

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Celtic High Cross returns to Iona

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### Islay distillery hat-trick of awards

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### Police return to issuing parking tickets in Oban

POLICE officers in Oban have again taken up responsibility for enforcing on-street parking in Oban town centre, at the request of Argyll and Bute Council.

The arrangement is a repeat of the three-month pilot scheme that ran from July to October last year.

Outside the term of the pilot scheme motorists have enjoyed a free-for-all in the town centre, resulting in council revenue from pay and display machines falling away.

The responsibility for on-street parking is still with the police force, which made its traffic warden posts redundant last year, leaving cars unchecked within paid-for parking bays.

The local authority is in the process of de-criminalising parking charges on Oban's streets and expects to take over responsibility for charges next year.

Before any formal decision is made on Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE), a final business case will be considered by elected members at full council. It then goes to the Scottish Government, which will consider final approval.

But in the meantime police officers have been brought in to make sure motorists pay for parking.

Acting chief inspector Alistair Davidson of Oban Police said: "The revenue lost from the meters since traffic warden posts were disbanded affects local authority spend in vital areas and that's why we need to encourage people to put their coins in the meters."

"It is also about encouraging the free flow of traffic and assisting the needs of the business community."

Nearly 500 parking tickets were issued to motorists in Oban during the previous pilot scheme.

## Ministers back campaign for safety boat

### MP and MSPs urged to support call for high-spec safety vessel for Loch Awe

A CAMPAIGN launched this week to find £220,000 for a safety boat on Loch Awe has received the backing of Scottish Government ministers.

Since the deaths of four fishermen on the loch in 2009, calls have been made for a dedicated safety boat for the loch and a fund towards the purchase of a boat stands at around £8,000.

On Tuesday community safety minister Roseanna Cunningham MSP gave her backing to a renewed campaign, launched by the voluntary body LochWatch Loch Awe and its parent company Loch Awe Safety Company. LochWatch Loch Awe volunteer Iain MacKinnon said the group had helped to improve loch safety by educating visitors to the loch but insisted a safety boat was the next step logical step.

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by EUAN PATERSON [epaterson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:epaterson@obantimes.co.uk)

**"It is a high-spec boat but it needs to be."**

Iain MacKinnon

He said: "It was important to achieve the educational aspect before we bought a boat. We couldn't walk before we could run."

"Now, I think it is imperative we get this all-weather boat that has the equipment to operate in thick fog, because I was among the people on the shore that night

the fishermen died - we couldn't see a thing. It is a high-spec boat but it needs to be."

Another cabinet minister, Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, was also present at the campaign announcement at Loch Awe Hotel, alongside Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid, Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor, councillors Louise Glen Lee, Roddy McCuish and Elaine Robertson and representatives of the emergency services and VisitScotland.

Mr MacKinnon lobbied those present to support an Inland Water Safety Group that would co-ordinate education and rescue training across Scotland. Such a group was recommended by the Tompkins Report, published following the Loch Awe drownings in 2009.

Urging people to back the campaign, councillor Glen Lee, who is also secretary of Loch Awe Safety Company, said: "Today we realised the level of support there is and having the community safety minister here was fantastic."

Mr McGrigor, who lives by the loch and chairs the Loch Awe Safety Company, said: "We have been looking for something to improve safety around the loch for a long time and I think this plan could be an example for the whole country."

Donations to help buy the modified Pilot House 27 boat can be made via the LochWatch Loch Awe website or by cheque to Loch Awe Safety Company, Post House, Kilninver, PA34 4UT.

## ACHA to build new homes at Bonawe

TWO new family homes for rent will be built in Bonawe, the Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) at a cost of £283,000.

ACHA will build the homes on land it owns between Ardchattan Primary School and Kenmore Cottages.

Of the total cost, £156,000 comes from Argyll and Bute Council's Rural Housing Development Fund and the remaining £127,000 coming from ACHA. Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's

chief executive said: "It is vital small rural communities like Bonawe have affordable housing to help people stay or to return to."

"I hope these additional houses, along with the 16 that ACHA own at Kenmore Cottages, provide opportunities for young families to remain in Bonawe and support the local Primary School."

ACHA plans to put the project on site in the late summer and it will last for a year.



The whale was spotted in the relatively shallow waters of Oban Bay and has become a tourist attraction. Picture - Chris Jackson, of Challice Charters

## Visiting whale causes quite a stir in Oban Bay

LOCALS and visitors alike were still gathered along the water's edge at Oban Bay this week after the area welcomed its biggest ever visitor - a 40ft sperm whale, estimated to

weigh approximately 16 tonnes. The whale, believed to be a young male, swam into the bay on Saturday afternoon, drawing gasps from disbelieving onlookers who wasted no time

in trying to grab photographs of the unusual visitor. While the whale's presence has created quite a buzz, there is concern that the whale could be ill and people have been

warned to stay away from the mammal. As *The Oban Times* went to press, fears were growing for the whale's safety. For more, see page 3.



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## 'We're listening' claims Loch Etive fish farmer

DAWNFRESH, the company aiming to build a new fish farm on Loch Etive, claimed 'we are listening' this week after announcing drastically reduced plans for the beauty spot.

Gideon Pringle, farm manager for Dawnfresh Farming, this week told *The Oban Times* that nearly halving the size of the proposed development at the beauty spot was in direct response to comments from the community that not only was it too large, but community consultation was non-existent.

Now the company, which held two community meetings last week and aims to hold another three between April 15-16, says it is determined to reverse public opinion - but admits it may be an uphill struggle.

He added the application was deemed important for the financial security of Dawnfresh, which last year recorded a pre-tax loss of £4.5million, as the company moved to reduce staffing numbers and concentrate on more profitable lines.

Mr Pringle said: "We know the public were against the original application and the overwhelming message was it was too big and the visual impact was too great."

"We've gone away and come back with a downsized version of the plans, which won't be submitted until after the community consultation."

The new plans show cage numbers reduced from 14 to 10, with each measuring 80m in circumference

instead of the 100m previously proposed. That will see the potential biomass drop from 2,500 tonnes to 1,500 tonnes.

A new design of feeding barge means a reduced water-line impact. The previous barge would have extended 13m above the surface. The new vessel will protrude 3.8m.

"Previously we ticked all the regulators' boxes but there was very strong community disagreement - that's not what we wanted."

"The damage was done, but we had three meetings last week and we've had a mixture of responses from the community."

"Some are always going to be dead against it but some who previously objected may not do so now."

Asked how important approval of

the plans was for the company, Mr Pringle said: "While this is Dawnfresh Farming, a subsidiary of Dawnfresh, of course our fortunes are linked."

"There are business opportunities out there and this application is about expanding to take advantage of that."

"Is it essential? For Etive trout to be viable it is. Pulling out is going too far, but it'd effectively cap our ability to develop the site."

Margaret Adams, chairwoman of Ardchattan Community Council, says scepticism remains over the plans: "I think it'd be different if they would be employing more people, but they wouldn't be. It's just moving people from temporary to full time contracts."

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# Leanachan Forest future masterplan

## Ambitious plans for host of leisure activities to go to public consultation in May

IT IS already home to Nevis Range Ski Resort and the Mountain Bike World Championships.

Now Leanachan Forest near Fort William could host even more leisure and woodland activities.

Forestry Commission Scotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) are drawing up a new masterplan to explore future opportunities.

The revived project builds on a previous study looking at potential development at Leanachan as a major recreation destination.

A similar blueprint already governs development around the 7Stanes forest bike trails in the Borders.

The new masterplan, covering 60 hectares - two per cent of Leanachan Forest - will ensure future recreation and forestry activities dovetail together and are co-ordinated in a sustainable way.

The Oban Times understands consultants will visit Lochaber on April 17-18 to meet with interested parties before holding a general public consultation in May.

A central aim will be exploring the viability of attracting private sector investment in 'a new sustainable leisure and accommodation development' on the national forest estate.

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Asked what facilities were envisaged, a Forestry Commission Scotland spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'We don't have any real fixed view - we are just starting the process to look into the possibilities.'

'That could range from forest lodges, a bunkhouse or a hotel, but if any development was to be taken forward it would have to fit sensitively into the forest environment there.'

He added: 'There is also a desire to see any development complement - rather than compete with - existing leisure and recreation retail outlets already based locally.'

### Pushing

Nevis Range managing director Marian Austin told *The Oban Times*: 'We have been pushing for this for a long time.'

'We would be very interested in there being accommodation on our doorstep and given the things we do, such as the high wire and bike trails, we want to make sure that fits in with a bigger plan.'

'There has already been a masterplan

produced for Innerleithen and Glentworth forest in the Borders and we are very pleased that we are the second forest to get the treatment.'

'As far as we are concerned we are able to fit in with this and we absolutely welcome it.'

Kevin Peace, Forestry Commission Scotland's district manager in Lochaber, said: 'Leanachan is already a very popular destination for tourists who enjoy the natural and rugged terrain that Lochaber offers. We estimate that around 40 per cent of visitors coming to Fort William are there for the great outdoors and many of these are repeat visits.'

'Highland Council has indicated within their local plan that Leanachan has potential for tourism development and that this should be considered via a masterplanning process.'

'The study will look into current and future trends in tourism, demands for related property and infrastructure in the area.'

Scott Dingwall, head of regional development at HIE, said: 'The aim of the masterplan is to work with the community and users of the estate to develop a clear strategy for future use of the available assets, while respecting the forestry environment.'



With the Mountain Bike World Cup at Nevis Range, Leanachan could see an expansion in leisure activities.

### More new business start ups

MORE new businesses started up in the Highlands in 2012 than in the previous year, latest Office of National Statistics figures show.

A total of 909 enterprises began trading, compared with 846 in 2011 - a rise of seven per cent.

Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant said: 'Support for small and medium sized businesses in particular is important as in many communities they form the backbone of the local economy.'

### Woman denies dangerous driving

A BANAVIE woman has denied driving on an Inverloch Road while a man was holding onto the car and dragging him along the street to his injury.

Gillian Mann, of Coilleras, Tomonie, denies dangerous driving on Lochiel Road and in Black Parks on February 10.

The 22-year-old is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on April 22.

### MSP's delight at Holyrood Mary's Meals appeal

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor has expressed his delight that an appeal to MSPs and staff at Holyrood has brought in dozens of backpacks for the Mary's Meals Backpack Project.

Jamie was the co-ordinator of the effort among Conservative MSPs and their staff.

Mary's Meals runs a backpack project which provides a small backpack filled with basic school equipment pencils, pens, paper and some personal items such as a t-shirt, towel and toothpaste.

Jamie said: 'Mary's Meals is based near my own home in the village of Dalnally and makes a real difference to the lives of some of the poorest children on the planet.'

### Fort man denies glass assault

A MAN accused of throwing a glass at three women in a Fort William bar is due to stand trial on June 4.

David Logan, 44, of 63 Lundavra Road, denies assaulting the women on December 30 and also pled not guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner.

### Admonished after good behaviour

A MALLAIG man who repeatedly pushed a woman has been admonished after being of good behaviour for three months.

Robert McLean, aged 34, of 12 Gordon Brown Place, previously pled guilty to assault and behaving in a threatening or abusive manner. The incidents took place on December 23.

## Capercaillie to headline TMF

CAPERCAILLIE, Manran and Skerryvore will be joined by at least 15 more acts in making Tíre Music Festival's (TMF) 2013 line up its most ambitious yet.

Celtic legends Capercaillie, who have sold more than a million albums and regularly tour all over the world, will headline TMF as part of their 30th anniversary celebrations, backed by one of the most talented line ups to be found at any music festival this year.

Other acts set to wow the crowds at the award-winning festival between July 20-21 include the critically acclaimed Roddy Hart and the Lonesome Fire, set to release their eponymous album this year after five successful albums from frontman Roddy.

Washington Irving, who recently supported Frightened Rabbit across the UK, will also be making an appearance, as will indie act Blazin' Fiddles and, Breabach, who were named best group at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards in 2011. Other acts set to appear include Coast, Brown Bear and the Bandits, Skipinnish, Gunna Sound, Trail West and the Scott Wood Trio.

Culann, Lori McFear, The Youth and Young, Room 16 and Na h-Eileanaich complete the line-up so far. More acts

will be confirmed over the coming weeks. With Tíre's own Skerryvore and Celtic supergroup Manran completing the line up, tickets are likely to go fast for this summer's festival.

Daniel Gillespie, who started the festival with fellow islander Stewart MacLennan after being inspired while touring with Skerryvore, said: 'We are now approaching the fourth TMF having achieved three successive sell-outs and the accolade of being awarded Scotland's Best Small Festival - it really is a dream come true. TMF 2013 will be our biggest festival to date and will once again showcase Tíre as one of the most stunning locations in the world.'

The community village makes a return this year, located next to the festival site and campsite. Set to be a hive of entertainment, activities and music workshops, it will also house all the locally-sourced festival food and trade stalls. New to the festival is the family campsite, offering a quieter area for those who want to bring their brood - as well as showers.

It is hoped this year's event will be the event's fourth successful sell out. Tickets are on sale now. For more information, see [tiremusicfestival.co.uk](http://tiremusicfestival.co.uk).

## Wind and solar power source brightens Isle of Muck

### 24-hour electricity will make massive difference to everyday life

THE ISLE of Muck is switched on to cater for visitors after the island finally got access to 24 hour electricity following a wait of more than 40 years, according to a local tearoom owner.

Jenny MacEwen, who runs the Craft Shop and Tearoom, told *The Oban Times* having power around the clock was a 'major boost'.

She said: 'It will make a big difference for people coming to the island. They are used to having 24-hour electricity so it's very off putting to not have power all the time.'

'At the tearoom I'll now be able to have the fridge and freezer on all the time, and it's going to be much

easier to be able to use the microwave whenever I need it. We used to have a gas fridge, but it was jolly difficult to keep the temperatures right.'

'It was fine if we didn't open the fridge, but as soon as someone asked for a cold drink the rest of them all became lukewarm and people expect to be able to get cold drinks on a hot day.'

Previously residents were restricted to using generator power from 7.30am to 11am and 5pm to 11.30pm.

But a new wind turbine and solar panel scheme set up by the Isle of Muck Enterprise Company with help from SSE allows the islanders to look forward to a brighter future.

Mrs MacEwen said the scheme, funded by a near-£1 million Big Lottery Fund grant, would make a massive difference to everyday life on Muck.

She said: 'It's great to be able to put on the washing machine without having to worry if it's going to be finished before the power goes off.'

'We used to watch the television and worry if the programme was going to be finished before the lights went off. Having light during the day is going to make a big difference as well. We have an old house so it sometimes got very dark during the cold winter days and it was jolly difficult dealing with candles and torches.'

## Oban in line for historical anniversary fly-past

PLANS to mark the 100th anniversary of one of the earliest flights into Oban by aviation pioneer Harry Hawker will see a dramatic fly-past this summer.

