and 2 Ose, Isle of Skye sold to £98.50 and 237.4p per kilo.

Oban Photographic Club host buffet and prizegiving



Oban Photographic Club held their end of season buffet and prize giving in the Regent Hotel, Oban on Monday night. The excellent buffet laid on by the hotel was enjoyed by a good turnout of members and friends. Afterwards, members enjoyed a quiz, set by committee member Peter Cleave, which was won by club secretary Katy Weir. Retiring President, Alex Clark, then called on Katy to present the trophies for all the competitions held during the winter and our picture shows the recipients with their prizes. Retiring vice-president, Jim Kirkpatrick, then thanked Alex for organising the excellent evening and for his hard work for the club over the last five years. The winners, together with Alex Clark, are from left to right: - Maurice Wilkins, Alex Clark, Tim Haynes, Angus MacKinnon, Ronnie MacKillop and Stephen Lawson. Not in the picture were Christine Ross and Stuart McCracken. There will be an extra meeting of the club in the Regent Hotel at 7.30pm for 7.45pm on Monday, April 18 when there will be an image battle with members of H2O.

Torrential rain causes flood warnings

THE MET OFFICE issued severe weather warnings for the west of Scotland earlier this week.

The amber warning, which advises the public to be prepared, covered the Highlands, Western Isles and Strathclyde. In the western Highlands rainfall of up to 120mm was experienced as the deluge continued in some parts throughout Tuesday night and into Wednesday.

A Met Office spokesman said: 'A prolonged period of heavy rain developed late on Tuesday and continued through Wednesday, giving totals of 80 to 100mm in the Western Highlands, and, in some cases, 120mm locally.'

Flood alerts were issued by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in Argyll and Bute, Easter Ross, Great Glen, Skye and Lochaber, Tayside and Wester Ross.

Eco friendly ferry design could benefit west coast services

AN ECO-DESIGN of vessel could revolutionise ferry services in Scotland and save the taxpayer millions of pounds in subsidy payments each year.

The ferry can run on different fuels, offering a more environmentally friendly alternative to diesel. The Standard Mid Water Ferry (SMWF) would serve the larger islands off the Scottish coast such as Mull, Arran, Islay and others. As well as being used by existing ferry providers, the vessels could be available for charter to community groups or private companies who wish to operate on any of the main routes.

Designer John Rose explained: 'The Standard Mid Water Ferry has been specifically designed to provide an economical, environmentally friendly vessel to serve the larger Islands around the Scottish coast.

If the ferry is run in the way it has been designed it should not need any subsidy on most routes and a much-reduced subsidy on others. This should be very welcome news for the government and the taxpayer.'

Mr Rose has been working in conjunction with various local interested parties, experienced in ferry operations, to develop the vessel for use in Scottish waters.

The SMWF is available in two sizes, which only differ in length. The largest can take up to 10 commercial vehicles, 72 cars and 200 passengers.

John Rose and Keel Marine have been working in partnership for some time and designed the port facilities, vessels and vehicles for the transportation by river, sea and road of the seven major components for the A380 three deck super liners.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

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 Councillor Macdonald's constituents can contact him on Tel: 01631 566367 or by email - donald.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk

OBAN, LORN & THE ISLES AREA COMMITTEE MEETING
 A meeting of the Area Committee for Oban, Lorn & the Isles will be held in the McCaig Suite, Coran Halls, Oban, on Wednesday 13th April 2011 at 10.30am. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Any enquiries should be directed to: Kenneth Macdonald, Area Corporate Services Manager (Tel. 01631 567901).

PLANNING
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, (AS AMENDED) ADVERTISEMENT UNDER SECTION 67(2) OF THE MAKING OF A REVOCATION ORDER OR MODIFICATION ORDER
 Planning Permission in Principle for Erection of Detached Dwellinghouse on Land SSW of Ardhvaig Cottage, Usken, Bunesan, Isle of Mull
 REFERENCE NUMBER: 09/01677/PPP
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council have made an order under section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to revoke the above planning permission.
 The Council have been notified by the owner or lessee (if any); the occupier of the land, and all persons who in the Council's opinion will be affected by the Order that they do not object to the Order.
 Any person who will be affected by the Order and who wishes for an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers, must give notice in writing to the Scottish Ministers, The Directorate for the Built Environment, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ not later than 5th May 2011.
 If no such notice is given by that date the Order will take effect by virtue of the provisions of Section 67(7) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 on 19th May 2011 without being confirmed by the Scottish Ministers.
Date 7th April 2011
Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, (AS AMENDED) ADVERTISEMENT UNDER SECTION 67(2) OF THE MAKING OF A REVOCATION ORDER OR MODIFICATION ORDER
 Planning Permission for the Redevelopment of a Ruin to Form a Dwellinghouse Site South of Ardhvaig, Usken, Isle of Mull, Argyll.
 REFERENCE NUMBER: 08/02147/DET
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council have made an order under section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to revoke the above planning permission.
 The Council have been notified by the owner or lessee (if any); the occupier of the land, and all persons who in the Council's opinion will be affected by the Order that they do not object to the Order.
 Any person who will be affected by the Order and who wishes for an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers, must give notice in writing to the Scottish Ministers, The Directorate for the Built Environment, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ not later than 5th May 2011.
 If no such notice is given by that date the Order will take effect by virtue of the provisions of Section 67(7) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 on 19th May 2011 without being confirmed by the Scottish Ministers.
Date 7th April 2011
Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
 Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.
SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS
 ● Ref No: 11/00435/PP
 Applicant: Mrs J Nelson
 Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse (Renewal of planning permission 05/02498/DET).
 Site Address: Laorin Glengorm Castle Glengorm
 Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
 Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and

A.G.M.
 Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain
 Thursday, 21st April, 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in Free Church Hall

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Rhododendron & Japanese Knotweed Control Contractors wanted

The Argyll Fisheries Trust are a project partner in the EU funded project "Controlling Priority Invasive Species and Restoring Native Biodiversity" (CIRB). This project is seeking to tackle the problem of invasive non-native plant species.

The Argyll Fisheries Trust is inviting tenders from suitably qualified contractors to control the target species around Loch Awe. An understanding of invasive non-native plants and their control is essential and contractors should demonstrate their knowledge at the time of tender submissions.

For full details of the contract and for tender documents, contact Craig Macintyre, Argyll Fisheries Trust, Cherry Park, Inveraray, PA32 8XE. Tel: 01499 302322. E-mail: info@argyllfisheriestrust.co.uk.

The deadline for submissions is noon on 29th April 2011.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/01050/FUL	Land 180m North of Ardlochy House Gairloch Spean Bridge	Change of use from residential annex to self contained letting unit	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/01061/FUL	Land 1900M South of Coire Fada Achdaluie Fort William	The continued installation of a 50m wind test mast (renewal of 09/00113/ FULLO)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/01062/FUL	Land 800m West of Allt Daghda Corpach Fort William	The continued installation of a wind test mast (renewal of 09/00114/ FULLO)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/01067/FUL	Benloch Cottage 76 Camoaghail Fort William	Change of Use from garage to self catering accommodation	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/01145/PIP	Site 280m South East of Hillview Bonaville Fort William	Erection of dwelling house (amendment to 10/01493/PIP)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

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Argyll band become unofficial cultural attaches for Scotland

Argyll cadets gather at Arrochar



APB warm the crowd with their unique sound at NK Maribor's first match of 2011. From left are, Rab Woods, Rob Welsh and Stephen McNally.

DID you hear the one about the Argyll band with Spanish bagpipes and a Brazilian drum that travelled to Slovenia to play for 8,000 football fans?

It sounds like a joke, but the Absurdist Pipe Band (APB) are rapidly building a reputation for being one of the most interesting and entertaining bands to play at the city of Ptuj (pronounced 'ptooey') carnival; one of the world's biggest.

The three-man group, made up of Rab Woods from Lerags, Rob Welsh from Lochwinnoch and Stephen McNally from Taynuilt have gone from playing one or two informal gigs during the pre-Lent festival in 2007, to playing in front of NK Maribor's fanatic crowd before the Champions League side's first home match of 2011.

They have even appeared on national television and featured in articles in local and national newspapers.

And all this in only their third

biannual trip to the country.

Rab Woods - who works at The Oban Times - plays the Japanese drum, the surdo, as well as any other instrument he can get his hands on for the group, but takes a typically tongue in cheek view on their growing reputation.

"The crowd were right up for it."

band member Rab Woods

He said: 'We've more or less become cultural attaches for Scotland, in an absurd way, by bringing a Scottish flavour to Slovenia. It's always been about fun though.'

'People saw that we were coming over again this year and I spoke to a friend of the band who is also a good friend of NK Maribor.'

'I suggested for a laugh they

have a pipe band before their game. She got back to me and said they were taking it very seriously. That was just in January. It was arranged shortly afterwards.'

'We played at their first home game after the winter shut-down. It was a great crowd because it was freezing at the time. We played a medley of Auld Lang Syne, Carnival de Paris and the Maribor anthem.'

'The crowd were right up for it and were singing and dancing along - there was even publicity about us appearing before the match when they were advertising the game.'

Before the game, their reputation was such that they got to meet the club's sporting director, Slovenia's most successful footballer, former Porto, Valencia and Benfica midfielder Zlatko Zahovic, who won 80 caps for his country, scoring 35 goals - a national record.

The band didn't limit them-

selves to the Maribor stadium though. As well as playing gigs at the Grand Hotel Primus and on the main stage at the carnival, APB squeezed a month's worth of gigs throughout Ptuj in just a week.

Part of their schedule also saw them demonstrating their skills to a school with children ranging from two to 16 years of age.

Add to that regular busking forays by day and night in the streets and bars and in such venues as a specially converted Trabant clown car and a four seater bicycle - all with different themes and costume changes - and you can see why APB found it an exhausting, but rewarding experience.

They are now considering an invite to return in the near future.

To find out more about APB or to see videos of their Slovenian experience, search for APB - Absurdist Pipe Band - on Facebook and Youtube.

OBAN CADETS joined their Argyll counterparts in Arrochar recently to develop their first aid skills and learn how to handle a rifle safely.