Project Hawker will see a Catalina G-PBYA recreate the circuit of Britain flown by the Australian pilot and Harry Kauper, his mechanic, in August 1913.

A race around Britain, Harry completed the circuit in three days. The commemorative fly past though will take five days and is set to feature a stop in Oban.

Local historian Neil Owen, who is helping co-ordinate Project Hawker's arrival into Oban Airport on August 24, says plans are afoot for a day of celebrations.

During a recent visit to Oban Community Council, he said: 'We're hopeful we can build it into a big event. The thought is the plane could be open to the public and we can have a series of events across the town. There will be a flypast of Oban too - it could be quite spectacular. The potential is there to have the TV cameras there as well, it could be a real opportunity.'

Community councillors welcomed the idea and suggested a partnership between the project and BID4Oban could help build the event.

## Town looks for meeters and greeters

IF YOU love Oban, are keen to see the town prosper and enjoy meeting new people, BID4Oban wants to hear from you.

The new business group is recruiting four part time town ambassadors to be on hand throughout the tourist season to help visitors find attractions, which local business is best and even find parking spaces as part of a drive to make the town and the wider area more accessible.

BID4Oban manager Nic Jones believes finding the right people was key to the success of the ambassadorial roles.

He said: 'Personality is key to this role.'

'We need people who are passionate about Oban and what it has to offer, who can also communicate in a friendly way to visitors to the town.'

'They really have to embody the '100,000 welcomes' philosophy of the west Highlands.'

Applications for the posts are open now. To apply visit [www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk) or phone Jasmine on 01631 569915.

## Minister to address renewable conference

MINISTER for Energy Fergus Ewing will deliver the keynote speech at the Scottish Highland Renewable Energy Conference (SHREC) at the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness, on April 18.

Around 250 industry professionals and organisations are expected to attend the event, which is a key date in the renewable energy calendar.

This year's conference will focus on how people can get involved in renewables, including community groups, crofters, farms and estates and landowners.

It will also look towards next year's referendum and the Scottish Government's energy targets for 2020.



Imani's chairman Richard Hess, left, with Pauline Cameron and Roy Clunie as Rockfield's youngsters proudly display their books.

## Young writers revel in special book launch day

### Oban's Rockfield Primary School pupils gain inspiration

BUDDING writers at an Oban primary school were showing off their finished books at a special launch day last week.

Youngsters from Rockfield Primary School have spent the past few weeks writing and illustrating their books which range from fairytales to non-fiction stories about Africa.

The pupils combined writing their work with class projects. Children in primary five and six and in the Gaelic primary five, six and seven, met people from Oban involved with foundations and charities to inspire their writing.

The youngsters learned about Fairtrade from Pauline Cameron, Imani Development Foundation from its chief executive officer Roy Clunie, Vision Action from founder Ken MacDonald and Friends of Pebane from Neil Matheson.

### Focus

Lesley Ann Black, class teacher, told *The Oban Times* the whole school event was held every two years. She said: 'This gives the children a chance to really focus and concentrate on progressing their writing skills.'

'This is a sustained programme - they

use their research, art and numerical skills - it is a way of bringing writing right across the curriculum.'

### Confidence

'It helps build confidence and new skills and gives the children the chance to have something to show for their hard work at the end of the project.'

Mr Clunie, who spoke to the class about his work with Imani, added: 'They were fantastic, taking notes and really interested.'

'It is wonderful, they have put a lot of effort into their books and have been

really creative with their designs. They have found out lots of interesting facts by looking at education, diseases, growing crops - all different aspects of life in Africa.'

'The children have also learned how people in Scotland can help.'

Other classes wrote fictional stories for the book launch including children in primary two who spent two weeks completing their fairytales.

'They learned a lot and took ideas from other books and made their own,' said teacher Ann Macintyre.

## Skye site secrets to be revealed at seminar

ACADEMICS will reveal the secrets of two important archaeological sites on Skye at a free seminar in Inverness later this month.

'Underworld: the use of caves, rock shelters and underground places during the Scottish Iron Age' will focus recent work undertaken at High Pasture Cave and Fiscavaig Rock Shelter.

High Pasture Cave is one of the most important Iron Age ritual sites excavated in Britain.

In March last year archaeologists found the remains of what is believed to be the earliest

stringed instrument ever found in Western Europe. Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Fiona Hyslop revealed that a small wooden fragment found during the excavation had come from a lyre.

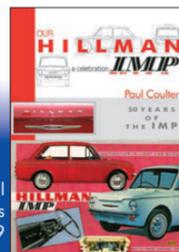
Places at the April 27 event at Highland Council headquarters on Glenquhart Road, will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. To book, contact 01463 702504 or email [archaeology@highland.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology@highland.gov.uk).

This year, the Year of Natural Scotland, marks the 20th anniversary of the Highland Archaeology Festival.

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**Price set for Oban lifeboat whisky**

OBAN Lifeboat's rare fundraising whisky is to go on sale for £195 a bottle.

The Oban Lifeboat Management Committee decided last Tuesday that a limited number of bottles of the 18-year-old single malt would go on sale this month. Two of the 297 limited edition bottles, gifted to the charity by Oban Distillery, sold at auction for £260 each last week.

At the lifeboat committee meeting £195 was agreed as the price because that was the average figure, out of all the suggested prices put forward by committee members.

The whisky will go on sale at Birchwood Service Station, Oban, next Tuesday (April 9) and additional bottles will be available for Internet buyers only, via the Green Welly Stop website.

**Pub deadline moves closer**

PUB giant JD Wetherspoon is no closer to confirming an opening date for its new Oban pub - despite having submitted an application for a licence.

Lodged last month, the company has applied for permission to open from 11am until midnight from Sunday-Thursday, and until 1am on Fridays and Saturdays. Objectors have until April 16 to lodge their concerns with the local authority.

**Mòd Dhailriada set for September**

THE 85th Mid Argyll Provincial Mòd will be held on September 21 this year.

Mòd Dhailriada has been held annually since 1922, with the exception of the war years.



The Oban Bay sperm whale kept a large crowd enthralled all weekend Picture - John MacTavish



Some spectators got a closer look at the 16 tonne visitor than others Picture - Kevin McGlynn

**'Lost' whale thrills crowds at Oban Bay**

'It seems apt in the year of Natural Scotland that it is helping bringing visitors to the area.'

THE UNEXPECTED arrival of a 40-foot sperm whale into the relatively shallow waters Oban Bay has delighted locals and visitors alike, while delivering a welcome boost to the start of the tourist season.

Crowds have been gathering on the North Pier and along Corran Esplanade to catch a glimpse of the whale - the largest predator on the planet - and waterside bed and breakfasts have been inundated with calls from people keen to find the best vantage point.

**Concern**

However, the arrival of the whale, estimated to be a young male weighing approximately 16 tonnes, on Saturday morning has also prompted concern for the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT), with the charity warning would-be whale spotters to keep their distance from the giant mammal, which may be ill.

That hasn't stopped people maintaining an interest - even if at distance.

Struan Smith, who runs boat charter firm Coastal Connection with twin brother Cameron, said: 'A lot of people have been gathering along the shore to look for it.'

'The bed and breakfasts along the waterfront seem to be get-

ting a lot of bookings too. 'We're supposed to stay away from it but we've only really had two people ask if we could sail next to it - I think they're happier watching from the shore. 'I don't know if it's ill but I hope it does get out of the bay.'

**Excitement**

Linda Battison, chairwoman of the Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA) echoed that sentiment.

'It's certainly caused quite a lot of excitement,' she said. 'It is good for the town from a tourism point of view but not so good for the poor whale because it's lost or ill.'

'While it is good that it's bringing visitors to the town I hope it also manages to get out okay.'

'It does seem apt though in the year of Natural Scotland that it is helping bringing visitors to the area.'

Olivia Harries, HWDT biodiversity officer, said: 'This is a spectacular animal but we are urging boat users to stay away from the whale where ever possible so as not to cause it distress.'

'While it's exciting to see an animal of this size so close to shore, sperm whales usually inhabit very deep waters - so we are concerned the whale may be

sick. 'Cetaceans have a tendency to come closer to shore when ill and can eventually warn. However, this individual may simply be confused and if so it will hopefully navigate to deeper waters eventually.'

The Coastguard has issued a warning to all boats warning them of a large, live whale in the bay and advised that they proceed with caution.

Chalice Charters, based in Oban, managed to take some impressive images of the sperm whale, showing the animal's characteristic tail fluke as it dives.

**Rare**

Chris Jackson, of Chalice Charters, said: 'We watched while the whale ranged north/south in the harbour keeping to deeper water - the maximum depth here is only about 40m.'

'The ferries did proceed with caution and there was little boat traffic about. At first I thought it was a humpback whale, but it certainly is a sperm whale - the first I've ever seen, so very exciting.'

Sightings of sperm whales are rare in the Hebrides but not unheard of. The last reported sighting to HWDT was a group of five individuals in the Sound of Raasay in February.

Despite reports being rare, the UK still has the highest number of sperm whale sightings in Northern Europe.

Sperm whales are the largest predator on the planet, with males reaching lengths of 18 metres.

They are found globally, although it is thought that only males frequent sub-polar regions. They famously dive to incredible depths to hunt a variety of prey, including the giant squid.

HWDT ask members of the public that encounter a whale, dolphin or porpoise - collectively known as cetaceans - to report sightings to HWDT through its website, www.hwdt.org.

'By reporting sightings, the public will be directly contributing to a better understanding of the local marine environment.'

'If people manage to take an image of cetaceans, we would be very grateful they could forward these to our sightings officer at sightings@hwdt.org.'

'Images can be used in photo identification studies - allowing our researchers to track the moments of individuals, collectively adding to the understanding of the different species, both locally and internationally,' added Olivia.

**Campbeltown lifeboat man saves the day by sleeping on the job**

AFTER last week's power cuts rendered the Campbeltown Lifeboat's communications system useless, operations manager George Bradley came to the rescue by sleeping in the station.

The lifeboat's paging system, along with mobile phones, were out of action for three days while the power was off, meaning there was no way of contacting the crew if a lifeboat was needed.

George slept in a sleeping bag for three nights in the cold station next to the landline

phone in case there were any emergency calls.

He said: 'When the power goes off the battery back-up lasts for 15 hours.'

'We get called out by Belfast Coastguard so I said if they need a lifeboat, phone the station.'

'Then I would go round the town and knock on doors to get a crew.'

Speaking about how cold it was without heating in the station, he explained: 'I had a flask of water in the kitchen but I didn't get

out of the sleeping bag to make a cuppa!'

George was quick to downplay his actions and highlight the hard work of all the lifeboat volunteers over the weekend, who made themselves available during the week of power cuts.

There were no lifeboat callouts, however the crew were kept busy, driving around the town passing announcements to residents using a Tannoy system, also assisting in transporting people from the outlying villages to Campbeltown Hospital.'



Oban High School pupils performed the first showcase of the traditional music programme.

**Showcase success for Oban High music project**

OBAN High School is hopeful its School of Traditional Music programme can be established as a three-year project after a successful first showcase event.

The 12 pupils who won a place on the programme performed to an audience at the high school last Tuesday. The students played a number of group sets with a great variety of jigs, reels, slow airs and Gaelic singing.

The pilot project, which has been running for eight weeks, has given pupils access to one-to-one tuition and ensemble work. The musical mastermind behind the project is Sileas Sinclair and as well as tutoring and arranging the sets she has been leading the ensemble work. Other tutors are Joanie Garvin on fiddle, Finlay Wells on guitar and Andrew Stephenson on flute, whistle and small pipes. In collaboration with the musicians, Eilidh MacInnes choreographed a couple of sets for her Highland dancing students who performed with the musicians.

Morven McKeerrell, the school's principal teacher of music, said: 'The School of Traditional Music would like to say a huge thank you to Roddy MacIsaac who has been instrumental in helping us gain the funding from Celtic Charity Fund.'

'We are very hopeful that the project will establish itself as a three-year programme where we can continue to promote traditional music in Oban High School.'

**Police appeal after injured man loses his memory in Oban**

A MAN who sustained a fractured skull and eye socket last weekend in Oban says he can't remember how he sustained the injuries.

The man, who is in his 40s and from Glasgow, was visiting a relative in the town. But sometime overnight between Saturday and Sunday, at the back of Airds Place, he sustained serious injuries to his face and head.

Police have not named the man but have appealed to any witnesses who may be able to say what happened to the man.

Acting chief inspector Alistair Davidson said: 'Anyone who saw or heard anything in that area last Saturday night into Sunday morning should get in touch.'

'The man is now out of hospital but suffered serious injuries and cannot recall the events prior to his injury.'

Anyone with any information can contact DS Keith Phillips at Oban Police Station on 01631 510500.

**Clarification over Campbeltown Grammar School closure**

THE OBAN Times would like to point out an inaccuracy in last week's report on the confusion over the closure of Campbeltown Grammar School.

The posting on facebook regarding the closure, which appeared to show conflicting information, has not prompted a formal review of internal communications.

Also, the posting was not removed from the council's 'weathering the storm' facebook page.

**Dunbeg roundabout plan to be discussed at Oban meeting**

PLANNERS will meet in Oban's Corran Halls later this month to run the rule over an application to build a roundabout near Dunbeg.

West Highland Housing Association's application for the roundabout, on the A85, will be discussed on April 16 from 11am.

**Most litter comes from locals say North Connel volunteers**

NEARLY a wheelie bin full of litter was dropped on a one mile stretch between North Connel and Ledaig every month over the winter - and locals are being blamed.

Two residents of Ledaig who became fed up of watching as the roadside verges became home to more and more litter decided to start doing a biannual clean up two years ago, but have been shocked by the volume of trash discarded from car and van windows during the last five months.

**Prime culprits**

After their latest litter pick, Frankie Lanos and Max Bonniwell decided to show people exactly how much rubbish they're collecting in a bid to end the 'unwelcome' practice of just throwing litter out the car window - adding that locals need to take as much responsibility as anyone.

Frankie, who first moved to Ledaig in 2010 from Oban, said: 'The rubbish which accumulated over the past five winter months on a one mile stretch of the A828, between the North Connel turn-off and the Moss Road, was sufficient to fill four wheelie bins.'

'The same stretch of road had yielded three wheelie bins full over the previous seven summer/autumn months.'

'From this evidence we have to come to the unwelcome conclusion that locals, rather than tourists, are the prime culprits.'

'Large numbers of tourists are attracted to this most beautiful part of Scotland in which we are privileged to live. We do ourselves and the environment no favours by treating it as a litter bin.'



Frankie Lanos with the latest batch of litter collected by her and Max Bonniwell between North Connel and Ledaig, near Benderloch.

The vast majority of discarded rubbish is from fast food containers, crisps bags, sweet wrappers, bottles and tins, although the pair have also found soiled nappies, condoms and, disgustingly, bags of sick.

Frankie added: 'We suspect that the main culprits may be 'white van men', but without having ever seen any litter being thrown from any vehicle - which is amazing considering how much there is - it might be unwise to jump to conclusions.'

Margaret Adams, chairman of Ardrachan Community Council that covers the area, said: 'I think it's an educational problem with people. It would be far better if people just used a bin.'

The issue is likely to be discussed at the next meeting of the community council, on April 16, North Connel Hall from 7.30pm.

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Morvern Lines

THERE have been dozens of songs and poems written about Morvern - the loveliest peninsula in Argyll. They were popular in the days when village hall ceilidhs were fashionable but as these traditional gatherings dwindled and became less 'cool', as they say, they are now just a distant folk memory. There were three songs in particular which were universally enjoyed in Lochaline. 'Caol Muile' - the Sound of Mull - was composed in Gaelic by the Rev John Macleod (1801-1882), for 58 years, minister of Morvern. The following translation is by one of Morvern's schoolmasters, the late Donald B Fletcher, who taught at Lochaline and Finlary.

*The Sound of Mull  
Afar I have been,  
But no place have I seen,  
Like Mull's Sound the Queen of them all:  
No change I desire  
For no place can inspire  
The love that has held me in thrall.*

*To the nor-ard ships sail  
In the teeth of the gale,  
Round the Steersman the fierce billows break;  
To the south-ard they sweep  
With speed through the deep,  
And their furrows lie far in the wake.*

*With joy I've been filled  
And with rapture enthralled,  
While watching the storm-king at play;  
But sweeter thy calm which lulled with its psalm  
My soul at the close of the day.*

*My beloved are no more  
They have gone from the shore  
In silence they creep to their graves:  
Oh, sweet is their sleep by the side of the deep,  
But they hear not the mirth of the waves!*

*I cannot depart  
From the joys of the heart,  
Though the voices alluring me call;  
For wherever I've been,  
No place have I seen  
Like Mull's Sound  
The Queen of them all.*

'The Exiles' was composed by Mr Rosslyn Mitchell (1863-1965), Labour MP for Paisley, who dedicated it to Mrs May L Smyllie, Secretary of The Glasgow Morvern Association. In this song Rosslyn Mitchell visualises two Morvern men serving in the armed forces - one a soldier in the desert sands of Libya and the other a sailor in the arctic regions, each dreaming of Morvern.

*I am wandering homeless in the Eastern lands,  
Where the blaze of sunshine never leaves me,  
And I long for water in the desert sands,  
Where the palm-tree vision but deceives me.*

*But my memories roam to a rock-bound shore,  
Where the wild waves foam and the rivers roar,  
And my mind wings homeward and I see once more  
The lovely Lynn of Morvern.*

*Though I toil in silence in the lifeless north,  
Where the black night's menacing surround me;  
And the icy tempests send their armies forth  
And the gloom of death is all around me.*

*Yet I sit and dream of a woodland scene,  
Where the bluebells gleam in their gowns of green,  
And the seabirds scream over Lochaline  
And the lovely moors of Morvern.*

*In my heart I feel I shall come one day,  
And at evening steal into Moidart Bay;  
And in silence on the heather pray  
For my lovely home in Morvern.*

For almost 50 years the motor vessel Lochinvar was Morvern's main link with the outside world. She sailed six days a week from Oban to Tobermory calling at Craignure, Lochaline, Salen (Mull) and Drimmin.

The Lochinvar and her crew were the stuff of legends and seldom missed a day because of the weather. She came off the Morvern run in 1955 and was sold by David MacBraynes. Renamed the Anzio she was wrecked in the Humber Estuary in 1966 with the loss of all crew. The following humorous shanty was written by the late Tommy McCrone, of Tobermory and Lochaline.

Chorus after each verse: Ricki do dum day, do dum day, ricky dicky do dum day

*I wanted to be a jolly jack tar  
To go to sea I felt inclined,  
So I joined the good ship Lochinvar  
As a bold AB I signed.*

*We left on a frosty morn at five  
With the first of a rising tide,  
Poor Charlie felt more dead than alive  
By the time we reached the Clyde.*

*Going round the Mull we fed the fish  
With rather a lavish hand,  
With an empty stomach and an earnest wish  
For God's own good dry land*

*At the tail of the bank we met with fog,  
The whistle would not blow,  
The bell was cracked and like a log  
Old Calum slept below.*

*At last we got to the Broomielaw  
And took aboard our stores  
The finest lassies you ever did see  
Saw us off for the Azores.*

*We were but three days out at sea  
When from some region far,  
Came a great big whale  
Who was wanting his tea  
And he gobbled up the Lochinvar.*

*For twenty days inside that whale  
We cruised and sailed about  
'Til we tied his tail to the old taffrail  
And we towed the b\*\*\*\*\* inside out.*

Ricki do dum day, do dum day, ricky dicky do dum day.  
**Iain Thornber.**



The triumphant Lochaber High School Senior Wind Band with head teacher Jim Sutherland. 20\_f14wind01

Lochaber High School band wins national prize

LOCHABER High School senior wind band has returned to Fort William as national champions after competing in Perth on Saturday March 23.

The band, conducted by Mark Reynolds, progressed through the regional rounds to get to the National Wind Band Finals - despite the weather seemingly doing its best to prevent them getting there.

The band thrilled the judges and were awarded a Gold Plus award, making them the Scottish champions in the 'achieving band' class. School head teacher Jim Sutherland said: 'This is a tremendous achievement and the whole school is extremely proud.'

Youngsters gain Duke of Edinburgh awards

MORE than 20 youngsters received Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) awards at a special ceremony in Oban Sailing Club last week.

This is the biggest number of awards ever handed out at one time to the Lorn group, one of 10 DofE groups in Argyll. Presenting the awards was Nona Thomas, the DofE development officer for Argyll and Bute, who said the youngsters had done 'exceptionally well'.

She said: 'The young people have shown real commitment and personal development through the Duke of Edinburgh programme. This broadens their horizons and increases confidence.'

**Helping others**  
'They also do a lot of voluntary work in the local community so they are helping others too. The scheme is all about personal development, teamwork and building new skills.'

The DofE awards scheme is open for people aged 14 to 25.

To complete the award they must fulfil four objectives: a skill section, voluntary section,



Group members proudly display their silver award certificates. 16\_t14doeaward01

physical section and expedition section.

The presentation last week was for bronze and silver achievements. Those from the group completing the gold

award will receive their awards at Holyrood.

To reach the gold award, which takes over a year, youngsters need to complete an additional residential section, where they go

away for five days. Anyone who wants to take part in the award scheme should contact Nona at nona.thomas@argyll-bute.gov.uk or for more information visit www.dofe.org.



The bronze award holders show off their certificates. 16\_t14doeaward02

High hopes for 2014 tourism boost as city hosts series of showpiece events

INVERNESS is to host a series of showpiece events for Homecoming Scotland 2014 either side of the September 18 independence referendum.

The Highland Homecoming (Tilleadh dhan Ghàidhealtachd) is expected to attract thousands of visitors and boost tourism over its five-week run.

It will open with Highland clans arriving for the inaugural Inverness Highland Meeting (Cruinneachadh Gàidhealach Inbhir Nis) on September 12, followed by the Inbhir Nis Homecoming Highland Games on September 13-14.

The games will feature the 2014 Masters World Championships, the world's biggest competition for heavy athletes. The 2014 Blas Festival finale and the Camanachd Cup Final take place over the same weekend.

The Homecoming will climax with two Gaelic events - Struileag/Shore to Shore and the Royal National Mòd.

Struileag, conceived and artistically directed by composer Jim Sutherland, who was raised in Thurso, is gathering testimony and songs from Gaels around the world in preparation for a performance incorporating poetry, music and film at Eden Court Theatre. The show will be streamed live around the

world and will live on as a book, a recording and a DVD. The 2014 Mòd will take place at competition venues around Inverness city centre and will feature local, national and international Gaelic performers.

The Highland Homecoming will end on a sporting theme with the annual Shinty Hurling International between Scotland and Ireland at Bught Park.

Highland Council leader Drew Hendry pledged to work with the Scottish Government to maximise economic spin-offs. He said: 'This is a very welcome boost to tourism in the Highlands which we can look forward to in 2014.'

Barra petition goes back to Holyrood

New attempt to block protected status plan

A CAMPAIGN against imposing protected status on two areas of water near the isle of Barra is to re-submit its petition to the Scottish Parliament.

Southern Hebrides Against Environmental Designations (SHAMED) originally submitted its petition calling for an investigation into the procedures and science used by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) when devising reasons to impose Special Area of Conservation status on two areas off the island, East Mingulay and the Sound of Barra, in November 2011.

It was rejected in December of that year, with the public petitions committee saying it had 'no remit to intervene in the operational decisions of another public body such as SNH'.

The committee also stated it would not be able to investigate specific decisions or reverse them.

However, SHAMED feel a decision by the committee to discuss a petition from the Fair Isle Community to request designations demonstrates a conflict and will once again approach the committee in a bid to have Barra's designations looked at again.

SHAMED's chairman Angus MacLeod said: 'It seems the Scottish Government can be asked to listen to the Fair Isle view on SNH decisions, but not the Southern Hebridean view. And, in considering the Fair Isle petition, isn't the Public Petitions Committee trying to influence the 'operational decisions' of public bodies, something they said to SHAMED was outwith their remit?'

'We will have to approach a new petition from a different angle but where we need real help is in ensuring it gets accepted by the Public Petitions



MP Angus Brendan MacNeil has been asked to lend active support.

Committee. Clearly we got the wording wrong first time round - although you can't help wondering whether the SHAMED petition was treated on an equal basis when you look at other petitions that have been accepted.'

He has also asked for the local SNP MP Angus Brendan MacNeil and MSP Alasdair Allan, to help progress the new petition.

He said: 'Our SNP MP, MSP and three local SNP councillors had a petition organised, approved and in front of the Public Petitions Committee inside of four weeks, fighting our corner for the restoration of the air service between Barra and Benbecula.'

'That is very impressive team work because it took me three weeks just to get a reply from the Petitions Committee.'

'So I have written to our MP asking him and his SNP colleagues to give the same level of active support to a new SHAMED petition.'

'We have no intention of giving up on this fight.'

Coping with emergencies

LOCHABER residents are being invited to a community resilience workshop in Fort William to learn more about being better prepared in times of emergency.

The Highland Council-run event in Lochaber House will offer guidance on how to cope with water, power and/or communications cuts in severe weather.

The workshop will advise on making everyone more able to look after themselves and each other until emergency responders, utility companies and others arrive on the scene.

The event will highlight the importance of having a household resilience plan with checklists of things people should have at home without water, electricity or phones for an extended period.

The meeting will also provide a chance to meet representatives from council departments, the utilities, emergency services and aid organisations such as the Red Cross.

Provost of Lochaber Councillor Allan Henderson said: 'Recent heavy snowfalls in the south of Scotland have highlighted how vulnerable communities are and how necessary it is for everyone to be prepared.'

The event on April 18 will run from 3pm to 7pm.

Drink charge woman sentenced

A FORT William woman who bought alcohol for four 15-year-old girls leading to police being called to a teenage house party has been ordered to carry out 120 hours of unpaid work.

Lauren Findlay, of 2 Dun Deardail, Claggan, previously admitted collecting cash to buy three bottles of spirit from a store in Bruce Place before taking a taxi into town to buy three more. Police later attended a flat where they found around 30 youngsters in various states of intoxication. Findlay initially told police she bought the alcohol for an 18-year-old male friend, but officers soon uncovered the truth.

The 18-year-old pled guilty to buying alcohol on November 17 for four underage girls, and to attempting to pervert the course of justice between November 17 and 29 at various addresses in Fort William.

Fort man denies drink driving

A FORT William man has denied drink driving in the town.

Pedro Narvaez, 43, of 115 Kennedy Road, pled not guilty to being one-and-a-half times the legal limit while driving on Kennedy Road on March 4. He is due to stand trial on June 5.

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# Oban groups for young children set to close

TWO MUCH-LOVED groups for young children in Oban are to close at the end of June as a result of an increase in pre-school places in the town. Smarties Nursery and Tweenies Creche, a registered charity which has been going for more than 10 years, is based in the town's Atlantis Leisure centre, but operated by a separate voluntary committee. It will close on June 27. Smarties provides pre-school

care for children aged three and up while Tweenies is a crèche for children aged two. A spokeswoman for the committee said the decision to close had not 'been taken lightly' adding: 'With the increase in pre-school providers over the past couple of years there has been a reduction in the number of children registered for our service. We would like to thank Atlantis Leisure and all of our

parents and carers past and present for their continued support.' Simon Thomson, a father of one of the children who currently attends Tweenies, described the decision to close as a 'real shame'. He said: 'My wife and I are looking at our wee boy and thinking how much he loves it. How do I explain to him that he can't go any more? He has come on leaps and bounds since

starting in January. It has done him a lot of good.' Simon and his wife Kimberly are now struggling to find an affordable nearby pre-three alternative for their son. He added: 'If the new facility at Park Primary School were to provide a pre-three group that would be something we would hope. I'm just hoping above all hope Tweenies can be saved. Our wee lad gets such a lot of benefit from it and we are really

keen to keep that going. It is as if it has just been left to fall by the wayside. It seems to suit people that it is closing.' But the spokeswoman confirmed that despite advertising and starting a Facebook page to encourage applicants there had been so few children signed up to Smarties next year it would have been 'financially impossible' to continue either service into August. The decision to close was

taken jointly with Argyll and Bute Council. A spokeswoman for the council said: 'We have been working with Smarties and Tweenies to offer help and support to allow them to sustain their existing pre-three provision. There are no current plans for pre-three provision being offered by the council. There are other providers and as a council we offer support and guidance to these providers.'

## Lorn Lines

OBAN Mountain Rescue Team has congratulated a Royal Navy pilot who has been awarded the Air Force Cross for his part in a rescue on an Argyll mountain.

Lieutenant Commander Craig Sweeney led his search and rescue crew on the night-time callout to Beinn Sgualard, near Glen Etive, on December 18 2011, in what he described as 'one of the most challenging rescues' he had undertaken. In blizzard conditions, Oban Mountain Rescue Team members Lucy Heycock, Ian Campbell and Rich Abell also assisted in the successful rescue of climber Dr Gareth Bradley, who was suffering with a broken ankle.