The 38 youngsters brushed up on their navigation skills and parading prowess during a training weekend in Arrochar.

The teenagers competed to be the smartest cadets on parade and challenged their older volunteers to a game of unihoc.

The cadets will meet again in June where they will go 'green', learning about camouflage and concealment, moving without being detected, cooking outside and living out under canvas.

North Connel guides unveil special plaque

GIRL GUIDES in North Connel have celebrated the Girlguiding's Centenary year with a special pebble plaque.

The plaque, a wooded sculpture in the shape of the 100 logo, features a pebble collected from each member of the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Senior Section and leaders from the North Lorn district.

The plaque, which has been placed in Connel Church garden, was erected last week.

Girls from Loch Awe, Taynuilt, Connel, Dunbeg and North Connel gathered at the garden for a special dedication ceremony, where they enjoyed a campfire and treasure hunt.

North Lorn district commissioner Sheena Dodman said: 'We would like to extend a grateful thanks to Rev G Cringles and the Kirk Session of Connel Church for allowing us to place this symbol of our celebrations in the garden.'

The guide group also thanked Charlie Campbell, Neil Jordan, Archie Campbell and Andrew Davies for helping to make the plaque.

Roadside reflectors come to aid of threatened otters

OTTERS in Wester Ross are to have their own road signs in a bid to avoid them being killed on the road by traffic at night. However, bad weather had threatened to stall the installation.

Eye-level

Reflectors have now been fitted at otter eye-level on a stretch of road at Lochluichart in Wester Ross with Skye-based International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF) working with Highland Council on the project.

IOSF said reflectors on a road on Skye had helped cut otter casualties. Vehicle headlights illuminate the reflectors and the light puts otters off crossing the road.

The charity provided the materials and staff from Highland Council's transport department carried out the work.

Dr Paul Yoxon, of IOSF, said: 'Over the past couple of years otters have been killed crossing the road at night near Lochluichart, and having had success in installing reflectors on a similar black-spot crossing on Skye, the IOSF discussed this solution to the problem with Highland Council.'

'We're delighted that the Highland Council have now followed-through.'

'This initiative will certainly help this popular and charismatic mammal continues to thrive in this small corner of Wester Ross.'



The Royal Navy's largest Type 42 Destroyer, HMS Edinburgh, took the scenic route to its home base in Portsmouth this weekend, through the Sound of Mull. The ship was returning from a formal visit to Leith, its first visit to the port since its £17.5 million refit was completed in October last year. At 462.5ft long and 5,200 tonnes, the destroyer, which was launched in April 1983, is due to go on active service in the South Atlantic this summer. The HMS Edinburgh is pictured next to the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry, the MV Isle of Mull. 17_114navy01

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Principle responsibilities of this role will include; operational management of product quality during harvesting, transportation and processing stages; customer interface providing pro-active resolution to any issues that are highlighted. The successful candidate will be results focused and be expected to actively manage cross-departmental communication and interaction related to product quality. They will also take an active role in setting up and managing targeted fish quality R&D projects as directed by the Technical Services Manager.

Applicants will preferably, but not necessarily, be qualified to degree level or equivalent and have a minimum of 2 years experience in a similar role. Strong interpersonal, communication and analytical skills as well as the ability to manage and motivate a team are some of the attributes required for this post. Applicants must also possess a high degree of computer literacy.

In return, Marine Harvest offers a competitive salary and benefits package along with the opportunity to work in an area that offers a high quality of life.

If you would like to be considered for this role, please apply in writing to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT by closing date of Friday 22nd April 2011.

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PEUGEOT 206 VERVE



1400cc petrol, 2006, MOT Nov, 2011, 6 months Tax, 47,000 miles, Service History, VGC.

Telephone: 07920 198459 (after 6pm)

£3650 o.n.o.

Oban Times DRIVE TIMES

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03 plate, one years MOT and 6 months road tax, 70,000 miles, good condition in and out.

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£1995 o.v.n.o.

VW TRANSPORTER T4 2.5TDI



95000 miles, FSH, tax June 2011, MOT Feb 2012. 5 seats, LWB, high top, curtains, lined interior and swivel passenger seat. 2002 reg. Perfect for a conversion or work.

Telephone: 07795234463 Fort William

£7495

ROVER 600

Colour red, automatic gear box, MOT until July, road tax until end of February 2012, first registered 1997.

Telephone: 01880 820213 or 07887 837247

Open for offers

These are just a small selection of cars currently in our showrooms

USED CARS

- 10 Renault Grande Modus Dynamique, 1.2 TCI, blue, 7,900 miles..£9,850
- 10 Renault Laguna Dyn, 2.0 DCI 150, Grey, 2500 miles.....£15,350
- 10 Renault Clio Dyn, TomTom, 1.2, 3Dr, Black, 4750 miles.....£9,250
- 10 Renault Twingo, 1.2 Exp, 3Dr, Silver, 450 miles.....£7,750
- 59 Renault Clio Exp. Dci Sport Tourer, silver, 12,000 miles.....£10,795
- 59 Renault Clio Dyn, 1.5 DCI, 5Dr, Silver, 18,000 miles.....£9,750
- 09 Renault Koleos Dyn Dci 4WD, black, 13,000 miles.....£14,995
- 09 Ford C-Max Style. 1.6, 5Dr, Blue, 12,650 Miles.....£8,500
- 08 Nissan Note Tekna, Auto, 1.6, 5Dr, Black, 18,000 Miles.....£6,850
- 08 Renault Twingo Dyn 1.2, 3dr, black, 17,500 miles.....£6,550
- 57 Renault Clio Dyn, 1.2 TCE, 5Dr, Black, 18,000 miles.....£6,750
- 07 Renault Megane Extreme 1.4, 5Dr, Hatchback, Silver, 18000,£5,650
- 07 Renault Scenic Dyn, DCI 106, Silver, 26,500 Miles.....£6,950
- 55 Renault Laguna Dyn, 2.0, Red, 38500 Miles.....£4,950
- 59 Peugeot 207s SWHDI Estate, Silver, 14,000 miles.....£9,995
- 59 Peugeot 207s HDI90, Hatchback, 5Dr, Blue, 4300 Miles.....£9,495
- 54 Rover 45 1.8 auto, grey, 31,000 miles.....£3,350
- 04 Ford Focus Flight, 1.6, 5Dr, Grey, 70,000 miles.....£3,250

COMMERCIALS

- 57 Renault Traffic SL27+, DCI 115, Silver.....£8,000 + vat
- 54 Ford transit Connect L200 TD, 55,000 Miles, White ..£3850 + vat

SELECTION OF LOW PRICE CARS UNDER £2000 TO CLEAR CAR AND VAN HIRE FROM BOTH BRANCHES

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Cosalt Monaco Super 2000/6 berth, 38' x 12' 2 bedrooms (one with en-suite WC and basin). Spacious shower room. Open plan lounge/dining area with two immaculate sofas and matching armchair. Feature fireplace. Free standing dining suite. Large Newhome cooker. Full central heating and UPVC double glazing. Little used and high standard of finish throughout. Comfortable accommodation, currently sited in Lorn

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£11,500 o.n.o.

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TDI DIESEL T&T, 2 new tyres, FSH, 71k Miles Good Condition. Brilliant Car. Needs to sell.

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02 plate, taxed until July 2011, MOT'd until Jan 2012.

Telephone: 01586 552341

£1200

MITSUBISHI SHOGUN WARRIOR



5dr special ed, black, black leather, 18" alloys, electric seats windows mirrors, tinted windows, tow bar, mot march 2012, tax june, 72000 miles, fsh, excellent condition inside and out, first to see will buy.

Tel: 07771 778078

£7500

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Approved Renault Dealer

www.wdsemple.com

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Lochgilthead - Highbank Park. Tel: 01546 606767

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1.6HDI JUST SERVICED YEARS M.O.T FRESH CLEAN VAN WITH ONLY 37208 MILES ON CLOCK.

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Telephone: 07872927817

£2400 o.n.o.

SUBARU FORESTER 2.0E



ALL WEATHER 70,000 miles, MOT Dec '11, taxed, FSH.

Telephone: 07766 418522 (Oban)

£4250 o.n.o.

JEEP CHEROKEE

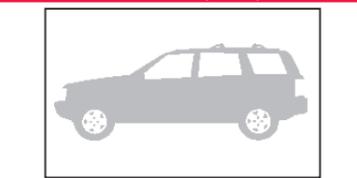


Orvis, LPG converted, 75,000 miles, 10 months MOT, 4 months tax, 4wd, leather seats, FSH, Air Con, Trip computer, Good Condition.

Telephone: 07865 088324

£1300 o.n.o.

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Grey, Diesel Excellent condition 80,000 miles

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£6900

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VAT Registration Number 717 2772 26

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2001 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Ltr £1850.00

Mot and Service at time of purchase

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Tel 01631 566502 Fax 01631 566470

VAT Registration Number 717 2772 26

new car index

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RENAULT W.D Semple Inveraray & Lochgilthead Tel. 01499 302150

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CARVED OAK BEDROOM SUITE dressing table, double wardrobe, tallboy, twin single beds, all matching, £300 ono Telephone 01838 200398.

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BICYCLES

BICYCLE LIFT for use in garage etc, never used, £10 Telephone 01631 565241.

BOOKS

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH BOOK Trials of life hard back signed by author. Slight damp damage, otherwise good condition, £15 Telephone 007840 753751.

BUILDING / DIY

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CAR ACCESSORIES

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CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

JOILES SWEATSHIRT TOP blue and white multi stripe, Age 6 exc condition, rpr £30, £15 Telephone 01631 720073.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

2 BREAD MACHINES 1 boxed, 1 not, £20 both Telephone 01631 720073.

DOMESTIC PETS

BEARDED COLLIE 2 year old, male, Freddie, free to understanding owner, willing to retrain. Contact Christina Cass. Telephone 01631 760056 or 07927 901308.

BLACK LABRADOR PUPPIES KC Registered, wormed, bitches and dogs available. Parents can be seen, ready April 27th. Telephone 01866 833120.

ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL Puppies, liver and white, two dogs, two bitches, KC registered and insured, vet checked, wormed, both sire and dame excellent temperament. Telephone 07733 063250.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME female black cat needs new home due to change in circumstances. Telephone 07771 367855.

KC REGISTERED BLACK LABRADOR Pups wormed and vet checked, from excellent working stock, last few left, ready 1st April. Telephone 01880 740636.

EQUESTRIAN

REGISTERED HIGHLAND MARE Grey dun 13.2. 5 yrs old. Numerous in hand show wins. Quiet to ride, shoe, box and in farm traffic. Lives out. Telephone 01586 552773.

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FIREARMS

AYA 12 GAUGE SHOTGUN Side by Side, Old, but in good condition, 28" Barrel with a fixed tight choke, Certificate Holders only, £175 ono Telephone 077967 52974 or 01631 564809.

FURNITURE

"METRO" MID-SLEEPER BED beech effect - 3 steps up to bed, wardrobe, cupboard, 3 drawers, working area with pull out tray below, £80 Telephone 01631 5656192 after 6pm.

1 SINGLE BED solid pine vgc, £35 Telephone 01631 720073.

2 ROCKING CHAIRS upholstered, £35 Telephone 01631 564275 or 07757 972969.

3 CORNER CABINET genuine antique, top section, 2 shelves and base shelf, Tudor glass front, enclosed section below, original locks and keys, vg condition, £250 Telephone 07990 671534.

30S COCKTAIL CABINET walnut wood, good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01546 603483.

ALSTONS ARMCHAIR Alstons "Canada" armchair, terracotta, bun feet, in very good condition, £30 Telephone 01631 570767.

ALSTONS SOFA Alstons "Canada" large 2 seater sofa, terracotta, bun feet, very comfortable, excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 570767.

BED SETTEE SUITE light green, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

BEDSIDE CABINET classic pine effect with three drawers and wooden feet. Taynuilt, buyer collect, £10 Telephone 01866 822747.

BEDSIDE DRAWER UNITS oak veneer, 2 no. 3 drawers size 46cm wide 74 cm high 44cm deep, in fair condition, £40 Telephone 01546 606419.

BOOKCASE small, modern, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

CHAISE LONGUE size approx 5ft x 2ft, vgc. Lochgilphead, £150 Telephone 07775 795082.

COFFEE TABLE unusual 1970s large coffee table H 20 x L 56 x W 32 inches, table top tiled in blue/black/cream pattern, can email photos, £10 Telephone 07795 244979.

DOUBLE DIVANS complete with unused luxury deep memory foam mattresses, plus headboards, all brand new, still in packaging, cost £780 each, will accept £250 delivered. Telephone 07922 812345.

FOLDING BED in great condition, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

KINGSIZE BED substantial heavy solid pine, antique wash finish, new cost £600. Taynuilt, buyer collect, £200 Telephone 01866 822747.

LOW CIRCULAR TABLE solid dark wood, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

PEMBROKE TABLE small mahogany table with 2 drop leaves and drawer, £45 Telephone 01631 710426.

SINGLE BEDSTEAD (Argos Canterbury) traditional bed frame with antique brass effect finials, black, mattress included, as new. Taynuilt, buyer collect, £40 Telephone 01866 822747.

SINGLE DIVAN good clean bed, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

TEAK DINNING TABLE 54" x 34" + 24" extension and 4 upholstered chairs, £49.99 Telephone 01546 886305 evenings.

TWO 60S STYLE BUCKET CHAIRS Lochgilphead, £10 each Telephone 07775 795082.

TWO RED SOFAS (seats 3 on each) 2 red maxi sofas for sale, from Reids, in good, used condition. Really comfy couches!!, £49.99 Telephone 07989 931322.

TWO SEATER SOFA blue fabric, traditional rounded arms, two loose seat cushions, mint condition. Taynuilt, buyer collect, £40 Telephone 01866 822747.

GARDEN MACHINERY MAXTRA 4HP PETROL ROTAVATOR year old, in a new condition, £150 Telephone 01838 200475.

GENERATORS

DIESEL GENERATOR Mecc alte spa 50K VA 3 phase, gauges and switch gear, £300 ono, Isle of Mull. Telephone 07768 506462.

HEALTH AND FITNESS LADIES PRO FITNESS DUMBBELL tree set, £12 Telephone 07771 367855.

REEBOK MINI STEPPER, £30 Telephone 07771 367855.

V-FIT AB ROLLER for toning your Abdominal muscles, £15 Telephone 01631 367855.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

SKY BOX NOT sky+ with remote, £20 Telephone 01631 569678.

HOME OFFICE

FILING CABINET 4 drawer, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

OFFICE DESK modern, as new, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

PLAN CHEST metal, vertical hanging, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

CAMP BED canvas on tubular frame dissembles to roll 30" x 8", £10 Telephone 07840 753751.

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BORDER COLLIE PUPPIES off working registered parents, 5 male, 1 female, ready end of April. Telephone 01688 400249.

COLLIE PUPS work or pet, excellent temperament, born February 24. Telephone 01586 820210 Killocrav Farm.

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PIGS 3yr old, Cross Tamworth Sows, good breeders and easy handled, £50 each Telephone 07771 588688.

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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 TIMES 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

MARINE

OAR, £49.99 Telephone 01546 603268.

SEAGULL OUTBOARD 1.5hp, short shaft, good condition/runner, plus spares. Also Avon brackets, £100 Telephone 01586 554256.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

2 CANOE HELMETS good condition, £5 each Telephone 01631 565241.

FISHING TACKLE 1 fishing reel in good working order, can hold 10-20lb line, Oban, £5 and 10 mackerel traces and case £10, will sell separate. Telephone 07747 492780.

KIDS CLIMBING FRAME extendable climbing frame, will need just a few new bolts as original have sheared. Free to good home. Telephone 01546 605251.

OBAN TIMES TRADE CLASSIFIED

PEUGEOT 17INCH MOUNTAIN BIKE purple, with 21 gears, in very good condition! Looking for £50 but open to offers, £49.99 Telephone 07738 005143.

PET ACCESSORIES

HOODED CAT BED and accessories, £15 Telephone 01631 564275 or 07757 972969.

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. From Krisp Print, Telephone 01586 554975.

TRAILERS

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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.

PERSONALS

"This saith the Lord; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death."

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. Do you know as Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ?

www.WordsbytheWaySide.co.uk



Happy 30th Birthday LOUISE Love all the girls xxx

OBAN TIMES PERSONALS

OBAN TIMES PERSONALS

OBAN TIMES PERSONALS

Advertisement for Scottish Field magazine featuring 'This Month in Scottish Field' and '10 Great Unsolved Scots Mysteries'. Includes a 'WIN A luxury weekend break in Inverness' offer.

2011 Calendars

Advertisement for 2011 Calendars showing various designs like 'Scottish Field', 'The Oban Times', and 'Days'. Prices range from £2.62 to £3.83. Includes a '1/2 price sale!' banner.

CARAVANS

Advertisement for Argyll Holidays Caravans for Sale. Features 'ON SITE CARAVANS' for £8,950 and 'OFF SITE CARAVANS' from £1,095.

CARAVANS FOR SALE

Table listing caravans for sale at Tralee Bay Holiday Park. Columns include year, size, location, and price.

SOFT FURNISHINGS

Advertisement for Stitch Nine, specialists in blinds and curtains. Offers tracks & poles, complete fitting service, and free estimates.

WINDOW BLINDS

Advertisement for Chris Craft window blinds. Offers free measuring, free estimates, and free fitting. Includes a freephone number 0800 371250.

Advertisement for 'Service to Promote?' featuring The Oban Times. States 'Be seen by over 40,000 readers' and provides contact information.

Advertisement for 'Conditions of Acceptance for Advertisements'. Details terms and conditions for advertising in The Oban Times.

PLUMBING & HEATING

Advertisement for J.M. Gillies Ltd Plumbing & Heating Contractors. Offers installation and maintenance of plumbing systems.

REMOVALS & STORAGE

Advertisement for MacQueen Bros Ltd Removals/Storage & Self Storage. Offers a full range of packing materials and storage services.

Advertisement for 'Remember Deadline for Adverts Monday 4PM'.

Advertisement for 'Remember Deadline for Adverts Monday 4PM' with a clock graphic.

Advertisement for 'Service to Promote?' featuring The Oban Times.

Advertisement for 'A Touch of Scotland Every Week!' featuring The Oban Times subscription rates.

Advertisement for 'The Oban Times Prepaid Advertising Rates' with a detailed list of rates for different ad types.

If you don't sell in the first week, we will insert your paid for advert FREE in the next available issue

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Please make cheques and postal orders payable to The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB www.obantimes.co.uk

BIRTHS

CADZOW - To James and Nicola a daughter, Myla, born March 21, 2011 at Queen Charlottes Hospital, London.



MACINNES

Peter and Lorna (née Paterson) are delighted to announce the birth of their handsome baby son Donald James at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow on April 2, 2011. Donald's proud grandparents are Bruce and Jan Paterson, Giffnock and John and Annabel MacInnes, Isle of Iona.

MACLEAN - Harry and Carol MacLean, Tobermory, are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Elin, born February 25, 2011. Grateful thanks to everyone for the cards and gifts received.



McLEOD

Martin and Arlene (née MacLean) are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Esme Mary, on Friday, April 1, 2011. Grateful thanks to staff at Princess Royal Maternity Hospital, Glasgow and Oban Maternity Unit. Thanks also to all those who sent their good wishes.

DEATHS

BALLANTINE - Joan (Udy), aged 95 years, formerly of Kilewnan Cottage, Fintry and Kinnear Road, Edinburgh, passed away peacefully at Murrayfield Care Home on April 1, 2011. Beloved wife of the late Matthew (Fries) Ballantine and much loved mother to Lallie and Gillie; grandmother to Neil; Tamara; Torquil; Nigel and Joanna. Funeral service at Warriston Crematorium, Cloister Chapel, Warriston Rd, Edinburgh on Friday, April 8, 2011, at 3.30pm. No flowers please, but a donation to the RNLI would be appreciated.