Some of the volunteers in Oban Bay during the Big BID Beach Clean. 15\_11311ter01

NEARLY 40 people of all ages turned out to clean the shoreline of Oban Bay, organised by BID4Oban. The first Big BID Beach Clean on Sunday afternoon filled more than 70 bags of rubbish, in addition to wooden pallets and other large objects washed into the bay. BID4Oban thanked the volunteers and groups who took the time to help with the project including the Cubs, Beavers and Scouts from 1st Argyll troops and their parents, and to the council for the removal of the waste collected. Coasters provided tea and coffee for all of the volunteers and Markie Dans served up bacon rolls. The clean up was arranged as part of BID4Oban's plans for environmental improvement work throughout the town, which include working with groups to tidy Station Square and other areas of the town, working with businesses and the first round of the Business Frontage Scheme and working with the council to clean the streets, planters and pavements pre-Easter.



OBAN SWRI welcomed Isobel Smith, long serving rural member, for a hands-on smoking demonstration at a recent meeting. Smoking is a traditional decorative technique where pleated fabric is hand stitched with bright threads in a variety of patterns. Historically it was used to add colour and interest to clothes, however, there were practical applications including milk maids shoulders being protected from heavy loads by the pleated smoking. Isobel received a house plant in thanks for her excellent demonstration and many hours preparing the practice fabrics. It was silvers all round for Lyndsay Elliott's hand made Easter card, and first time entrants mother and daughter, Jenny Miller and Ruth Russell's fresh lemon curd. Oban SWRI extend a warm welcome to guests or new members with meetings on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Guide Hall in Oban.

Email your news and views from Oban and Lorn direct to [epaterson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:epaterson@obantimes.co.uk)



WRVS locality manager Elaine Grealey and Josephine Mill present a cheque to Veronica Kennedy and local podiatrist Douglas McNab as hospital staff and WRVS volunteers look on. 16\_114wrvs01

# WRVS donates more than £20,000 to Oban hospital podiatry unit

THE OFFICIAL opening of the refurbished shop and café in Oban's Lorn and the Islands Hospital saw more than £20,000 donated to the hospital. All profits from the shop, which is run by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS), is gifted back to the NHS. The cost of refurbishing the shop and café, a total of £65,000, was also met by the WRVS. The cheque for £20,014, handed over to Veronica Kennedy, hospital manager, last week, will help improve the podiatry department.

She said: 'We are so grateful we have this money to invest in the podiatry department. We looked for a service area in the hospital that would support the older person in the community - podiatry was most fitting. This will pay for refurbishing the department to enhance the service we currently provide.' The podiatry department was described as a 'core service' for older people but which also supports people of all ages from the community.

Josephine Mill, area manager for the WRVS, presented the cheque at a special ceremony and said the amount of money was down to the 'hard work of volunteers'. Gift She added: 'We have got a really good facility now and hope we can continue to gift such amounts. There are around 30 volunteers in the shop and this is all down to their hard work. But the biggest part of what we do is in the community rather than in the hospital. Our volunteers could

be out doing meals on wheels one day and responding to an emergency like the recent one in Campbeltown the next.' Josephine added the WRVS is keen to have closer ties with the hospital - the volunteers are currently working towards gaining a healthy living award for the café - and will be providing more services for visitors in the future. The group is also developing a mobile service where volunteers will help care for older people in Argyll in their own homes.

# Projects finally get CHORD money

## £6.9m to be spent improving Oban

THE £6.9m set aside for Oban as part of the CHORD project has now been allocated to projects within the town.

The Oban CHORD Project Board met last Thursday to permit Argyll and Bute Council planners to implement plans to spend the full sum, which includes £2.6m on the 'Oban Bay Public Realm'; £3.5m on the 'North Pier Quarter'; £100,000 on a new lighting strategy for the town; £360,000 on the South Pier and £145,000 set aside to fund a project manager's post for three years. After nearly six years of delay to the money being spent, the agreed action came as welcome news to project board members. Councillor Louise Glen-Lee, who chairs the project board, said: 'In Oban we have been dancing around the handbags for long enough. It is great news that we have finally decided how to spend the money.'

The public realm project will see Stafford Street transformed into a pedestrianised area, creating a link to the north pier to form a 'north pier quarter', which includes the re-development of the White Building. The North Pier will be extended with a permanent breakwater sheltering a transit marina for visiting yachts, cruise tenders and charter vessels. Oban councillor Roddy McCuish said at the project board meeting: 'We have seen plenty of reports and plans over the years but none of them came from a joined up approach. I think this plan is joined up, which is a good thing, and it is now time to take that leap of faith.'

## Backing for rural post boxes

OFCOM has announced increased protection for rural post boxes at risk of removal because of low volumes. For the first time, the postal watchdog proposes to extend current rules governing the number of boxes in towns to country areas. The move aims to ensure Royal Mail provides sufficient boxes to meet 'the reasonable needs' of rural users. Ofcom also backed the universal postal service, which guarantees six collections and deliveries per week and a first class next-day delivery service no matter the location. Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy said: 'An efficient postal service is crucial for rural communities. This latest measure will be welcomed across the constituency by residents and businesses.'

## Walkers airlifted to hospital

TWO MEN fell on a frozen snow slope while walking near Loch Treig in Lochaber around 1pm last Wednesday afternoon. One man slid approximately 100 metres then his companion fell going to his aid. A Royal Air Force rescue helicopter was dispatched to the scene along with members of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team. Both men were airlifted to Belford Hospital in Fort William for treatment to cuts, bruises and abrasions. One man also sustained a broken wrist. Both were discharged following treatment.



Chief inspector Brian Auld welcomes Alistair Davidson. 15\_113chie01

# Police chief leaves Lorn and the Isles in good hands

THE OUT-GOING area police commander of Oban, Lorn and the Isles says he is leaving the sub division in good hands, having made huge strides in battle against drugs and violence. Chief inspector Brian Auld will take up a new post as area commander for West Dunbartonshire on April 1, the same day Police Scotland, the national police force, comes into effect. He hands over temporary responsibility for the area to acting chief inspector Alistair Davidson, who has been working in Argyll for the past eight years. Chief Inspector Auld made an instant impact on taking up the post in Oban, overseeing Operation Independence which, in June 2011, targeted drug dealers in the town and resulted in 13 people being charged. During his term in charge, there have also been reductions in the numbers of serious assaults and disorder. He said: 'I knew there were concerns in the community in terms of drug dealers and Operation Independence had a significant impact on that. Between 2010 - 2011 there were 13 detections of drug dealing and in 2011 - 2012 that rose to 49, mainly because of the operation. I would also like to recognise the work of the special constables and community councils in this area. Their support has been immense.' Acting Chief Inspector Davidson will be a familiar face in Argyll. He came to Oban as a sergeant in 2005, before taking up the inspector's position in Lochgilphead four years later. Last year he returned to Oban as detective inspector. He said: 'I have lived and worked in Argyll since 2005, so I have a vested interest in the area and I feel it gives me the experience to carry out the role from an informed position. I will try to maintain the high standard set by the previous area commander.'

## Upper Achintore business unit plans in public spotlight

UPPER Achintore residents have welcomed plans to build a number of small business units in their part of Fort William. Highlands and Island Enterprise (HIE) has planning permission, subject to certain conditions, to create new business bases on a 1.25 acre site next to the former Angus Centre. A public meeting in Upper Achintore Primary School at 6.30pm on Tuesday will let local people have their say. Jackie Carswell, chairwoman of Upper Achintore Residents' Association, told *The Oban Times*: 'It is an exciting and welcome initiative and should help the local economy by giving local people the opportunity of starting their own businesses. Scott Dingwall of HIE said: 'Our intention is to secure detailed permission in order to be able to work with suitable businesses who wish to base themselves on the site. Any development is likely to be on a phased basis depending on demand and we welcome input from any members of the public who wish to come along to the meeting.'

# Operation Easter launched ahead of nesting season

A CAMPAIGN to protect the eggs and chicks of birds of prey across the country, including eagles on the west coast of Scotland, is back for 2013. Operation Easter is a national campaign, run for the first time this year by the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU), based in Livingston, which aims to tackle illegal falconries benefiting from crime. Birds have already started nesting for the season with some having laid eggs, leaving the nests vulnerable to thieves. Paul Wheelhouse, environment

minister and chairman of the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) Scotland, said: 'Egg collecting continues to pose a very real threat to rare and famous Scottish species such as the osprey, the white-tailed eagle, the peregrine falcon to others such as the less well-known Slavonian grebe and black-throated diver. Much progress on stamping out this inexcusable damaging practice has been made in recent years, but some egg thieves are still known to be operating.' Detective Inspector Nevin Hunter,

head of the NWCU, added: 'Many bird species are becoming less common for a number of ecological reasons. They can well do without the added pressure of egg thieves and illegal disturbance. The latter is particularly worrying as we are increasingly receiving reports that egg collectors have moved into this area of activity. We will do everything possible to gain good intelligence that brings these wildlife criminals before the court.' Changes to the law have seen a

number of egg thieves receiving jail sentences and last year a London man, caught stealing eggs on Rum, and previously imprisoned five times for taking birds' eggs, was given an ASBO banning him from Scotland between February 1 and August 31 for the rest of his life. The police are appealing for help from the public. 'If you have information on any wild bird's egg thieves, or those who disturb rare nesting birds without a licence, you should contact your local police station by dialling 101 and ask to speak to a wildlife crime officer.'

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**INVERGARRY**

MEMBERS of Invergarry Bowls Club tried their hand at a different type of bowling when they visited the 10-pin bowling lanes at the Nevis Centre in Fort William.

Alex Campbell had the highest score of the evening with 188 and he and Gordon Clark were equal for most consecutive strikes.

**CAMPBELTOWN**

AN EXHIBITION of work by one of Scotland's most loved artists - who was born near Campbeltown - is to go on display for the first time.

William MacTaggart, born in 1835, is regarded as one of the greatest interpreters of the Scottish landscape.

The exhibition, to be held in Duff House, Banff, includes scenes of Scottish land and seascapes as part of a programme of events by Historic Scotland to celebrate The Year of Natural Scotland.

Rachel Kennedy, Duff House general manager, said: 'William MacTaggart is regarded as one of Scotland's most outstanding and innovative artists. But unlike many of his contemporaries, he chose to work almost exclusively in Scotland.'

'He was the son of a crofter, born on the west coast of Scotland and his native land was a constant source of inspiration for him.'

'It provided him with a wealth of subject matter and the everyday scenes of fishing communities, breathtaking views of the ocean and sheltered bays along the Scottish coast, feature heavily in his work.'

The exhibition will feature more than 20 stunning watercolours, compositional studies and oil paintings by MacTaggart, who passed away in 1910. There will also be a selection of rarely seen personal memorabilia including the artist's paint palette, brushes and Royal Scottish Academy medals.

Photography from the MacTaggart family album will also be on display depicting his true inspiration - his family and surroundings.

The exhibition, which runs from April 6 to June 30, also features rare studies made by MacTaggart when he was a young student.

**LOCHAWHE**

AT THE March meeting of the Lochawe institute, members from SWRIs in Taynuilt and Glenorchy and ladies from the lochside joined in an evening of floral arranging.

This interesting demonstration was by Angela Guy, from Oban, who commenced by decorating a presentation wine bottle using a small 'button' of adhesive-backed oasis, already moistened, attached to the ribbon.

Using the same type of oasis, she made an attractive corsage, attaching it to one member's wrist.

All her arrangements were beautiful. Competition: Spring



**Nursery youngsters raise Marie Curie funds**

Fort William Gaelic Nursery youngsters held a daffodil-themed school disco and raised £280 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. The children planted daffodils, made paintings of the flowers and daffodil-shaped bookmarks, and held a tea party in the nursery with parents and friends invited along. Nursery assistant Francis O'Connell said: 'The disco went extremely well. The kids all loved it.' The nursery kids are pictured posing with their daffodils after their tea party.

floral arrangement of any size: J O'Connell - gold; P MacLeod - silver.

An excellent tea was provided by hostesses V Williams, J Buchanan, M MacKenzie and J McHardy.

**PLOCKTON**

PLOCKTON and District Community Council meeting notes:

Plans for a new play area at Rhu are almost ready for submission for planning approval.

Burnside area safety issue - the community council hopes signs at the bridge will soon be moved and new safety measures adopted, including speed bumps.

Roads - Plockton to Kyle needs improvements and Harbour Street, Plockton, is in urgent need of repairs.

Church of Scotland, Plockton - the church is still not on the market due to sorting out title conditions.

New hospital for Skye and Lochalsh - NHS promised to send a representative to the community council meeting, but cancelled on the day of the meeting.

Work is due to begin repairing the Duirinish-Dunraig railway fencing on April 1.

Plockton High School has adopted Plockton Station and a plaque will be presented to them on April 26.

Plockton craft house has been empty for more than two years with the National Trust for Scotland undecided what to do with it.

Shelter at all weather pitch - some progress has been made in providing this long overdue facility.

The community council is holding a village clean-up on April 26. Next meeting is on April 22 in Plockton Hall.

SKYE and Lochalsh Sports Council, Portree High School, March 18.

Before the meeting began

chairman Charlie M Macrae called for a minute's silence in memory of Dr Julian Thoms, Portree, a member of the council who had died recently.

He congratulated Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club for being awarded the RYA's club of the year and Ruth Gordon from Portree, who came third in the UK at a recent swimming event in Leeds for under 13s. The meeting also congratulated John Nicolson from Portree who

was present on his recent 90th birthday.

Grants totalling £1,000 were awarded to Cullin Wheels, Lochalsh Hockey Club, Skye Camanachd and Skye and Lochalsh Junior Football Association. Sarah Ross, Skye and Lochalsh schools co-ordinator gave a comprehensive report on her recent activities. Next meeting is the AGM in Portree on April 29.

CM MacRae.



Deputy head girl Heather MacKenzie presents Mrs Bankhead with flowers on her retiral.

**Fond farewell to school librarian after 30 years**

PLOCKTON High School bade farewell to one of its longest serving and best-known members of staff before the Easter break when Ruth Bankhead retired after almost 30 years as school librarian.

Mrs Bankhead has been associated with the school since her late husband Austin was appointed head of art in 1973.

After working as a supply teacher - being a qualified teacher of art herself - Mrs Bankhead has been at the centre

of school life in every sense as librarian since 1984.

Colleagues made a presentation to Mrs Bankhead at a special social gathering in the school and deputy head girl Heather MacKenzie presented Mrs Bankhead with a bouquet of flowers in the library.

Plockton High School rector Duncan Ferguson said: 'We wish her well for a well-earned and long retirement and record sincere thanks for her long and dedicated service to our school.'

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**LISMORE**

THE GRANNY Bus coffee day at the Wee Manse was well supported as everyone agrees this is an excellent service.

Two kinds of soup, both delicious, were on offer with sandwiches and home baking. The Granny Bus is well used and about 20 volunteers keep it going; a great tribute to the generosity of islanders.

The service is available to anyone aged over 75 - or younger if disabled - and it regularly ferries people to appointments on and off Lismore as well as to the heritage centre, the shop and ferries.

LISMORE Lumiere's programme for the weekend of March 23 was interrupted by the 20-hour power cut the island suffered between Friday night and Saturday afternoon.

A Royal Affair, a Danish film, was unable to be shown on Friday March 22 although Skyfall was appreciated by those who made it the following evening. Lismore Lumiere's next outing is foreign language film Rust and Bone (18) at 8pm on April 13 and on April 14 The Hobbit (PG) at 3pm.

LISMORE Gaelic Heritage Centre re-opened on Friday March 29 with a major new exhibition The Lismore Ploughmen.

There was also the launch of its dedicated new website www.lismoregaelicheritagecentre.org. A newly stocked shop and the Isle of Lismore cafe are also ready to welcome visitors.

This season entry is by donation and initially it is open seven days from 11am until 4pm. The Heritage Centre runs almost exclusively on volunteer labour and, in preparation for the opening, assistant curator Lorraine King and manager Nic Jones held an informative training day for the 19 volunteers who keep the centre open seven days a week in the season.

Lismore is lucky to have so many volunteers as many places struggle to get the numbers needed to stay open.



Bob Hay, Curator Archives, shows the new season volunteers the museum room.

Thorough instruction was given in fire safety and first aid before the four curators each spoke about their areas of expertise and what would be displayed.

In addition, Maureen Mitchell explained how the volunteer roster works and Lesley

Hamilton spoke about the shop which she is taking over after it had been competently run by Ina MacColl for several years.

After soup and sandwiches, provided by Beth Campbell, volunteers visited all areas of the centre for further instruction.

**EASDALE**



One youngster enjoys the result of her culinary efforts.

CHILDREN at Easdale Primary School became budding chefs when Keren Cafferty from the Puffer Bar and Restaurant visited.

The youngsters wanted to say a 'huge thank you' to Keren for showing them how to make stovies and cranachan.

The children and parent helpers enjoyed making and tasting these traditional dishes and were looking forward to preparing and serving these at their end of term ceilidh last week.

**KYLEAKIN**



Kyleakin Primary School youngster Catherine Vass was named runner up in a national book review competition, winning £15 of book tokens. The P2 pupil's review of 'Solomon Crocodile' by Catherine Raynor also won her a certificate in the Scottish Book trust competition. A happy Catherine is pictured with her certificate.

**Pupils recognised at Red Card award ceremony**

BALLACHULISH Primary P7 pupils Rhiona McLauchlan and Ethan Hornby, together with class teacher Fiona McSorland, represented the school at the Show Racism the Red Card annual award ceremony at Hampden Park on Thursday March 21.

Sanjeev Kohli - best known as long-suffering shopkeeper Navid in the comedy series

**BALLACHULISH**

Still Game - and Dundee United footballer Mark Millar presented the Ballachulish delegation with a special recognition certificate. Head teacher Sam Clark said: 'The highlight of their day was getting shown round Hampden.'



**Invergarry pupils brave snow to tackle old station restoration**

Invergarry Primary School pupils braved snow and strong winds to help with the restoration of the old Invergarry train station. The school has been learning about transport this term, including the old Spean Bridge to Fort Augustus line. The station site was abandoned in 1956 with the Invergarry Station Preservation Society working hard to restore it to former glories. School head teacher Jane Strachan said: 'Children were enthusiastically pulling off decades of moss and undergrowth to reveal the old platform edge. The school will follow the project over time and hope to revisit and help again.'

**BARRA**

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar's MSP says he's 'encouraged' by the strength of commitment to build a new hospital on Barra - but has called for greater urgency.

Following a meeting with health secretary Alex Neil, Alasdair Allan encouraged NHS Western Isles and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to work together 'as a matter of urgency' on the development of an initial agreement for the replacement of the current facilities.

The Scottish Government had earlier confirmed it had identified funding for the new facility. He said: 'The release of this funding would be subject to the development and approval of a robust business case.'

'I completely understand why the community in Barra is anxious for further progress and believe that working in partnership the NHS and the Comhairle can achieve this.'

**WESTER ROSS**

EASTER visitors to Beinn Eithe National Nature Reserve in Wester Ross are following a pair of sea eagles live from the nest.

The award-winning visitor centre at Kinlochewe, run by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), opened its doors for the season last Thursday. Visitors can watch the eagles thanks to new remote cameras.

SNH's Kenny Nelson said: 'Both sea eagles are currently sitting tight on their eggs so fingers crossed all goes well in terms of raising young this year.'

**BADENOCH**

WEST HIGHLAND and Badenoch community groups are to benefit from two separate landfill funds.

Dornie Community Play Park, Newtonmore Community Woodland and Development Trust and the Angling Advisory Service for Gairloch and Portree each receive £10,000 from Highland Council's Community Landfill Fund.

The council, as a landfill operator, sets aside £80,000 each year for local projects promoting biodiversity conservation and public amenities. Meanwhile, Uig Community Trust on Skye gets £10,000 from the Avondale Community Landfill Fund to upgrade the local play park.



**Tirescouts' pyjama walk boosts Comic Relief**

Sleepy looking scouts helped raise more than £430 for Comic Relief - by holding a sponsored pyjama walk. The Second Argyll (Tire) Scout Group donned their onesies, pyjamas and dressing gowns to brave the March chill to walk a mile around the school block for Red Nose Day. The scouts thanked everyone who attended and volunteer firefighters who came along with the fire engine to lead the pupils around.



Portree Primary School pupils who have been showing racism and sectarianism the red card.

**Pupils' anti-sectarianism song wins national prize**

A GROUP of pupils and staff from Portree Primary School have scooped a national P5-P7 prize for their anti-sectarianism song.

At the Show Racism the Red Card Scottish schools awards ceremony at Hampden Park in Glasgow, Portree won £100 and a signed Ross County football. Pupils were also treated to goody bags and a tour of the stadium, when they met some celebrities. The song's last four lines read: 'We're all in Scotland, let's be a team/ Let's stop the fighting and being mean/ Let's try to lend a helping hand, together make a

**PORTREE**

better land/ Strong together we will stand a family.'

At the March 21 event, young people from schools and colleges across Scotland joined some of Scottish football's leading lights to stand united against racism and sectarianism. The competition, organised in partnership with the Scottish Qualifications Authority and the Scottish Football Association, was billed as a creative way of getting anti-racism and anti-sectarianism messages across.

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**Off-piste skier dies in Glencoe avalanche**

THE AVALANCHE death toll in Glencoe this year stands at five after searchers found the body of an off-piste skier near Glencoe Mountain Resort on Sunday.

Daniel Maddox, aged 41, from Clackmannanshire, died in a huge snowslide on Meall a Bhuiridh on Saturday afternoon.

See full story, page 8.

**Hunt continues in Knoydart for missing journalist**

NO TRACE of an Inverness journalist missing in remote country north of Knoydart has been found despite an extensive search operation involving police, coastguard, mountain rescue teams and helicopters.

Clive Dennier's Volkswagen Polo was discovered at Kinloch Hourm but the 50-year-old remains unaccounted for.

Mr Dennier was reported missing 10 days ago.

It is believed he had gone hillwalking.

Police said on Tuesday: 'Unfortunately for Clive's family and friends, he has not been located.'

'We are grateful for the continued assistance from all agencies and the public.'

**Caol man denies making up story about being mugged**

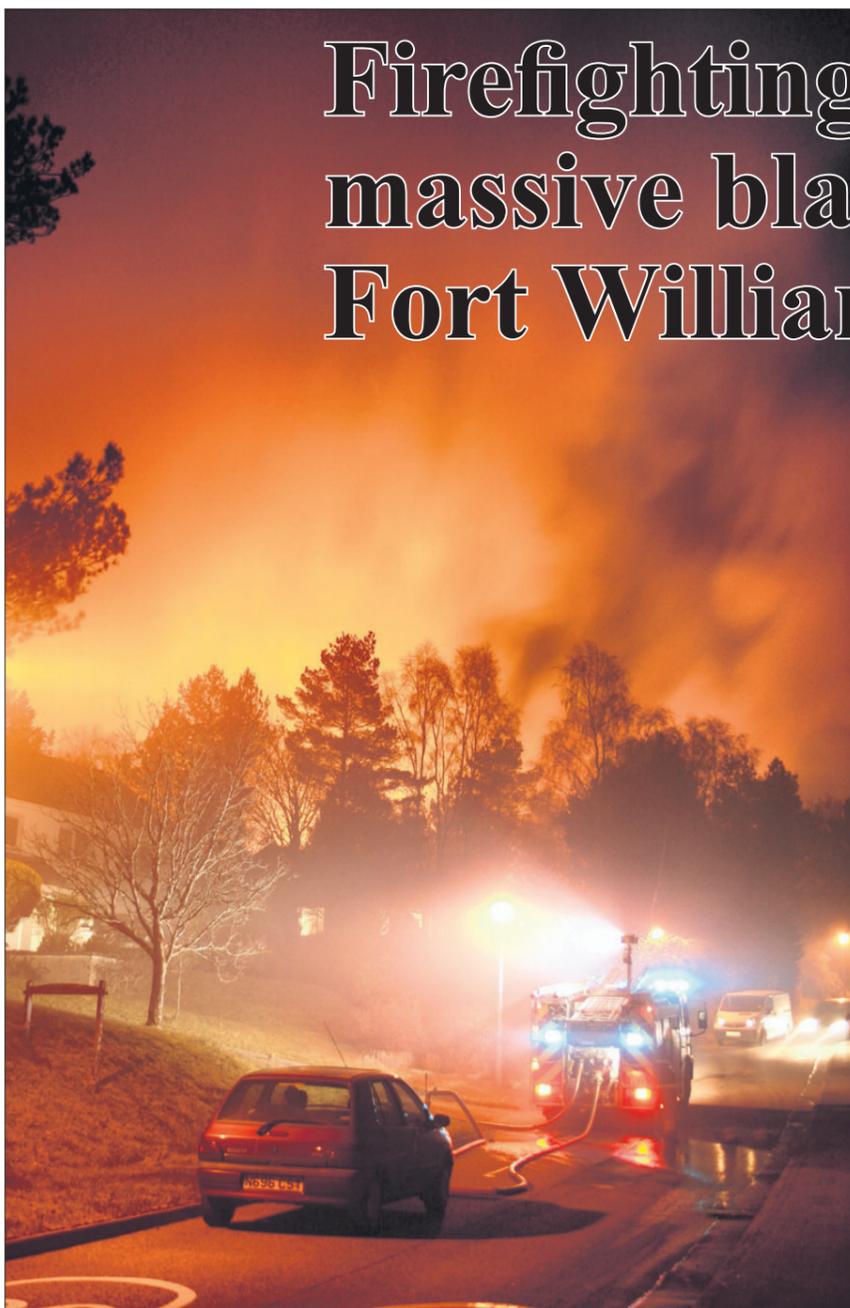
A CAOL man has denied fabricating a story about being mugged by a masked man while cycling through Canal Parks.

An area of woodland was cordoned off for around 24 hours after James Mathers, 35, told police he had been struck on the face by a man who then stole his wallet which contained £180 on November 27.

The claim raised further fears in the village, as it came just 12 days after an elderly shopkeeper was held up at knife-point in Caol shopping centre.

Mathers, of 16 Cameron Place, is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on June 5, with a further hearing set for April 24.

# Firefighting heroes stop massive blaze yards from Fort William homes



Raging inferno: the wildfire approaches local homes on Monday night. Photograph courtesy of Sally Hudson.

HERO firefighters stopped a massive wildfire just yards from homes near Fort William on Monday night.

Corpach residents closest to the raging inferno were packed up and ready to leave as the blaze approached.

But fire crews and beaters, aided throughout the day by accurate helicopter waterbombing, managed to prevent flames from reaching properties in Badabrie and Pobs Drive.

The wildfire burnt three square miles of moorland along a four-mile front as it swept down Banavie Hill and Druim Fada towards nightfall.

Artist Felicity Nightingale, 55, who lives in Pobs Drive with her two daughters, told *The Oban Times*: 'The fire reached the line of trees and pine woods at the end of Pobs Drive but the fire crews saved them.'

'We were all standing there and looking grim - I think the worst thing was not knowing what to do.'

'I did pack up the car and had the garage doors open so we could drive away in case

REPORT BY STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

The flames leaped across. But the fire crews were wonderful and stopped it. We are just so grateful to them all.'

Kilmallie Community Council secretary Russell Leaper said local member Christine Hutchinson, from Badabrie, sheltered her 84-year old neighbour whose home was at risk.

He said: 'Christine was very impressed how the fire services ran from house to house dealing with each firefront as it came down. She lost power as well for a while.'

He added: 'We heard many accounts of superb work by the police and fire services who worked so effectively to minimise the damage.'

'Kilmallie Community Council would like to pass on our thanks and appreciation to all those involved.'

Kilmallie Shinty Club manager Duncan Kelly watched the fire

sweep down a mile from his Camaghael home.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'My mate is building a kit house over there just now and he was up there trying to stop the fire getting to it.'

'The fire started at the back of Banavie and was just going up one side of the hill but then it suddenly spread.'

Hundreds of amazed onlookers watched the drama unfold from vantage points across Loch Linnhe in Fort William.

Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy said on Tuesday: 'I have never witnessed anything quite on the scale of yesterday's massive hill fire above Banavie and Corpach.'

'But most of all it makes us all profoundly grateful for the professional expertise and courage of our firefighters and the other emergency services.'

Firefighters also tackled wildfires at Morar, Glenfinnan, Kishorn and Plockton on Tuesday. Crews were also in action at smaller wildfires in the Western Isles and on the Isle of Skye.

## Business as usual at aluminium smelter despite prolonged dry spell

ALUMINIUM production at Rio Tinto Alean's (RTA) Lochaber Smelter remains unaffected by the prolonged dry weather - for the time being.

Sufficient water is still flowing through huge pipes round Ben Nevis from lochs Treig and Laggan to keep the turbines turning.

But weeks without rain combined with low temperatures in the mountains delaying snowmelt has significantly reduced water levels.

Burns either remain frozen or

are running at a trickle in the driest late winter and spring for many years.

RTA Lochaber Smelter spokesperson Jim Beattie told *The Oban Times*: 'There is no impact on production as yet. We are monitoring the situation closely because it has been a very dry spell.'

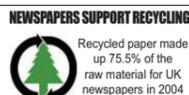
Forecast

He added: 'There is rain in the forecast so we are praying that is the case.'

Mr Beattie was unable to say if or when production would

be affected if the drought continues. Huge amounts of power are required for the smelting process, which is only viable at Fort William because the plant produces its own hydro electricity.

The Met Office forecasts no rainfall for Fort William through Saturday.