CARMICHAEL - Peacefully at home, in Tayvallich, Argyll, on Tuesday, March 29, 2011, Barrie Agnes Dickie (née Lawson), beloved wife of the late James, much loved mother of Donald, James and John, loving mother-in-law to Christina, friend to Jude and a loved and loving granny to Bruce and Morven. Funeral service at Tayvallich Parish Church, on Monday, April 11, at 1pm, thereafter to Carsaig Cemetery, arriving at 2pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, will be taken at church, in favour of Marie Curie and the Macmillan Nurses.

DANSKIN - Peacefully at home on March 31, 2011, in his 70th year, James Danskin, beloved husband of Margaret, dear father of Iain and Stuart, much loved Grandpa of Alistair, Aoife, Andrew and Eoin, Sadly missed.

FRASER - Peacefully at home on Thursday, March 31, 2011, Neil Alexander Fraser of 129 Blamhor Road, Caol. Funeral service on Friday, April 8, at 2pm at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church, thereafter to Kilmalie Cemetery. All friends and family are respectfully invited. Donations if so desired to Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church.

MATHESON - Peacefully and at home with her family around her, on Friday April 1, 2011, in her 79th year, Peggy (Margaret), much loved wife of the late Kenny, devoted mother to Kenneth, Hamish, Karen and Iona, treasured granny, dearly loved sister, mother-in-law and sister-in-law. Sorely missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HUNTER - The family of the late Margaret Hunter would like to express their heartfelt thanks to the many people who sent cards and offered their condolences at this sad time. Our mother was a loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother and will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Special thanks go to Ewen and John for their sensitive arrangements, also to Rev Corbett for his lovely service and to all the staff at Moss Park for being so good to our mum. The day the Lord hath given is endeth. - Eddie, Catherine and Roddy. xxx

SWEENEY - Evan, Hughie, Helene, Fiona, Jamie and Eilidh would like to thank everyone for their cards, calls and kind expressions of sympathy following the recent loss of Mary. Special thanks

to all those who assisted and attended her at her home in Ford Spence Court, to all at Connell Surgery and the district nurses, to Father Fraser for his comforting Mass and to Hamish Hoey and family for funeral arrangements. Also thanks to Emma Law for her piping at the graveside. The generous sum of £773.85 was raised for Ford Spence Court.

IN MEMORIAM

ANDERSON - In loving memory of a dear mum, gran and great gran, Mary Hay, passed away April 6, 1999. Loved and remembered always.

- Seonaid, Kenny and family. **BENNETT** - Precious memories of my darling daughter and sister Angela, who passed away on April 7, 2010.

If tears could build a stairway And memories a lane We would walk right up to heaven And bring you home again. Love you always - Mum and Heather x

CAMERON - In loving memory of my dear wife, Margaret, who died April 6, 1991.

I love and miss you everyday. - Jimmy.

Forever in our thoughts. - Iain, Heather, Craig and Laura.

Loved and remembered each passing day. - Shona, John, Jamie and Nicola.

CAMERON - In loving memory of Alastair Cameron who passed away on the April 10, 2006.

Sadly missed and always remembered. - Ann, Sandy, Bernard, Sean and Natasha.

CLARK - Remembering with love my darling fiancée George who died April 7, 2006.

I will always love you. - Jackie. **CLARK** - In loving memory of my darling son and brother George Clark died April 7, 2006.

We can't get over losing you And know we never will Within our hearts you will always stay Love and miss you every day - Your loving Mum and Family.

LAURIE - In memory of Bobby a dear husband, father and grandfather, who died April 6, 2004.

Loved and remembered. - Isobel and family, Lochaline.

MACARTHUR - With loving memories of our mother, Morag, who passed away on April 6, 1991. The years may have passed but you're always in our thought. - Lorna and Neil XXXX

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, LOCHABER AND LORN MEETING.

Meeting for Worship on the Second Sunday of each month. 11am at Port Appin Public Hall. All welcome. Bring and share meal afterwards.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Sunday 10 April 2011 Passion 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

St Columba, Gruline, Mull

Holy Eucharist.....11.00 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist.....08.00 Evensong.....20.00

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Sunday Oban High School Main Hall 10:30am All Welcome Telephone 07836 342 622 www.lorncf.org.uk

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN

Campbell Street Church Sunday 10 April 2011 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Phone-In 'Worship Link' available Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh (01631) 567076 All welcome

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Alister, passed away April 1, 1982 and Martha, April 13, 2003. Time may pass and fade away But love and memories forever stay.

- Alister and Angus, Cath and family. **MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Isabel, died April 5, 2010, much loved sister, sister in law, aunt and great aunt.

Always in our thoughts. Sadly missed - Janet, Charlie & family. **MACDONALD** - Remembering with love our dear Aunt Mary, who died April 12, 2010. Sadly missed.

- Sine, Marie and families. **MACKAY** - Treasured memories of Ian, who passed away on April 8, 2008

Those we love don't go away They walk beside us everyday Paul, Mairi-Clare and Louise. **MACLENNAN** - Precious memories of our parents and grandparents, John, who died on April 3, 1984 and Cathie, on April 11, 1989.

Both too special to forget. - Their son Ewen, daughter in law Rosemary and grandsons Ewen and Ross, Spean Bridge.

MACLENNAN - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents, John, who died April 3, 1984 and Cathie, who died April 11, 1989.

Time passes, precious memories remain. - Inserted by daughter, Catherine, son-in-law, John and family, Craobhag, Spean Bridge.

McCAMLEY - In fond remembrance of Joan (nee Matheson), a loving and loved wife, mother and gran who died at Edinburgh 1 April 2004.

Happy and smiling Always content Loved and respected Wherever you went Always willing, thoughtful and kind

What beautiful memories you left behind Bill and all the family **McKELVIE** - In everlasting memory of Captain David M McKelvie, a Master Mariner and Director of British Shipping on the anniversary of his passing a decade ago on April 6, 2001.

Loved and remembered always by all the family, friends and colleagues at home and abroad. Also all those gone before. - Inserted by Lily, Goldenacre, North Connell.

McPHEE - In memory of my husband, father, father-in-law and granda Willie who died April 8, 2005.

If tears could build a stairway And memories a lane I'd walk right up to Heaven And bring you home again.

- His wife Margaret and family **MARTIN** - Treasured memories of our dear son Neil, died, April 10, 1996. Always in our thoughts.

- Mum, Dad and family, Garelochhead. **PATERSON** - In loving memory of a dear son and brother Nab (Alec) who died April 7, 2006.

Someday somehow I know not when Along God's golden shore I hold you in My broken heart and cry for you

I put my arms around you Nab And kiss your smiling face Then this broken heart will Fall back into place.

- Love Mam, Willie, Janet, Marion. **PATERSON** - In loving memory of a loving brother, brother-in-law uncle Nab (Alec) who died April 7, 2006.

Did the sun shine brighter or was the sky a deeper blue Was it just a different world When we shared our lives with you

Forever is a long time this we know is true But that's how long our broken hearts Will love and yearn for you.

- Love Curly and Rhonda xx It matters not how many years There is still the heartache And still the tears Simply the best Miss you uncle Nab - Jacqueline xx

PROSSER - MAXWELL - In loving memory of my darling daughter Yvonne Elizabeth called to Jesus April 6, 1989 aged 3 years. A rosebud, petals tightly furled

Was lifted from her mortal clay And firmly planted in a world Where full blooms grow in rich array.

- Mum and family. **SHEEKY** - Hugh. Precious memories if a much loved Seannair who died April 8, 2009.

Always in my thoughts. - Denise

BB honour for Rev Donald



Andy Muirhead hands over a gift to Rev Donald MacQuarrie and his wife Pat on behalf of The Fort William Boys Brigade at the brigade's recent annual awards and inspection night. For Rev MacQuarrie it was his last attendance at the inspection before he retires as minister of the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church, Fort William.

Glenorchy plea to help celebrate kirk anniversary

ORGANISERS of an Argyll church's 200th anniversary celebrations are looking for memorabilia from the church's history to help mark the occasion.

Glenorchy Kirk, part of the Church of Scotland's Glenorchy and Innishail Parish, linked with Strathfillan, has a series of events this year to celebrate the bicentenary, which began with an 1811 dinner at Glenorchy Lodge on March 26.

On July 22 there will be an evening Celebratory Service, attended by the moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and people formerly involved with the church. As a legacy to the bicentenary celebrations, a banner, depicting different

aspects of the community will be dedicated at the service.

Next up will be an exhibition of memorabilia from April through to December, featuring photographs of past congregations and wedding days. More examples of days gone by would be appreciated by the bicentenary committee.

Focal point Liz Gibson, chairwoman of the organising committee, said: 'This celebration is important because the parish is the whole community and the church building is very much a focal point and part of the identity of the place.'

When Rev Gibson took over the parish she filled a three-year vacancy and

helped to increase the typical weekly attendance at Glenorchy Kirk from nine to between 30 and 40.

However, during that vacancy the congregation managed to raise more than £250,000 to restore the church tower and windows.

Rev Gibson said: 'This year we are celebrating the building but the people are the church.'

'This year we should also celebrate the people who have kept the church going.'

In June the kirk will host a musical recital and on July 10, the Ohio Youth Choir and Taynuilt Gaelic Choir will perform at a unique concert in St Conan's Kirk. Then, in August, a flower festival will be held.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

ROMANS 8: 32-39 'He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?'

'Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns?'

'Christ Jesus, who died - more than that, who was raised to life - is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.'

'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?'

'Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?'

'As it is written: 'For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.'

'No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.'

'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Some of the most encouraging words for Christians in the Bible by Christ we are secured.

Jesus has won the victory on the cross at Calvary. God having manifested such love for us in giving His own Son for us so we may never be separated for that love.

Paul wants to encourage us as Christians that no matter what is happening in our lives that love remains constant.

A man once was asked: 'Do you have religion?'

He replied: 'No I have faith in Jesus who died on the cross for me and of the love of God for me.'

Pray that you can find that great love this day as you look forward to Easter and Jesus and God's sacrifice for you.