Alistair MacGregor, chairman of Oban and Lorn Youth Pipe Band Association, and Arthur Gillies, president of Oban Pipe Band accept the cheques from Netherlorn Piping Society president Alistair Dewar. 15\_114pipecheque01

## Netherlorn Piping Society boosts bands' funding

NETHERLORN Piping Society marked its final recital of the season by presenting two cheques to pipe bands in Oban.

Oban Pipe Band, the town's adult band, and Oban and Lorn Youth Pipe Band Association (OLYPBA), which funds Oban High School's two bands, each received £1,000 to help towards travel costs to this year's competitions.

Netherlorn Piping Society president Alistair Dewar said: 'When we resurrected the society nine years ago we set out to support pip-



Willie McCallum was the headline performer at the final society recital. 15\_114netherlorn09

## Solution may be on horizon for Bridge of Orchy water problems

Council agreed to repair and upgrade if Scottish Water adopt in long-term

A MEETING between the Scottish Government, Scottish Water and Argyll and Bute Council looks to have found a solution to the water problems in Bridge of Orchy.

While the council has agreed to repair and upgrade the water supply, with financial assistance from village residents, Scottish Water will adopt the supply as part of its next capital budget from 2015 to 2021.

Public meeting

A date will soon be set for a public meeting in Bridge of Orchy to discuss the proposal.

The plan has received a cautious welcome from residents of the tiny Argyll village, who have just come through their third winter without a reliable water supply. Just last weekend residents and visitors to the village were without water after the supply tank froze.

Joe Barnwell, chairman of the Bridge of Orchy Community Association, said: 'This is a similar proposal to what was offered by the council before but they wanted to repair it and walk away, leaving us with the liability. That was never going to happen.'

'If you take this proposal at face value we are getting what we hoped for and that

is a good thing.

'It is just a pity it has taken this long to get Scottish Water on board because it just seemed that to them, a private water supply was a taboo subject.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, who included cabinet secretary for infrastructure Nicola Sturgeon MSP in the discussions, said: 'A letter has gone to residents explaining the role for the council in repairing and maintaining the water system with a contribution from those in the village.'

'The intention of the government is to put into Scottish Water's capital plan in 2015 arrangements for first time adoption for private supplies. That will be progressive because there are hundreds across the country but the intention is that Bridge of Orchy would be one of the first in the next capital plan.'

Oban North and Lorn councillor Louise Glen Lee said: 'It was good to get all the partners round the table and see some real progress at last.'

'I am assured that by the end of Scottish Water's next capital budget we will see a transfer of assets but I would hope the Bridge of Orchy supply would be transferred sooner rather than later.'

**Public Exhibition**

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**Kilmore Village Hall**  
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Searchers find body buried 4.5 metres in snow

# Experienced skier swept away in huge Glencoe snowslide

Skye man falls 600 feet on frozen snowfield in Cuillins

**REPORT**

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

THE 2013 avalanche death toll in Glencoe rose to five on Sunday after the body of a man was found buried near Glencoe Mountain Resort.

Fifty-five searchers from Lochaber, Glencoe and RAF Leuchars mountain rescue teams had been digging for Daniel Maddox since 8am.

Mr Maddox, 41, was swept away in a massive snowslide on Saturday at 1pm while skiing off-piste in the western corrie of Meall a Bhuidh.

The mountain carries all Glencoe's ski-tows up the hill above the base station next to the A82.

The ski centre's patrol was quickly on the scene after skiing down the avalanche route.

But efforts by the Lochaber rescue teams to find Clackmannanshire man Mr Maddox on Saturday proved fruitless and the operation was called off overnight.

After a second day of digging snow trenches, searchers located his body 4.5 metres down around midday on Sunday.

Royal Navy and RAF rescue helicopters, along with SARDA



The Royal Navy Sea King helicopter, along with Rescue 137 from RAF Lossiemouth, searched the Stob Dearg area on Saturday. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

search and rescue dogs assisted search operations over both days. By coincidence, SARDA dogs and their handlers had been training in Glencoe only days previously.

The avalanche risk was rated

'considerable' after easterly winds loaded western aspects with snow, creating huge unstable crown walls above the corries.

And according to Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team leader

John Stevenson, Mr Maddox, who was an experienced skier, stood little chance when the 'massive' avalanche hit.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We were quite lucky to find him. The snow had piled into a big

gully, swept across the ravine and up the other side.

'He was buried very deep, 4.5 metres down, and there was still a lot of snow below that.'

'We dug a big trench and just kept going in a straight line until we came across him. We found his hat earlier, so we knew he was there somewhere.'

Headed: 'There is great skiing on the western slopes just now, but with so much snow around it's going to be dangerous.'

Friends Rachel Majumdar, 29, Christopher Bell, 24, Tom Chesters, 28 and Una Finnegan died in an avalanche on Biden nam Bian in January.

Elsewhere in the West Highlands, a 48-year-old man from Sconser on Skye was airlifted to Glasgow's Southern General Hospital on Friday night after falling 600 feet down a frozen snowfield on Bruach na Frithe in the Cuillins.

Skye Mountain Rescue Team leader Gerry Ackroyd said the man had been walking off the northwest ridge back to Sligachan when he stumbled on his crampons caught and 'took off like a toboggan'.

Mr Ackroyd said: 'He lost his ice axe trying to break his fall and flew over a couple of buttresses before a scree slope stopped him.'

'When we got to him he was hypothermic and had multiple injuries. He had a broken wrist, his face was badly scarred and had internal injuries.'

Skye MRT was back out on Saturday after a 35-year-old Swedish woman and a 33-year-old Frenchman got lost in plummeting temperatures while rock climbing on Blaven, also in the Cuillins. The pair, who were uninjured, were airlifted by Rescue 177 from RAF Lossiemouth.

In Lochaber, a man sustained a lower leg injury whilst ice climbing on the north face of Ben Nevis on Friday afternoon.

He was airlifted out with the assistance of R137 from Lossiemouth and Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team and conveyed to the Belford Hospital for treatment.



## New 'living buildings' come to historic Dunollie 1745 House

DUNOLLIE'S 1745 House helps bring history to life - now the grounds are alive with two new living buildings thanks to a talented Germanic trio.

**Six-metre high dome**  
Santfe Strukturen, German for soft structures, visited the grounds of the historic building on the outskirts of Oban last week and built a six-metre high dome from willow, together with a seven-metre high tower next door.

Incredibly Willow Hall and Tower, as they will be known, will bloom either this summer or next - as the structure has

been built entirely from living willow.

**To last 100 year**  
Anna Kalberer, whose father Marcel devised the process, said the hall will be a lasting addition to Dunollie's already rich offerings.

'This is our first time in Scotland,' she said. 'After here we head to France and to Sweden for other installations. Often we build things like this for festivals but this one is to last.'

'If treated properly, it could be here for 80-100 years.'

Anna was joined by compatriot PD Evacic and Swiss-based

Dutchwoman Bernadette Mercx in creating the structures, using 600 pieces of willow for the hall alone. They were aided by a host of local volunteers throughout the week.

Anna added: 'If we're being honest, the pieces of willow were a bit too short but we're pleased with how it has turned out.'

The hall makes up part of a new display at Dunollie's 1745 House, which has been revamped for the start of the new tourist season.

For more information, visit dunollie.org.



Santfe Strukturen take some much needed time out after finishing Dunollie's new Willow Hall. They are, from left, PD Evacic, Bernadette Mercx and Anna Kalberer

## Callander gas explosion investigations continue

INVESTIGATORS are continuing to investigate the cause of a gas explosion that ripped apart a Callander home last week.

Robin Cunningham, 77, remains in Glasgow Royal Infirmary with a back injury and burns following the explosion at 6am last Thursday, which destroyed the home at Murdiston Avenue.

Robin's wife, Marion, escaped with minor injuries following the blast, with the bedroom she was in the only part of the house to survive the explosion.

The building has since been completely demolished for safety reasons.

Neighbouring homes were evacuated following the blast but have since been allowed to return home.

Investigators are now testing appliances from the house to find the cause, with the couple having had a new combination central heating boiler unit fitted last month. A gas hob and fire have also been removed for testing.

A spokesperson for the Health and Safety Executive said: 'We are looking at the entire gas system in the property. We will recover all of the gas appliances and pipework and carry out a range of tests.'

## HIE award grant of £318,000 towards new ships

FERGUSON Shipping (Kishorn Port) Limited has received a grant of £318,000 from Highlands and Islands Enterprise towards the purchase of aquaculture vessels.

Total cost of the ships is £1,590,000.

## Nominations sought for Gaelic business of the year award

COMUNN na Gàidhlig (CnaG) is seeking nominations for the 2013 Gaelic business of the year award.

Businesses that use Gaelic as an asset, can demonstrate a strong use of Gaelic among staff and with customers, and use Gaelic in branding/marketing should apply.

Companies making 'strong progress' towards these objectives are also eligible.

Nominations must be with CnaG by June 28.



Rescue personnel prepare to begin another search for Mr Maddox. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

## Long term future of Taynuilt Police Station may be in doubt

TAYNUILT'S police office may not have a certain future, Oban's outgoing chief inspector has said, prompting fears for the future of rural policing.

**Cost cutting**  
Chief Inspector Brian Auld, who has now left the area for a new role in Dumfries, said that while the immediate future of the rural police office is not under question, it may very well become a candidate for closure under any cost cutting exercise by the new Police Scotland single force.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Mr Auld said: 'There are no current plans to look at Taynuilt but I'd be very surprised if in the next three to five years we

don't look at our resources and rationalise.'

**Appin and Dalmally**

'For it to be under consideration there would be consultation phases with locals and community councils but that's not on our radar at the moment.'

Stations at Appin and Dalmally should have a more secure future, he added, because of their geographical attributes which make them essential to ensure rapid response times to incidents in their locality.

Davy Paterson, who served at the station for 18 years as a constable before retiring, believes closing the station would be a mistake.

He said: 'I do hope that those in

charge of the new single police force appreciate there's much more to rural policing than simply issuing fixed penalty tickets and meeting targets - which appears to be the modern trend.'

**Quality of service**

'While I was based at Taynuilt, the locals considered me to be 'their' policeman and I managed to build up an excellent rapport with them over the years.'

'Senior officers may suggest Taynuilt can easily be policed from Oban with no difference to the quality of service being provided.'

'I would argue that a closure of Taynuilt police station would be a retrograde step for this sizeable rural community and that the

quality of service being provided to the people of the Taynuilt area would undoubtedly suffer as a direct result.'

Murray Sim, chairman of the village's community council, is pragmatic over the possibility of closure.

'I'm sure now they'll be looking at costs. In a sense it's just being used as a police house at the moment.'

'I'd be sad if we did lose it but in this day and age you can see it happening.'

'However, to my mind criminals do look where there is a police station and may target those places without if they know there isn't going to be a quick police response.'



## Spean's Scott receives long service award

Scott Andrews, watch manager of Spean Bridge Fire Brigade, was presented with a 20 years long service medal at a social evening in Spean Bridge Hall. Above, Scott receives his medal from area manager John MacDonald, who also presented Scott's wife Heather with a bouquet of flowers. Fellow firefighters and their families also attended the evening.

## The Oban Times promotes young journalists

THE OBAN Times has announced the promotion of two young journalists as part of an ongoing development programme within its newspaper division.

Chief reporter Euan Paterson has become News Editor for The Oban Times.

Euan, who is originally from Taynuilt and now lives in Oban with his wife Lorna, joined the staff of The Oban Times as a trainee reporter 11 years ago.

He was awarded the Highlands and Islands Young Journalist of the Year award in 2008.

Euan said: 'The fast-paced evolution of newspapers presents a major challenge for us - but it is one we are relishing.'

'I believe that regardless of format, the principles of local news journalism remain and I want to help deliver the best coverage of news in the west Highlands and islands.'

Editorial director Stewart



Steven Flanagan has been appointed to the role of News Editor for the company's three tabloid titles, Campbeltown Courier, Argyllshire Advertiser and The Arran Banner.



Chief reporter Euan Paterson has been appointed to the role of News Editor for The Oban Times. Euan joined the staff of The Oban Times straight from school.

MacKenzie said: 'I am delighted that Euan has agreed to take over this important role.'

'He has shown a high level of commitment to the company and it is an excellent example of the career opportunities that can be achieved by local youngsters with a locally-based company.'

Euan's local knowledge of the area has proved as important to The Oban Times as his obvious journalistic skills.'

Senior reporter Steven Flanagan joined The Oban Times from Angus County Press in 2010 and has been appointed as News Editor for the company's three

tabloid newspapers, The Arran Banner, Campbeltown Courier and Argyllshire Advertiser.

Steven, who will also retain his key reporting role within The Oban Times said: 'We have a young, yet talented team on our tabloid titles and we feel we now have everything in place to develop their undoubted potential.'

'I have quickly come to appreciate that the local papers in Kintyre, Mid Argyll and Arran are cornerstones of the community. That is why I am so enthusiastic about this role.'

Stewart MacKenzie said: 'Steven Flanagan has shown the ambition and understanding that the company is keen to encourage.'

'We are pleased that we have an excellent blend of experience and youth that will stand us in good stead as all of our titles strive to maintain the trust we enjoy from each of the communities they serve.'



Stephen Gordon, Historic Scotland's head of applied conservation, returns the Mary and Jesus section of the Cross to Iona Abbey. Picture by Donald MacLeod.

# Historic Celtic High Cross comes home to Iona

## Restored cross returns to the island in time for anniversary

THE WORLD'S first Celtic High Cross returned to Iona in time for the Easter and ahead of a special anniversary later this year.

St Oran's Cross, which dates back to the eighth century, has been returned to the island after undergoing reconstruction work in Selkirk.

This is the first time in centuries the 4.4 metre cross has stood upright at Iona Abbey. The cross is encased within a specially constructed steel structure.

The restoration of the cross, which has lain in five pieces for centuries, is part of a larger project which sees experts from Historic Scotland renovating a number of carved stones.

**Anniversary**  
The project has been timed to be completed for May's anniversary celebrations of the arrival of Saint Columba to the shores of Scotland 1,450 years ago.

Peter Yeoman, Historic Scotland's head of cultural heritage, said: "St Oran's Cross is one of Scotland's most impressive and precious symbols of early Christianity.

*"To see it standing is one of the most incredible moments of my career."*

**Peter Yeoman, Historic Scotland**

"Its painstaking conservation and return and reconstruction now back on Iona is a significant milestone on our journey to providing a better understanding of the island's history.

"Seeing this Celtic high cross standing once again after hundreds of years is one of the most incredible moments of my career, and will undoubtedly have a powerful impact on visitors for generations to come."

The cross is thought to have been in St Oran's Chapel, the

oldest intact structure of the abbey to survive, and is elaborately decorated with spirals, bosses and sepents.