Bill Hurley Scottish Churches Rural Group

Move with the times

DOES anyone else out there feel life is moving too fast, or am I just getting OLD!

Okay, so it used to be answers on a postcard please!

Yes that really would be snail mail. It is as if with modern communications we hardly have time to absorb one disaster before something else pops up to grab our attention whether good or tragic, mind blowing or amazing.

Being human I can only comprehend so much, at any one time. Alas I now feel, so what if I miss the news at 6pm, the laptop can bring it to me whenever.

But do I choose to become aware of what is going on or just stay comfortable in my own small world with all its own highs and lows?

Perhaps what I am getting at is do not let us lose sight of our real friends because when things get rocky there is nothing like the gentle hand on your shoulder to say I am there for you.

Virtual hugs don't seem the same. Are people today too quick to ridicule those of us who will not move with the times?

We can still be useful without a laptop! Ask Sir Alan Sugar?

Pam Gibson, Treasurer for the Presbytery of Argyll

Make garden a blooming marvel

OBANITES are being urged to help the town's sensory garden bloom this summer.

Green fingered volunteers are being asked to lend a hand on Saturday and attend a planting day. Organisers of the event promise digging, weeding and lots of fun.

The garden, on Corran Esplanade, will be hosting an Easter egg hunt with a 'school's out' theme tomorrow (Friday).

An eco-day with Rockfield Primary School, a quiz time search with St Columba's pupils and an event with the Girl Guides have also been planned.

DIAMOND WEDDING



Dr & Mrs W G Thomson (Mabel and Bill), Craignure, Isle of Mull, celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary at Manor House Hotel with all their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

CHARITY DONATIONS

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Old and new friends at a certificate presentation day at Argyll Voluntary Action in Oban. 16_113av2

Success of People Plus project celebrated

ARGYLL Voluntary Action (AVA) was delighted to welcome old and new friends to a get together in its offices in Oban's High Street.

This was a special day for five members who recently completed empowerment course Steps to Excellence, which has been part of the Lottery funded 'People Plus' project.

Although this project is coming to an end the work continues for AVA - listening, supporting and assisting volunteers and groups in the community.

Councillor Neil MacKay presented certificates to Mary Heather, Maureen Evans, Mel Crossley, James Kelly and Rachel Anderson.

He said: 'Although not aware of the content of the course I did know of participants who have completed the training and were now running their own business.'

'AVA is one of those organisations you may not be aware of all they do but if they were not there you would soon notice it was gone.'

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Fury over child poverty 'reticence'

A SENIOR Church of Scotland minister has questioned the seriousness of the coalition government's challenge to child poverty.

Rev Ian Galloway, the Convener of the Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland and former warden of Iona Abbey, accuses the coalition government of reticence.

A strategy, which will lay out how the UK Government, alongside Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish and local authorities, will reach the targets of eradicating child poverty by 2020, should have been published on March 25 and still hasn't been released.

Mr Galloway said: 'They've already missed that deadline but the Government has assured MPs that the strategy will be published before the recess.'

'It is not just the date of release that the Government is dragging its heels on.'

'The 2010 Act requires a commission to be set up, whose role includes giving advice on

the writing of the UK strategy.

'I hope that this isn't an indication of this issue dropping further down the list of priorities of our government. Both the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats supported the Child Poverty Act when they were in opposition, so what is causing this reticence to comply now?'

'To take the challenge of tackling child poverty in this country seriously, the UK Government needs to be serious about implementing this law.'

The Child Poverty Act was passed with the aim of eliminating childhood poverty in the UK.

The Church of Scotland, in partnership with other faith groups and organisations, previously presented a response to a paper from the Scottish Government, voicing disapproval that it did not include strategic priorities or actions with long and short-term targets.

Kyles stretch lead with win at Inveraray

KYLES Athletic opened up a three point lead at the top of the Premier Division thanks to a 2-3 away win at Inveraray.

Two goals in the opening 15 minutes from Roddie and Fraser MacDonald gave Kyles a cushion which took them into the second-half and when Duncan Kerr added a third 10 minutes into the second period it looked a very long way back for the home side.

However, Inveraray came with

Fort William and Newtonmore drop points as Kingussie bounce back

a late surge and clawed a goal back on the hour mark through David Robertson and when Euan McMurdo narrowed the deficit to one with 10 minutes to play it proved for a frantic finale.

Kyles held out to take maximum points from their four league starts ahead of a difficult test this Saturday away to Fort William.

The Inveraray trip was the first of three 'real tests' for the Tighnabraich outfit and they now face two tough away ties in succession at Fort William this Saturday and Newtonmore the following week.

Kyles' trainer James Perlich said: 'The last 20 minutes on Saturday were touch-and-go and we had to strengthen the defence, who were knackered towards the end of the game.'

'I don't think we have won at Inveraray for 10 years so this was a great result.'

James dismissed talk of a title challenge so early in the season, adding that the team had no aspirations at the start of the year.

He said: 'We have a young and impressionable team, so maybe they see the finish line on Saturday when we went 3-0 up. We can't be thinking of the glory before we do the hard work and it is the same for the whole season.'

'Over the past couple of years we have said we would like to finish top four and win a cup but this year we are not going to do that. We are just concentrating on each game.'

'Fort William will be a tough match but there are no 'easy' games in this league.'

For the first time in many seasons, Fort William were held to a goal-less draw last weekend.

Inveraray manager John Smylie is anticipating another tight encounter when his side visits Mossfield on Saturday after the narrow 3-2 defeat at the hands of Kyles.

'We were 3-0 down and never really got going until the second half. We gave them too much room, but came back well.'

'I expect another close, hard game this weekend. We have had the upper hand over Oban Camanachd in the last few seasons, but there is nothing much in it.'

However, Inveraray's efforts will be hit by two or three faces missing from an already threadbare squad.

On a wet and slippery Kiltarlity pitch, Lovat withheld all that Fort William could throw at them, with the home side claiming their first league point of the season after 90 minutes.

Fort coach Peter MacIntyre reckoned Lovat were worth their point in the end - and is under no illusions that a top performance will be needed this weekend to match the league leaders.

'Kyles have shown with the sort of form they have shown so far and the start they have made that they can make a big push for the title this season - so obviously we will have to be at the top of our

form to take something from the game.'

'We could be without Gordie MacKinnon, who got a nasty hand injury against Lovat. It looks like a broken finger.'

John MacDonald will make a return to the squad after being out for five games through suspension.

Lovat go into this Saturday's home game against struggling Glenorchy with a spring in their step after holding Fort William to a 0-0 draw.

Missing this weekend will be Lorne MacKay, who is suspended, while Iain Nicolson will also be absent as he is working in Manchester.

Drew Howie, meanwhile, is an injury worry for coach John MacRitchie, who told The Oban Times the defender may have ligament damage to his knee.

'That's two of our main defenders out of a game we have to win, especially with Kilmallie winning on Saturday,' he said.

'We have now played the top four teams, so that's that out of the road. We now will be looking to pick up points from teams lower down like Glenorchy, Kilmallie, Glenurquhart and Inveraray.'

'But I was happy with the team on Saturday against Fort William - we had a lot of pressure in the first half and it was a great performance right throughout the match.'

There was a shock result at Newtonmore when last season's league champions lost by a 54th minute Neale Reid goal for visitors Glenurquhart.

The result left those on the touchline unsuccessfully trying to remember the last time the Glen recorded a win at the Eilan.

Newtonmore manager Norman McArthur said he felt his side dominated the game but could not make the breakthrough.

'It was certainly not a fair result,' he told The Oban Times. 'We dominated the game, they only had one shot on target and it took a deflection and went in.'

'We just didn't hit the target often enough - we could still be there now and not have scored.'

'It was just one of those days!' He added: 'We'll certainly be looking to get a result against Kingussie. They're coming back into a bit of form but we'll be trying to even out last Saturday's disaster.'

At Dalmally, Kilmallie took their first win of the season thanks to a 12th minute opened from Liam MacDonald and a 45th minute strike from John Stewart.

Glenorchy were awarded a penalty with 12 minutes remaining which Grant MacPherson converted but Liam MacDonald made sure of the points in the final four minutes with his second goal of the tie.

Both teams are away this weekend, with Glenorchy travelling to play Lovat, while Kilmallie head for Drumadrochit and a meeting with Glenurquhart.

Kilmallie chairman Hugh MacIntyre was happy Kilmallie posted their first premier league points on Saturday with a 3-1 win at Glenorchy, but a cartload of chances went a-begging.

'We should have had more goals - no doubt about it,' MacIntyre told The Oban Times. 'We had 19 corners against Glenorchy and did not score from a one of them.'

'Glenurquhart had a great game last week against Newtonmore, but we beat them in the cup and I am hoping we can do the same again.'

'The boys are pretty confident and the field will be better than at Glenorchy, so that should help our forwards' movement. Our defence has been solid, but we will have to make sure we take our chances and score goals.'

At Oban, a seventh minute penalty for Kingussie saw James Hutchison open the scoring and the tie remained evenly balanced until Hutchison added a second four minutes into the second-half when his low shot cannoned off a defender and looped over keeper Stobbart.

A dour and luck-lustre tie failed to match its pre-match billing with players on both sides looking hesitant and nervous on the ball.

Oban Camanachd came back with a late flurry but found keeper Andrew Borthwick in top form with two outstanding saves in the final five minutes.

Oban Camanachd co-manager Diarmid MacMillan has called for a 'better attitude' from his players when Inveraray come to Mossfield this Saturday.

Diarmid said: 'We'll be making a few changes from last Saturday. We weren't as good as we were up at Kingussie the week before and maybe a few of the boys thought we would breeze it at home.'

'We didn't test their keeper until the last 10 minutes so we will need to get our act together and show a better attitude.'

'Inveraray beat us twice last season but we should be able to turn that around. I reckon it will be a good game to watch on Saturday.'

Diarmid admitted the game against Kingussie did not live up to its pre-match billing.

'It wasn't a very good game, as I don't think they played particularly well either. The goals came from the penalty spot and a deflection. That tells its own story.'

Kingussie manager Steven Borthwick had a very different view of the match - he felt his side deserved the victory.