It also carries biblical scenes reminiscent of imagery in the Book of Kells, such as the Virgin and Child surrounded by angels. The Book of Kells takes its name from the abbey of Kells in County Meath, Ireland.

The abbey was founded from Iona in 807 as a place of refuge from the rampaging Vikings. St Oran's Chapel stands in Reilig Odhrain.

The Gaelic warlord Somerled, 'King of the Isles', probably built it as a family burial chapel prior to his death in 1164.

The cross is chiselled out of schist stone blocks quarried from the Ross of Mull, close to Iona, which are particularly difficult to carve.

Historic Scotland is also investing in new interpretation and visitor facilities at Iona Abbey to help visitors fully appreciate the island's fascinating history and the significance of the spectacular carved stone collection on show.

# Fire fighters prevent fierce Bonawe hill fire from engulfing homes in the village

## Crews from Oban, Dalmally and Dumbarton battle fire that burned for 48 hours

FIRE fighters tackling a four-mile fire front in Bonawe had to evacuate families as flames crept to within 25 metres of homes.

However, not a single property was damaged by the blaze as firefighters from Oban, Dalmally and Dumbarton moved to battle a fire that burned for nearly 48 hours, threatening 6,500 acres of forest plantation.

Watch Commander Kevin

James said tackling the blaze presented something of a logistical challenge, with Beinn Duirinnis not only extremely steep, but difficult to access.

Locals meanwhile have praised efforts of those tackling the flames ensuring everyone was kept safe despite earlier fears.

Watch Commander James said: "We were called at around 1.45pm last Tuesday and were on scene for about 48 hours.

"We created fire breaks and, liaising with the landowners, we used Land Rovers and all terrain vehicles to access the site.

"There wasn't much we could do early on as the site is extremely difficult to access, but when we did get on we used beaters, dampened down vegetation and cleared areas to create fire breaks.

"At one point the fire was within 25 metres of houses but no property was damaged and we stepped down on Thursday afternoon."

### Helicopter

A helicopter was brought in by the landowner to extinguish flames at the opposite side of the hill, preventing the fire stretching towards Sutherland's Grove.

Bonawe resident Anuschka Miller was one of those who watched as flames crept towards her home and praised the efforts of fire crews.

She said: "The firemen were awesome.

"They sat and watched the fire for nearly two days doing little - from what I could tell - so my confidence wasn't massive.

"But they did know exactly what to do when it got near to any houses or infrastructure, and no property was damaged at all.

"Strange experience seeing a 'bush fire' coming to your Argyll home while the temperatures are Arctic."



Families were evacuated from their homes as the fire on Beinn Duirinnis crept down towards the village last Wednesday evening.

Picture - Ronnie Campbell

# Volunteer team give community sensory garden a new lick of paint

VOLUNTEERS from Scotland Gas Networks (SGN) have been busy with their paint brushes at Oban's Community Sensory Garden.

Chris Eccleston, Paul Broadfoot, David McClymont and Alan Hamilton were painting raised beds, fences, railings and benches.

Callum Morrison, chairman of the garden committee, thanked the men for spending the day working on the garden.

He said: "We appreciate it a lot.

"I think they have done a wonderful job, it brightens it up. We're glad they're giving up their time to do this and we would be pleased to welcome them again next year."

The voluntary initiative is an annual event organised by Scotland Gas Networks which gives each staff member one day per year to help with a community project.

The four Oban-based men chose to help out at the sensory garden for the second year in a row.

"It is really good, we hope to come back next year," said David. "Although this year has been less labour intensive than last, when we were digging over the flowerbeds!"

Oban businesses also contributed to the men's efforts, donating some of the paint and supplies.

# Islay High School poll suggests young islanders against independence

THE OUTCOME of a youth question time at Islay High School would not have pleased Alex Salmond.

The First Minister is keen that 16 and 17 years should be given a vote for the referendum on independence in 2014.

But during a straw poll at Islay High youth question time, only four of more than 100 members of the young audience said they wanted independence.

Such was the scale of the landslide that even staunch Unionist Alastair Redman, who runs Portmahaven Post Office, admitted being just as surprised as he was delighted.

Mr Redman, a 25-year-old community councillor who failed narrowly to be selected as a Tory councillor for Argyll and Bute Council, told *The Oban Times*: "I was at the event as a panel member, and thought it was a very interesting result.

"I had incorrectly assumed that the younger generation was more likely to back independence.

"However, the general consensus among the young people there was that they did not believe independence would benefit Islay.

"Instead, they were more pragmatic and internationalist than I thought they would be."



# Leverburgh lifeboat rescues walkers and dog who were marooned on island

TWO PEOPLE and a collie dog were rescued by Leverburgh lifeboat on Saturday evening after becoming marooned on the island of Killigrey in the Sound of Harris.

The RNLB Royal Thames launched at 7.10pm after receiving a distress call that the couple's 19-foot vessel had suffered damage and was taking on water.

The couple and their dog Jenny were picked up by the lifeboat's dinghy and were put safely ashore at Leverburgh around 8.15pm.

Neil Campbell, chairman of the Leverburgh branch of the RNLB, told *The Oban Times*: "They had beached the boat but when they came back there was water in it. As far as I know it was towed back to Leverburgh."

The incident was the sixteenth 'shout' for the lifeboat since it was made operational on May 11, 2012.



Collie dog Jenny and her owners were none the worse after being marooned on Killigrey.



Chairman of the garden committee Callum Morrison, left, with SGN staff Chris Eccleston, Paul Broadfoot, David McClymont and Alan Hamilton. 16\_t14garden01

# South Uist Gaelic music summer school announced 2013 line-up

CEÒLAS, the Gaelic music summer school on South Uist, has announced its line-up for 2013.

Returning for the July 1-7 event in Daliburgh school are song tutors, Cape Breton siblings Dawn and Margie Beaton, locals Paul McCallum and Gillebride MacMillan, and Margaret MacLellan from Moidart.

Lochaber's Allan Henderson and Iain MacFarlane will teach fiddle, Griogair Labhruidh piobaireachd and song, and Angus Nicolson piping for dance.

Ingrid Henderson will again teach clarsach and Frank McConnell will come home and share his dance skills supported by Alison MacLeod.

Immersion Gaelic classes are offered by Catriona MacIntyre and Alec 'Bhaltos' MacDonald, and youth piping by ex-Glasgow Police piper Iain MacPherson from Benbecula.

Alasdair Whyte from Lewis will teach the young fiddlers while artist-in-residence is local artist Bill Neill.

Organiser Mary Schmolter said: "A full range of evening events are being organised in the community and already people who were in Uist last year have booked to come back - from as far away as Australia."



**Beachd Ailein**  
Ailean Caimbeul

CÒ 'S MOTHA a thug buaidh air do bheatha fhèin, gu ruige seo? Gun teagamh, dhan a' mhòr-chuid, tha pàrantan aig bàrr an liosta sin, cuide ri seanairean is seanmhairnean, peathraichean is bràthrean. Agus tha mi creidsinn gun canadh a' mhòr-chuid cuideachd gun robh an luchd-teagaisg a bha gan stiùireadh tro fhoghlam aig gach ìre, ach gu sònraichte anns a' bhun-sgoil 's anns an àrd-sgoil, air leth cudromach nam beatha. Ciamar nach biodh, is na daoine sin a' dealbh cùrsa beatha na cloinne agus gu ìre cuideachd a' stèidheachadh bunaiten an t-saoghail cosnaidh air an amais iad nan inbheach?

Tha mi fhìn glè mhòthachail air na rinn an tè a bha gam theagasg anns a' bhun-sgoil dhomh a thaobh foghlam, feinspeis, agus misneachd. Chaidh togail air na bunaiten sin anns an àrd-sgoil agus bha aon neach-teagaisg an sin na mo latha a thug sgilean araid dha mòran den chloinn a bha e a' teagasg. Bha Ailean Whiteford os cionn teagasg Beurla ann an Àrd-Sgoil Phort Rìgh aig an àm agus am measg iomadh leasachadh eile a rinn e, stèidhich e comann deasbairiachd anns an Sgoil agus dh'ionnsaich mòran againn comasan labhairt air àrd-ìrleir. Chan eil latha thèid seachd nach eil mi mothachail air mar a mhinisich an neach-teagaisg seo sinn ann an caochladh dhòighean. Gun teagamh, bha cuideachd luchd-teagaisg eile san Sgoil a thug dhùinn fìor dheagh oideachadh, ach fhuair mise feum sònraichte as na dh'ionnsaich mi bho Ailean còir.

Tha cumart ann an-dràsta gun tèid luchd-teagaisg ann an Alba air stailc ri linn Riaghaltas na h-Alba a bhith a' bagairt toirt orra barrachd a phàigheadh a dh'ionnsaigh an cuid peinnean, agus cuideachd an aois chuaineis aca àrdachadh. Ged a tha còmhraidhean air a bhith a' dol fad bliadhna a-nise chan eil còrdadh air nochdadh, le riochdairean luchd-teagaisg ag iarraidh aonta shònraichte ann an Alba agus an Riaghaltas a' cumail a-mach nach eil dol às aca an aghaidh riaghailtean Riaghaltas Lunnainn air peinnean a chur an sàs. Tuigear an dùbhlán a th' aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba leis gum faodadh Lunnainn taicean ionmhais a ghearradh ma thèid iad nan aghaidh, ach air an làimh eile, tha e cudromach coimhead às dèidh luchd-teagaisg is iad aig fìor chridhe dealbhadh bunaiten sòisealta agus eaconamach na dùthcha.

Tha mi fhìn fhathast fo stiùir neach-teagaisg, agus tha mi glè fhòrtanach gum bheil i cho foighidneach oir tha na nearachdan a th' anns an t-seann fhear duilich an ceartachadh!

THE CHILD is the father of the man, says the proverb, and unquestionably the experience and teaching which young people receive will shape their attitudes on every aspect of life. That is one very special reason why society must continue to recognise the enormously important role which teachers play in the social and economic development of our people and our country.

Disillusioned and striking teachers will be profoundly damaging to Scotland, and while all public sectors must share the burden of economic stringency, we must remember the unique importance of this profession.

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# Spotlight ON Mull



## Island arts companies join forces in new organisation

TWO RENOWNED arts companies on the Isle of Mull joined forces to create Comar, a bold new arts organisation, on April 1.

Mull Theatre and An Tobar have 61 years combined experience in arts and culture – between them they bring theatre, music, comedy, visual arts, dance, community events and classes to Mull, Iona and

REPORT by FAITH ORR  
forr@obantimes.co.uk

beyond. Mull Theatre tours to more than 50 venues in Scotland each year, from tiny island halls to major central belt theatres, and An Tobar promotes some of Scotland's best-known musicians to venues in Argyll. Comar takes its name from the

Gaelic word meaning confluence, a coming together, a meeting place of people or things.

The new organisation will allow Mull Theatre and An Tobar to reach their full potential and expand into other art forms and areas.

It will also offer more support for artists and more for audiences throughout Argyll. Norman Quirk, Comar

chairman, said: 'This is a landmark moment for the arts in Mull, Iona and Argyll as Comar is formally launched.'

'Formed by the coming together of two companies previously running on parallel paths but now united by a shared belief, passion and desire to grow together, Comar will work ambitiously and efficiently, locally and regionally, and with

a stronger infrastructure and a more sustainable approach than before. Comar aims to be much greater than the sum of its parts, allowing us to be a national leader and bringing the best artists to and from our creative hub on Mull and offering more for audiences.'

Comar's future aims include an audience development programme, artist-in-residence

programme, promoting incoming artists and maintaining a regular touring programme throughout Argyll. Audiences will be offered a full programme of events in both venues, An Tobar and Mull Theatre, as well as other venues on Mull and Iona.

This summer a new arts events website covering Mull and Iona will be launched as well as tours in Argyll and beyond.



This season's first visitors to the Mull Eagle Hide.

## Mull eagle team hoping for eggs

STAFF at the Mull Eagle Hide are hoping for Easter eggs of a very different kind this year after the attraction opened its doors to the public for the season.

The Mull Eagle Hide, which was graded as a five-star 'exceptional wildlife experience' last season, is back at the Forestry Commission Scotland Glen Seilidseir site near Tiroren again this year.

The resident pair of white-tailed eagles, Fingal and Iona, are settling down for another nesting season and the view to the nest from the hide is the best Mull Eagle Watch has ever been able to provide.

Dave Sexton, RSPB Mull Officer, said: 'This is still the only eagle hide in the world overlooking a pair of nesting white-tailed eagles – the UK's largest bird of prey and an incredible sight to see.'

'In this Year of Natural Scotland, we really hope visitors

to Mull will include a trip to the hide during their holiday. It's an unforgettable experience.

'Mull Eagle Watch is also in full swing where the community and police are on guard to protect Mull's eagles from disturbance and egg thefts so do come and watch – but from a safe distance.'

Trips must be booked by calling VisitScotland at Craignure on 01680 812556 and to begin with they will run Monday to Friday at 10am and 1pm.

**Good causes**  
Proceeds from the hide go to the Mull and Iona Community Trust and help fund a wide range of local projects and good causes every year.

The hide is operated by a partnership of Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Mull and Iona Community Trust, Strathclyde Police and the RSPB with support from VisitScotland.

## Mull B and B retains Euro hospitality award

A BED and breakfast business on the Isle of Mull has received a top tourism award for the second year running.

Brockville Bed and Breakfast, in Tobermory, run by Helen and Gordon Chalmers, has again been listed as one of the top 25 bed and breakfast establishments, not only in the UK, but in Europe. This adds to their recent award of four gold stars from VisitScotland.

The accommodation has been recognised as a top tourism performer in the prestigious TripAdvisor 2013 Travellers' Choice Awards.

Helen said: 'To be recognised once in this way was wonderful, but to be similarly recognised

for a second time makes me immensely proud. Balancing the care of our guests with the needs of our two young sons can be quite tricky but every day we try to care for each guest individually and look for little ways to help them enjoy their stay more.'

'We will continue to work hard at providing the best experience we can to our visitors and hope they continue to holiday on our lovely island.'

A Travellers' Choice Award is the highest honour a bed and breakfast or hotel can receive from the TripAdvisor community. It is based on the reviews and opinions of travellers and is awarded to only a few select and distinguished businesses.



Flora, Louise, Shiona and Vonnie celebrate the launch of the fundraising group.

## Marie Curie group launches on Mull

A NEW volunteer fundraising group for Marie Curie Cancer Care has been officially launched on the Isle of Mull.

Mull and Iona Fundraising Group met at the community hospital in Craignure, beside the blooming daffodils of the Marie Curie Field of Hope, to celebrate the formal launch of the group.

The group held its first business meeting to start planning fundraising activity with drinks and cake served.

Vonnie Carson, community fundraiser at Marie Curie Cancer Care, said: 'The new fundraising group in Mull will make a huge

difference locally by helping to raise the vital funds needed to support our Marie Curie Nurses who provide free care to people with terminal illnesses in their own homes.'

'The island now has its own Marie Curie Nurse, Louise Thomas, and I'm hoping we can raise the awareness of what we actually do so that the Mull and Iona community understands they have the option of real support and nursing care if a family finds themselves in the position of a terminal diagnosis and wanting to remain at home to die.'

The new group will be the local faces and

contacts on behalf of Marie Curie Cancer Care and will raise funds to allow Marie Curie Nurses to provide free care to people with terminal illnesses. Their activities will include major fundraising campaigns such as the Great Daffodil Appeal and Blooming Great Tea Party, as well as promoting fundraising within the local community and encouraging new supporters to help the charity. The new group includes nurse Louise Thomas, treasurer Flora Corbett, secretary Shiona Finlayson, Helen Williams and Catherine McGarva but they are still looking for more members.



Helen Chalmers with husband Gordon and their two young sons Robert and Thomas at Brockville Bed and Breakfast.

## Island Easter holiday fun for all ages

THE EASTER holidays are always busy on the Isle of Mull, with activities on offer for all ages.

This afternoon (Thursday) sees a meeting

of Mull Musical Minds taking place in Craignure – the singing group meets in An Roth at 1.30pm.

You could head to the theatre on Friday,

When Shlemiel Went to Warsaw is playing at the Mull Theatre, Druinfin, at 3pm and on Sunday there is Looking and Feeling Good in the Bunnisan Bakehouse.

**HECTOR WAS GETTING CROSS, THE POSTIE SHOULD HAVE BEEN BY NOW WITH HIS NEW SCOTTISH FIELD!**



**MAY ISSUE OUT NOW**

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## Wreck being considered for new protected status

A SHIPWRECK which sits off the Isle of Mull is being considered as a Historic Marine Protected Area (MPA).

The wreck, the remains of a small warship, was discovered at Duart Point in the Sound of Mull in 1979; it had sank in September 1653.

The ship is thought to be the *Swan*, a warship which was part of a six-strong Commonwealth flotilla sent by Cromwell to capture Duart Castle and subdue the Maclean of Duart, a supporter of the Royalist cause.

The wreck is currently covered by the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 because of its 'very significant historical and archaeological importance'.

But it is now being considered as one of six Historic MPAs around the Scottish coast, including a vessel of Dutch origin at Mingary and a cargo ship at Kinlochberrie.

Under international rules Scotland must create a network of MPAs - designated areas in which human activity may be limited in order to safeguard seas from further harm while reversing decline.

Historic MPAs will protect features of cultural importance such as shipwrecks and submerged landscapes. A public consultation on making the Duart Point wreck a Historic MPA will begin in the summer.



Duart Point.

Surprise yourself!

Scotland's wildlife is closer than you think.

**WIN A BREAK TO SEE SCOTLAND'S BIG 5**

To enter go to: [visitscotland.com/big5](http://visitscotland.com/big5)

## Mull otter catches nationwide attention

IMAGES of the Isle of Mull are being used to encourage tourists to discover their wild side in Scotland.

Photos taken of wildlife throughout Argyll are featuring in the latest VisitScotland UK marketing campaign.

But it is the striking photo of an otter on Mull - above - that is catching nationwide attention this week.

The campaign is being jointly run with Scottish Natural Heritage and chief executive Ian Jardine said: 'Most people will be aware of the animals selected for the Scotland's Big 5 campaign, but many may not have seen them in their natural habitat.'

'We have chosen animals that most people, if they want, can see in many parts of Scotland at almost any time of year.'

'In setting out to discover Scotland's Big Five, we hope

more people will come to enjoy and value Scotland's rich and diverse wildlife and scenery.'

'The Year of Natural Scotland is an ideal opportunity to celebrate Scotland's dramatic and rich natural environment.'

'In Scotland we have a good chance to see these distinctive animals in a wild setting – something that isn't possible for many people in Europe today. We know that's why many come to Scotland on holiday. So let's make the most of it.'

**Success**  
But Nic Davies, co-ordinator of the Tobermory Otter Fund, said: 'Whilst it is great that otters have been selected as one of the Big Five, they are a victim of their own success on Mull.'

'Concerns are mortality on the roads and human disturbance. We would ask people coming to look at the Big Five to slow

down on the roads and give the animals some space.'

The campaign takes its creative inspiration from five iconic indigenous species of Scotland: red deer, golden eagle, harbour seal, otter and red squirrel, and sees the organisations advertise on billboards in Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle, Glasgow and Edinburgh, with further activity on radio, written press and online over the coming months.

SNH wants as many people as possible to try and spot all of the Big Five during Year of Natural Scotland and to share their experiences through social media.

It is hoped potential visitors will visit a new special website which contains information about where to see the Big Five in Scotland, as well as giving inspiration about things to see

and do and the chance to enter a competition to win a trip to see them in their natural habitats around the country.'

The 20-foot tall roadside billboards will depict a series of breathtaking images which include the Cairngorms, Glen Affric, Skye, Loch Awe as well as the iconic otter on the Isle of Mull. This will be coupled with smaller adverts at bus stops.

David Adams McGilp, regional director of VisitScotland, said: 'This campaign represents a fantastic opportunity to appeal to the vitally important domestic market with this stunning imagery sure to grab the eye.'

'The Year of Natural Scotland is about getting people out and about, with our wildlife a key selling point for visitors. There is nowhere better for people to spot the Big Five than Argyll and the Isles.'

## Fears over long-term future of Craignure Hall

A VILLAGE hall on the Isle of Mull could be in danger of closing if not used by the community more.

Craignure Hall, which was opened on December 4 1999, is run as a charity and requires funds from events held in the hall to keep it going.

The hall is available to everyone for club and public meetings, weddings, birthday parties, anniversaries and conferences. But a lack of use – and the depletion of the contingency fund after repair work – has raised fears about the long-term future of the hall.

A message posted in the hall

urging the community to rally round reads: 'The hall is important to the people of Mull, however, there are serious doubts as to its future.'

'In order to survive financially the hall needs to be used more often - our contingency fund is now depleted after recent emergency

maintenance and only increased use by the community will keep the hall open.'

Andrew Robertson, a member of the hall committee, added: 'The finances of the hall are not as good as they should be. We have had a couple of major maintenance bills so they are pretty depleted.'

'There could be a danger that it could close down – it wouldn't take a lot to put it in real dire straits. The bottom line is we need to get the hall used more.'

The hall comprises of a main hall and two smaller rooms. There is also a kitchen for any catering requirements.

# Easter Weekend fun and frolics



## Toy Cupboard gathering

Young Lucy MacGregor wasn't sure what to make of the big bunny when Oban Toy Cupboard held its Easter Bonnet Parade on Friday. Julie Ewart donned the Easter Bunny costume and helped judge the best efforts at the gathering in Glencruitten Church Centre. 16\_114toycup2



## Hats off to Strath of Appin Primary School homework challenge

Strath of Appin Primary School's homework challenge of making an Easter bonnet went down a treat as pupils brought in their colourful creations from home. It was clear a great deal of effort and imagination had gone into making the hats and bonnets. Ribbons, feathers, bunny rabbits, decorated eggs, chicks and flowers were popular additions to the homemade hats, which the pupils enjoyed parading round the school playground.



## Holiday smiles from Ellie

Five-year-old Ellie Raeburn enjoyed looking at the seals during her visit to Barcaldine's Sea Life Sanctuary for its Eggstravaganza. The youngster was on holiday with her family from Newcastle and took part in the Easter bonnet competition as well as the giant egg hunt. 16\_114sealife01



The primary five pupils at Port Ellen school spread the Easter message in a musical performed to pupils, staff and parents.

## Port Ellen primary pupils enjoy host of 'egg-cellent' activities

THE PUPILS of Islay's Port Ellen Primary School had an 'egg-cellent' time as they celebrated Easter in the run-up to the holidays. There was a church service organised for March 22 but due to the poor weather, this was held in the school. This gave pupils, staff and parents an opportunity to come together to celebrate the meaning of Easter. Next came the egg competition on March 26, where children from all classes were invited to decorate an egg and bring it into school. Finally, on March 27 came the primary five Easter Assembly, which was performed to pupils, staff and parents. The children re-told the Easter story in the style of a musical and there was even an appearance from the Easter Bunny who handed out treats to lucky members of the audience. The collection money gathered at the assembly has been added to the money raised by the school for Red Nose Day, giving a total of £457.44 for Comic Relief.



## Sun shines on Soroba Young Family parade

Youngsters from Soroba Young Family Group (SYFG) took part in an Easter bonnet parade on the cycle path from Dunbeg to Ganavan. The children and their parents all made beautiful bonnets and had lots of family and friends joining them on the walk. Rachael Turnbull, from SYFG, said: 'Children from the morning and afternoon sessions were joined with the reception group to take part. The sun was shining and we had a lovely picnic at Ganavan and a play on the beach before we got our bus back to nursery. Everyone enjoyed the day. Thank you all for making such a great effort.'



## Spring Fair raises £831

Pupils from Oban's Park Primary School raised £831 for school funds at a spring fair and Easter egg competition last weekend. The school thank helpers and customers from that event as well as parents and friends who supported the recent Fairtrade events with the cake bake and Fairtrade tombola raising a further £587.



Kacey MacIntyre, seven, and Sarah Manson, five, with the Easter bunny. 16\_114royal01

## Children flock to RBLs event

CHILDREN in Oban were delighted to meet the Easter bunny on Saturday at the Royal British Legion Scotland's (RBLs) Easter event. Youngsters piled into the Royal Hotel, which provided a room to the RBLs free of charge, to get their faces painted, take part in an egg hunt and art and Easter bonnet competitions. All children also met the Easter bunny and got an egg. Lesley Blair-Simmonds, chairwoman of the Oban branch of the RBLs, said: 'It has been quite busy, we're pleasantly surprised. Different 'This is the first time we have done anything like this. It is something different for the kids - they all love the face painting. 'If today works, we're hoping to make it an annual event.'

## Lochyside youngsters show off their craft skills



Youngsters at Lochyside RC Primary School celebrated Easter by showing off their craft skills. The pupils were challenged to create a bright and colourful piece for Easter, with the top entries including fancy bonnets and painted eggs. A winner was chosen from each class by Sisters Therese and Audrey, who then presented each prizewinner with an Easter Egg. 20\_114lochyside01

## Cracking crafts on display at Banavie

Creative young Banavie Primary School pupils spent the last few days before the break creating different kinds of Easter crafts. The P2/3 class all made their own Easter objects, from painted eggs to wax pictures. Winners were named in four categories - Tom Drysdale won in the poetry, Anna Gray for her Easter bonnet, Aidan Young's painted eggs gave him top spot in that category and Hannah Uppington hand-crafted Easter card was chosen as the best. 20\_114banavie01



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# island



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many parts and the traditions of music, song and poetry are still alive and well in townships and crofts up and down the Hebrides. But these islands have a very modern face too, with enterprising businesses and tourism expeditions helping to develop

the ever-changing way of life in the Hebrides. Most of the islands can be reached from Oban by sea but flights are also run from Oban and Glasgow to an increasing number of island destinations. Wildlife enthusiasts from across

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# hopping

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the globe will take great delight in finding out more about the islands' natural wonders and for the whisky aficionado, there are some of the world's best drams to sample. The Hebrides has also carved out a reputation as a destination for the more active tourist, with windsurf-

ing, hill walking, climbing, fell running and sailing among the more popular. To see the best of these islands during the summer season, why not try to visit during one of the many festivals on offer? Taking in a wide choice of interests and experiences,

these festivals are as much for the island communities as for visitors and create a carnival atmosphere, whatever the weather! So, from long walks to lounging around, there is certainly something for everyone on their Hebridean adventure.

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**The Oban Times**  
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**Parking problems and penalties driving motorists round the bend**

PARKING in Oban will come to the forefront of people's minds after police officers were once again instructed to issue penalty ticket notices.

The move comes after Argyll and Bute Council finally started the process of decriminalising parking charges - a move that will eventually see either a community group, such as BID4Oban, or the local authority take over the task.

While nobody wants to be issued with a parking ticket it is difficult to argue against policing the town in this way, else lose income from the 'pay and display' meters lining our streets.

The income from this is not inconsiderable, even though the individual fee is relatively small.

Policing also assists traffic flow and frees up spaces. The start of the new tourist season will result in the annual shortage of spaces at the Argyll Square end of the town, prompting frustration from locals and confusion for tourists, keen to find somewhere to park their vehicles legally for a period of time that lets them properly explore the town.

Of course, it will also result in a plethora of parking tickets being issued.

The argument over whether or not Oban needs better parking facilities is a moot one - it does and it is about time something was done about it.

For far too long we've heard people making arguments for one plan or another, but unless something is done as a matter of priority this attractive tourist town risks becoming known as a hassle to visit rather than a pleasure.



**Main Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull**

Colin Armstrong of Coventry submitted this week's flashback photograph which show Main Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, in days gone by. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

**GLASGOW LETTER**

**Erskine ceilidh**

THE UNDOUBTED highlight of the year for Clydebank and District Highlander's Association is its charity ceilidh in aid of Erskine Hospital, a function that traditionally raises a considerable sum of money.

This year's ceilidh will take place in Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, the current home of the association, on Friday April 12 at 7.30pm when Murdo MacDonald, a great supporter of the Bankies, will be in the chair.

Artists for the evening will be singers Emma Deans, Catriona Fair and, of course, the chairman with the association piper Robert Wood being joined by brothers Billy and Iain MacPhee to provide instrumental entertainment.

Kirsteen Grant will be the accompanist. With so few ceilidhs on the calendar at this time of the year, this is a wonderful opportunity for all the associations to give their support to this worthwhile cause.

**Memorial Piping Recital**

THE DONALD MacPherson Memorial Recital will take place in the College of Piping on Saturday April 13 at 7pm for 7.30pm.

The players taking part will be Douglas Murray, David Shedden, Iain Spiers, George Stewart and Andrew Travers. Tickets, £10, include a drink on arrival and a cold buffet at the interval.

If you intend attending the event and do not already have a ticket, please contact Iain Watson on 0141 561 8313, email tanned54@hotmail.com or Jeannie Campbell, telephone 0141 946 2137, email jeanniecampbell@talktalk.net.

Tickets can also be bought from the College of Piping.

**Drama Summer School**

IF YOU are aged 14-18, speak Gaelic and are interested in drama then Portree is the place to be from July 1 to 11 when the Gaelic Drama School, established in 2008, will hold its 2013 event.

The price of £150 includes accommodation in Portree High School Hostel together with all meals, but does not

include travel costs. Places are limited and the closing date for applications is April 20.

For more information and to apply contact Dougie Beck on 01397 704132 or email dougie@feisean.org.

**