'It's the best we've played so far this year,' he said. 'We were well up for it and the whole team played well.'

Ronald Ross, Martin Dallas and Kevin Bain will miss the Newtonmore game.

Steven said: 'Newtonmore are very strong and I'm sure they'll probably bounce back. There's no doubt about it, it will be a tough game, especially without Ronald.'



Oban Camanachd defender David MacMillan challenges Kingussie's Rory Fraser at Mossfield on Saturday. Picture John MacAvish

'We've got a young team and the young boys' confidence is growing. We've been playing well, we're just not putting the ball in the back of the net.'

Two of last Saturday's scheduled Camanachd Cup ties survived the weather with Lochaber netting eight times without reply against an under-strength Ballachulish at Spean Bridge.

Shawn Nicholson scored a hat-trick with one in the first-half and two in the second, while Ben Delaney took less than a minute to open the scoring.

Lachlan Campbell added two while Martin Johnstone and Stewart Callison found the net late in the game.

Ballachulish manager Willie Sutherland said the unavailability of players didn't help on Saturday. But his injury worries show no signs of easing with captain Darren Sutherland still in hospital on Monday after a hand injury against Lochaber.

This weekend Ballachulish host Glasgow Mid Argyll (GMA) in the Balliemore Cup.

Willie said: 'Darren is a big loss but I am expecting a tighter match on Saturday. We were hammered by Lochaber but you can't go to a place like that with five regulars missing and expect to get anything from it.'

Lochaber head north for a Balliemore Cup tie at Inverness. Inverness have yet to win a game this season, but manager Michael Delaney is not expecting an easy game. He said: 'We played them a few times last year, and as the season went on the games got closer.'

'Our forward line are playing well and looking confident so we'll go there and be positive.'

There was also a first minute cup goal at Rothsay where Robert Walker fired Bute ahead against Caberfeidh. But the visitors came back into the tie with a penalty from Lee Nicol five minutes before half-time sending the teams in at the interval level.

Two goals in five minutes from Roberto Zavaroni gave Bute breathing space before Gregor Fisher put the cup tie out of Caberfeidh's reach with 10 minutes remaining.

Mark MacDonald drew a goal back for Cabers' in the final four minutes but it was too little, too late.

In South Division One, Oban Celtic and Glasgow Mid Argyll repeated their 3-4 scoreline of the previous week, this time at Ganavan Park.

Andy Mathie had GMA ahead in the sixth minute but an own goal on the half-hour by Innes MacMillan saw the sides level at half-time.

Seven minutes into the second-half Craig Anderson fired GMA back into the lead but a double from Kenny Wotherspoon before the hour mark turned the tables and put the home side ahead for the first time in the match.

With 20 minutes to play, Gary Luke equalised for GMA with Anderson scoring his second of the tie three minutes later to give the Glasgow side two wins from their two league starts.

At Taynuilt, two goals in the first-half and three in the second, gave the home side a convincing win over Lochside Rovers.

David Campbell and Stuart Scott had Taynuilt ahead by the interval whistle, with Mark Beaton, Willie Gillies and Michael MacQueen making sure of the points.

Lochside's Daniel MacKinnon netted a consolation goal with two minutes left and the tie could have been closer had Lochside not missed a late penalty.

Taynuilt will play two games this Saturday at the village sportsfield: The junior team will play Tayforth in the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup at noon and the first team host Lochcarron at 3pm.

Lochcarron's centre Dickie MacKenzie is likely to miss the Taynuilt game with an injured hand, but club president Henry Dalgety said the squad was looking strong. He said: 'We've got a couple of players back in the squad for the first time this season - Ben Dalgety and Ross Matheson. They were key players for us last season.'

'We'll have a much stronger squad for this weekend than we had for the Caberfeidh game.'

Taynuilt coach Fraser Inglis said: 'We have two tough games this Saturday but we have entered these cups to give the boys a chance of playing at a higher level.'

Lochcarron will have guys that have played premier league and international matches, so our team will learn a lot from it and we want to make it a good game.'

Taynuilt's 5-1 victory last weekend masked a spirited display from Lochside, who battled until the final whistle and missed a last minute penalty.

Fraser said: 'It was a big confidence boost for our boys, especially against another local side. We got the goals at the right times and after the third goal went in without reply, it gave us the impetus to see the game out.'

Kinlochshiel make the long trip to Kilmory in the Balliemore Cup first round at Lochgilphead for the third time in four years.

The Lochalsh men got the better of the Argyll side on their previous two meetings, but 'Shiel coach Johnston Gill warned his squad at Monday night's training there must be no room for complacency.'

'We have beaten them quite comfortably in the past but there is no way we will underestimate the opposition on Saturday,' Gill said. 'We still have a doubt about Fraser MacVicar, who has hamstring problems, so we might just rest him - but all the other players are available.'

Also in the Balliemore Cup, Skye travel to Strathglass desperate to avenge their 2-0 defeat in the first league game of the season. Skye coach Nui MacDonald reckons Strathglass will be no easy prospect on their own turf.

'It's a big one for us,' he said. 'But the boys know what to expect this time around. Possibly we could have AB Connor and Kerr Gibb back from injury, which would be a boost, although Shockie MacLennan and Martin Bruce are still out.'

In South Division Two, Strachur go top of the table thanks to a 4-0 victory over Inveraray. Steven Bulloch scored twice, with Rhys Campbell and James Roy also on the scoresheet.

Fixtures

SHINTY

Saturday April 9

All throw-ups at 2.30pm unless otherwise stated

Aberdeen Considine

Sutherland Cup 1st Round
Glenurquhart v Newtonmore

John Sloggie
Kilmallie v Lochside Rvrs

Charles Young
Lochcarron v Beaulie

J A Gillies
Inverness v Lochaber

Willie MacRae 12.30pm
Kingussie v Strachur

Innes Wood
Aberdeen Uni v Lochbroom

Jock Matheson
Glenurquhart v Bute

Robert Morrison
Col Glen v Inveraray

Dougie Cameron
Taynuilt v Tayforth

Gus Campbell 12 noon
Skye v Fort William

Donald MacRae
Boleskine v Caberfeidh

Ronnie Campbell
Balliemore Cup 1st Round

Caberfeidh v Oban Celtic

Deek Cameron
Ballachulish v GMA

Robert Baxter
Taynuilt v Lochcarron

Ted MacDonald 3pm
Strathglass v Skye

Graeme MacMillan 3pm
Kilmory v Kinlochshiel

George O'Rourke
Inverness v Lochaber

Daniel MacRae
Fort William v Kyles Athletic

Billy Wotherspoon
Lovat v Glenorchy

Colin MacDonald
Glenurquhart v Kilmallie

Evan MacRae
Newtonmore v Kingussie

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

Fort William v Kyles Athletic

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Glenurquhart v Kilmallie

Leagues

SHINTY

P W D L P

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

Kyles	4	4	0	0	8
Fort William	3	2	1	0	5
Kingussie	4	2	1	1	5
Newtonmore	3	2	0	1	4
Oban Camanachd	2	2	0	2	4
Glenurquhart	3	1	1	1	3
Inveraray	3	1	0	2	2
Kilmallie	3	1	0	2	2
Lovat	3	0	1	2	1
Glenorchy	4	0	0	4	0

Marine Harvest North Division One

Kinlochshiel	2	2	0	0	4
Lochaber	2	1	0	1	2
Caberfeidh	2	1	0	1	2
Beaulie	2	1	0	1	2
Strathglass	2	1	0	1	2
Lochcarron	1	0	1	0	1
Inverness	2	0	1	1	1
Skye	1	0	0	1	0

Marine Harvest South Division One

Lochside Rvrs	4	3	0	1	6
Bute	2	2	0	0	

Len and Laura are still in the lead

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER three weeks of play, Les McFarlane and Laura Brown are still the leaders of the scratch divisions in the singles ten pin bowling league at the Nevis Centre.

On Sunday night Les did enough to stay one point ahead of second-placed Tim Attack, who has 65 points. Tony Whitelocke is third on 63 points.

Graeme Robertson leads the handicap division on 60 points, from Les, Tim and Tony who are all on 53.

In the ladies league, Laura leads with 23 points, with Pam Weller in second with 22 points. Hazel White is a further five points back in third.

The men's maximum scratch points were gained by Tony Whitelocke with 298 while young Gavin MacDonald had the top handicap total of 405. Pam Weller had the best ladies scratch and handicap scores with 305 and 399.

The best men's score was Tim Attack's 156 and the best ladies score coming from Pam Weller with 160.

Game in doubt

FOOTBALL

HEAVY RAIN has left Fort William's game against Fraserburgh at Claggan Park this Saturday in doubt.

There are worries the pitch will be waterlogged, and last night's (Wednesday) home game against Nairn County also looked likely to be called off due to the weather.

Last weekend's game at Buckie was washed out.

Not one, but two Scottish champions

LOCHABER has waited 20 years for a Scottish boxing champion – now two have come at the same time.

Fourteen year-old Chris Bradley and Lochaber Phoenix BC stablemate James Aitchison, aged 13, both returned home victorious from the Time Capsule in Coatbridge after an epic two days boxing last weekend in the semi-finals and finals of the Scottish championships.

Chris faced the current Western District champion in Liam Reid of Dennistoun McNair ABC in the semis and the bout was worthy of a final itself.

After a frantic first round, the scorecards showed Bradley down by two points, but in round two Chris forced Reid to the ropes where his body shots began to take a toll and the scores evened up for the final round, where superb fitness saw Chris pick his shots to progress to the Scottish final.

James Aitchison's similar dedication to fitness showed in his semi-final against Jake Mulroy of Hawick ABC, who was on the back foot for the entire contest as Aitchison at times chased his

REPORT BY STEPHEN NORRIS
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opponent around the ring landing straight punches repeatedly.

The Lochaber lad kept up his superiority right to the end and powered through to the final.

Bradley met Barry Aikman of Orbiston ABC in his final, a fighter noted for trying to psyche out his opponents. Chris simply smiled and winked at his adversary and from the first bell fired a ramrod jab through Aikman's guard.

Public Warnings
When the Orbiston boxer resorted to fouling, Chris refused to be ruffled and repeatedly caught Barry with clean punches as the Orbiston boxer began to pick up public warnings. During round two the referee had finally seen enough and disqualified a dispirited Aikman leaving Bradley the new Scottish champion. James Aitchison's had his finest hour in a boxing ring in the final as he showed the character that real champions are made of. The first round against John Stevenson of Forgewood ABC was fought at a furious pace, but James knew

BOXING

if he continued to leave his defences open he would give himself a mountain to climb.

The second saw James believe he could become the champion of Scotland, as he tightened his defences while working at break-neck pace.

In the last round James gritted his teeth and steamed forward like a runaway train that could not be stopped. Repeatedly Stevenson was forced to the ropes trying to evade the Highlander's attacks, but James would not be denied and his fantastic engine allowed him to keep going to the final bell and a fantastic 11-6 victory.

Both boxers have now been invited onto the Scotland squad and after squad training this weekend they will represent Scotland in the British championships next weekend in Manchester.

Lochaber Phoenix coach Niall Clark said: 'It is an honour that is thoroughly deserved for two outstanding talents and also two polite, friendly, likeable youngsters.'

Livercaol are the champions



Livercaol captain Paul MacInnes and his title-winning team pose with their trophy. f14f00t14

THE FINAL round of fixtures of the Ali Young winter indoor football league produced 30 goals in a high scoring Sunday evening at the Nevis Centre.

Champions Livercaol played out a 1-1 draw with Ballachulish, who ended the season in seventh place.

A 3-3 draw with All Trades was enough to secure second spot for Lochaber Leisure, whilst last season's champions Goon Squad ended the season on a high note, beating Crazy Crofter 3-0 to finish in third.

Meanwhile, fourth-placed Funky Five thrashed Caley Jages 5-0, and Caol confirmed their eighth-place finish with a 4-2 win over second-bottom HW Energy.

The highest scoring encounter was a 6-2 victory for Achintore FC against NGTW.

Lochaber net eight at Spean Bridge



Scott Rodger of Ballachulish tussles with Neil MacDonald during Lochaber's 8-0 victory at Spean Bridge last Saturday. 10_f14b1a01

See shinty round-up on page 20.



Lochaber High School's Keiran Voisey, front left, celebrates with the rest of the North team after their victory at Alloa.

Keiran helps North to victory

LOCHABER High School pupil Keiran Voisey helped the North of Scotland team to a memorable 3-0 victory over Ayrshire in the Scottish Schools under-15 National Trophy at Alloa's Recreation Park last Tuesday afternoon.

The triumph put the seal on an incredible cup run, which saw the North come through the group and knockout stages undefeated. Team coach John MacKay was a proud man after his team lifted the cup and said Keiran had been a key member of the squad throughout the North's march to the final.

John, acting principal teacher of PE at Charleston Academy, told The Oban Times: 'Keiran came

on for the last twenty minutes and did really well - but everyone has played their part in this campaign.'

'It was one of my proudest moments as a coach. To take them all the way through the competition then beat Ayrshire in the final was absolutely brilliant.'

On the Map
'It's the North's second win in three years, although before that we had not reached a final for 40 years. This really puts the North of Scotland on the map.'

He added: 'The boys really had a great day of it.' SSFA President Rod Houston presented the trophy to the North of Scotland team. The match itself saw the

FOOTBALL

North boys dominate right from the start and take the lead through an own goal after 23 minutes.

Steven Miller's composed finish made it 2-0 before half time and Miller was on the scoresheet again on 56 minutes to make the game safe.

North results in tournament were: North 3 Angus 0 (Group 1); North 3 Fife 0 (Group 1); North Valley 0 North 0 (Group 1); North 3 East and Midlothian 1 (Quarterfinal); Lanarkshire 1 North 1 - AET, North win on penalties (Semifinal); North 3 Ayrshire 0 (Final).

Ardnamurchan take the points

SHINTY

ARDNAMURCHAN Camanachd gained their first two points of the season as they defeated division newcomers Lewis Camanachd 6-2 in Strontian.

Ardnamurchan had a goal from forward Ewan Mowat chalked off by referee Graeme MacMillan for offside before they took the lead through Sean Laskey and doubled their advantage through James Strachan.

Ardnamurchan struck again with another magnificent solo move finished off by Craig Griggs before Jamie Fraser pulled a goal back for 3-1 at half time.

Ardnamurchan's Ewan Mowat added two more and Reece Mackay made it six for the Reds before Stewart Campbell scored a consolation late on.

Ardnamurchan travel to Strathglass on Saturday. Throw up is at 12pm.

Winter League

CYCLING



Fiona Thompson and Ben Miller - West Highland Wheelers Winter League champs

APRIL showers greeted the Wheelers as they took part in the last round of the Nevis Cycles sponsored Winter League. Some rebuilding work on the forest trails led to a course rethink and a shorter, quicker ride emerged.

Ben Miller completed his fifth victory of the season to claim the race plus the overall Winter League and Junior trophies. Fiona Thompson was the first lady home to also pick up the season's silverware. Keith MacLure returned from the Borders to refresh himself in the Lochaber rain. Congratulations to both Fiona Gunn and Lorna Wells for enjoying the full circuit.

Results: 1. 35:35 Ben Miller (Junior); 2. 37:51 Ben Thompson; 3. 39:40 Gavin MacLean; 4. 41:33 Graham Munro; 5. 42:17 John Shirley; 6. 44:40 James Shirley; 7. 44:48 Spook Munro; 8. 46:03 Ben Dorman; 9. 46:12 Graham MacNab; 10. 46:28; Roddy Wells; 11. 47:03 Stephen Cant; 12. 47:57 Neil Wright; 13. 48:51 Steve Bradley; 14. 49:05 Keith MacLure; 15. 50:50 Davy Gunn; 16. 50:54 Stephen Dent (Junior); 17. 52:29 Lachlan Blair (Junior); 18. 52:54 Kim Cameron; 19. 53:29 Brian Barbour; 20. 53:58 Doug Little; 21. 56:02 Fiona Thompson (1st Lady); 22. 63:21 Nigel Miller; 23. 65:20 Fiona Gunn (2nd Lady); 24. 69:14 Lorna Wells (3rd Lady); Short Course; 1. 49:48 Alex Dent; 2. 49:54 Frances Dent.



Caol Primary School girls Robyn Blackhall, Sara Lauder, Kira MacDonald and Abbie Blackhall: bronze medallists at the North of Scotland championships. 10_f14ca0101

Cross-country girls come home with bronze medals

FOUR CAOL Primary School girls have returned from the North of Scotland schools cross-country championships at AIness with bronze medals.

Twins Robyn Blackhall and Abbie Blackhall and teammates Sara Lauder and Kira MacDonald were placed 7th, 15th, 46th and 27th respectively in the 112 -strong field - enough to gain Caol third place in the 28-team competition. Caol head teacher Jennifer

CROSS-COUNTRY

Cattanach said the girls' efforts had added to the school's recent string of successes in cross-country running.

'It's a real step up for them to compete in an all-Highlands event and for them to do so well was great,' she told The Oban Times. 'We are all very proud of them, especially because it's something they worked really hard for.'

Women's shinty results

SHINTY

NATIONAL Division One - Glangarry 2, Glasgow Mid Argyll 0. Tir Conaill Harps 5, Aberdour 5.

North Division Two - Ardnamurchan 0, Strathglass 5; Lochaber v Badenoch & Strathspey postponed.

Ruaraidh is fastest on the hill

SKIING

OVER 40 Scottish Ski Club - Lochaber Section competitors took part in the club's recent annual ski race at a windy Nevis Range.

Fastest on the hill for the second year running was Ruaraidh MacKenzie. First prize winners in each category:

Bairns 1 Boys - Cory Muir; Bairns 1 Girls - Cairn Muir; Bairns 2 Boys - Johnny Forster; Bairns 2 Girls - Corran Wineberg; Child 1 Girls - Helen MacLean; Child 2 Boys - Ruaraidh MacKenzie; Child 2 Girls - Eliza Sandford; Junior 1 Boys - Ruaraidh Wells; Junior 1 Girls - Katie Dougan; Junior 2 Boys - Cameron MacKenzie; Masters Men - Damian Forster; Masters Ladies - Lorna Wells; Veterans Men - Sandy Austin; Veterans Ladies - Joy Biggin; Super Veteran Men - Dennis Muir; Snowboard Girls - Erin Wells.

Weather

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Thursday
Cloudy
Winds moderate westerly.
Temperatures 9°C to 10°C

Friday
Light rain.
Winds moderate, west, north westerly.
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

Weekend Outlook
Sunny intervals.
Winds moderate, south, south easterly.
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay - Moderate

Tides

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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 7, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.33 1.2 07.31 3.6 13.49 1.1 19.36 3.7	
Fri	01.55 1.3 08.00 3.5 14.20 1.3 20.08 3.5	
Sat	02.24 1.5 08.34 3.3 14.59 1.4 20.45 3.3	
Sun	03.07 1.6 09.19 3.0 15.52 1.6 21.35 3.2	
Mon	04.16 1.8 10.26 2.8 17.05 1.7 22.49 3.0	
Tues	06.12 1.8 13.08 3.7 18.26 1.6 **** **	
Wed	00.52 3.0 07.50 1.7 14.32 2.9 19.42 1.4	

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30



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Saints title hopes dented

Missed goal-scoring opportunities come back to haunt Oban side

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
**Oban Saints 1
Cambria 1**

SAINTS entertained old rivals Cambria at Glencruitten last Saturday and the Oban side were left ruing the number of goal-scoring chances they missed against their Glasgow opponents.

The game had hardly got underway when visiting player Paul McLean had to leave the field when he fell awkwardly and was taken to hospital where a broken collar bone was diagnosed.

The home side created the first chance, but Cambria keeper, Obanite Daniel Cassells made a good save from Ross Maitland.

However, he could do nothing in the eighth minute when Saints took the lead. Alex Craik sent a pass to Donald Campbell who flicked a first time ball forward to Dene Cassells who raced into the box before dispatching a great right foot shot past his brother to open the scoring.

Saints were playing some good stuff and Ross Maitland should have increased the lead when he was clean through, but his effort was easily saved.

Cambria were knocking the ball about confidently, but were not

troubling the Saints rearguard too much.

The home side passed up another gilt edged chance just before half time when Donald Campbell played Ross Maitland in on the left. Ross crossed the ball into the middle to the unmarked Asen Gaydardzhiev, but the Bulgarian striker contrived to knock the ball over the bar.

Saints were good value for their 1-0 lead, but there was always the danger that the missed chances would come back and haunt them.

The second half started the same as the first with the home side on the attack and Marc MacCallum will be disappointed that he failed to hit the target with a free header from a corner.

As the game wore on Saints dropped deeper and deeper into their own half which encouraged Cambria to push forward.

The home side almost got that vital second goal that probably would have killed Cambria off, but Willie Gemmell was unlucky to see his free kick hit the post and scrambled clear.

Cambria equalised in the 81st minute when their central defender Sinclair Patience got the slightest of touches to a corner

FOOTBALL

from the left, which was enough to send the ball into the net to make the score 1-1.

With five minutes remaining Donald Campbell went on a mazy run inside the Cambria box leaving defenders and goalkeeper in his wake, but his netbound shot was brilliantly cleared off the line by Sinclair Patience.

Cambria could have snatched victory right at the end but for a brilliant save by Graham Douglas from a Davie Welsh shot.

There was no further scoring with Saints dropping two vital home league points in their quest to retain the league title.

Manager Iain Jackson was very disappointed not to have taken all three points. He said: 'We created four or five great goalscoring chances which we missed and you had that feeling that these misses might come back to haunt us - and that's exactly what happened.'

'Our title hopes have been dented and Kilpatrick must be favourites now, but we'll keep battling away. We have three games left and if we can win all three then the title could still be ours.'

Saints have no fixture this Saturday.



Saints Bulgarian striker Asen Gaydardzhiev leaps over this tackle from Cambria's Davie Welsh.

Oban Lorne Ladies finish on a high

RUGBY

OBAN Lorne Ladies finished their regular season with an emphatic 64-5 win over Lisimore, in Edinburgh, on Sunday.

Donna Smith went over for seven tries - which she complemented with as many conversions - while Audrey Barr added another two. A further score from Julie Campbell saw the ladies cruise to victory.

The win cemented the Oban team at the top of their post-league split group ensuring an overall fifth place finish in the National League. The ladies now have a tour in

Majorca and tournaments in Mull and Islay to look forward to.

Looking back on a successful season the ladies would to thank coach Andy MacDougall for all his hard work and effort.

Captain Dee Bradbury added: 'We've had a successful season considering the weather and numbers challenges we've had to face.'

'We have a good foundation of players now at the club and hope to be competing for a top four finish next season.'

Veterans head for Melrose

RUGBY

A TEAM from Islay is travelling south to take part in the Davidson Chalmers Vets Tournament tomorrow, Friday, which is part of the Melrose 7s weekend.

The islanders have been drawn in the first round against Tynedale, from Northumberland, and Hawks Legends (Glasgow Hawks).

Comprise

The other first round matches comprise Hamilton from South Africa, Morgan Academy and the Auld Reekies, a team made up from several Edinburgh clubs; and the Cayman Islands, Orkney and Melrose.

The tournament consists of teams of ten players, with clubs eliminated being entered into subsidiary Bowl and Plate events.

Last year the cup was won by Melrose, the bowl by Madras College, and the plate by Glasgow Hawks.

The veterans' tournament, now in its fourth year, is expected to draw in supporters from Scotland, the rest of the UK and overseas, with many supporters staying on for the main event the next day.

Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

WEEKEND results: Castle Rock v Under 13s, postponed; Under 14s 1, Ardencape 5. Netting for Saints was Paul McFatrige. Under 15s 3, Riverside 1. Saints goalscorers were Aidan Campbell,

Rhuiradh Cain and Liam McEachan. Under 16s 0, Blair Thistle 4.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Kilpatrick; Under 14s have no fixture; Ardencape v Under 15s; Largs Colts v Under 16s.

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Oban Lorne's Corrie Louw drives on from a ruck during Saturday's game against Strathaven.

Oban gain bonus points in comfortable win over Strathaven at Glencruitten

SHE West Division One
**Oban Lorne 45
Strathaven 18**

OBAN Lorne went top of West Division One after a comfortable 45-18 win over Strathaven in a double-header at Glencruitten on Saturday.

Oban made four changes to the team which defeated Loch Lomond the previous weekend with Liam Burns and David Hunter coming into the forwards while Cammy Smith and Robert Wright returned in the backline.

With a maximum of 10pts available from the game, Oban knew a bonus point win would put them top of the table with only two games of the season remaining.

The home side made the brighter start, pressurising the Strathaven line and sucking the defence into the centre of the pitch. Oban took advantage of this and used the overlap to allow winger Allan

Wright to score beneath the posts. MacCallum converted to give a 7-0 lead.

Strathaven responded well and were aided by a couple of silly penalties which allowed them to narrow the lead to 7-6 thanks to two kicks from Gordon Howatson.

With just a point in it, Strathaven became more confident and started to attack from their own half. They were undone by some poor handling resulting in an Oban scrum.

Oban took advantage of this and set up a well worked back row move allowing Captain Struan Smith to score Oban's second try. MacCallum again added the two points to extend the lead to 14-6.

Strathaven again came fighting back and looked likely to score out wide with an overlap only for winger Calum MacLauchlan to intercept and run in from halfway

RUGBY

to score beneath the posts.

Some poor Oban defending allowed Strathaven to reply with a try of their own before some Struan Smith went over for his second of the afternoon to make the half time score 28-11.

Strathaven made the better start to the second half with most of the play in the Oban 22, but were denied on several occasions with some impressive Oban tackling and defensive work at the breakdown.

As in the first half, Strathaven looked to score out wide but MacLauchlan again intercepted and ran almost the length of the park for a score in almost identical fashion to his first try.

Strathaven kept fighting and scored a well worked try under the posts to give them a glimmer of hope but Oban stood strong and scored two further tries to put the game to bed. The first was

another break from MacLauchlan who offloaded to Andy MacDougall to score and then another breakthrough from twins Struan and Cammy Smith saw the latter completing the scoring for the afternoon under the uprights.

Oban were helped with some outstanding individual performances on the day particularly from the back row, some superb tackles from Chris MacDonald and a few powerful runs from second rower Jamie MacMillan.

Oban gained the full 10 points available for the game and rise to the top of West Division One above Strathendrick.

Oban Lorne are absent from league duty next weekend with the next game away to Lenzie on April 16, followed by the last game of the season away to Strathendrick the following weekend.



Archie Buchanan, Helen MacLean, Donald Henderson, Marion Fisher lift the trophy.

Mixed rinks at Connel

BOWLS

ON Saturday, April 2, Connel Carpet Bowling Club hosted a well supported and successful mixed rinks competition for the Alasdair Macnab Memorial Bowling Cup.

The cup was donated by relatives of the late Alasdair to be played for annually by Connel, North Connel and Oban bowling clubs.

The round robin competition attracted 11 rinks of four players and one triple with many

hard fought games and a very enjoyable afternoon.

The teams in the final were the triple of Hugh McCorquodale, Oban, Bill Goldie, and skip Duncan Baird, both North Connel, taking on Helen MacLean, Oban, Donald Henderson and Marion Fisher, both Connel with skip Archie Buchanan, North Connel, who went on to win the competition.

Lorn Ladies shinty club is ready to progress

SHINTY

LORN Ladies Shinty Club is now fully established and looking to recruit new players and volunteers to help the club grow.

The club has entered the Caldonian Canal Challenge Cup this year and is looking to play in a series of friendly matches before hopefully progressing into the leagues set up next season.

The club is open to any player or volunteer regardless of experience who would like to be involved in the team.

Any equipment needed can be provided and a fun and friendly atmosphere is guaranteed.

Training sessions re-commence on Tuesday, April 19, at Oban High School grass pitch from 7pm - 8.30pm.

For further information, contact Ann-Marie Ferguson on 07825 093455 or email annmarie@biosdale543.freemove.co.uk.

Volunteer awards in June

AWARDS

PEOPLE in Argyll are being urged to nominate sports volunteers for a regional award.

With more than three in ten adults in Argyll and Bute volunteering in the last year, the council wants to recognise their efforts with the Sports Volunteer Awards 2011.

Argyll and Bute Council is calling for nominations across

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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'We own and operate two tall ships Lord Nelson and

Tenacious, the prior was launched in 1986 and is built from steel and is 55m in length the first tall ship in the world designed and built to accommodate a mixed ability crew.

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'This year the JST are very much looking forward to visiting the ever beautiful Oban and would like to offer readers the opportunity to sail on our tall ship Lord Nelson.'

'We have one voyage that can be won by readers of The Oban Times to Belfast, Northern Ireland.'

All food is included for the duration of a voyage but all other costs such as flights, insurance and connecting travel is at the expense of the crewmember.

Oban - Belfast, Monday June 20 to Saturday June 25, six days, worth £685.



Question:
The JST has a tall ship Lord Nelson and is celebrating her birthday this year, how old is she?

a) 10
b) 25
c) 21

Fill in your details along with your answer in the coupon below and don't forget to tick the box if you wish your details to be passed on to JST and receive your 25% off voucher.

Entries must be submitted by: Monday 18th April 2011

Answer.....

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Please post your entries to: Competitions, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. The prize does not include spending money. The prize is for one person only and, along with the 25% discount offer, only applies to the voyage departing Oban Monday June 20 and arriving Belfast Saturday June 25 2011. For safety reasons, the prize cannot cater for those with electric wheelchairs and the winner must be able to understand and adhere to safety instructions. Entries must be aged 18 years or over. Limited spaces are available and the 25% offer is based on a first come first serve basis. When ticking the box to receive a 25% discount voucher you have agreed for Oban Times to share your details with JST and for the organisation to contact you. Winners will be chosen at random. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity.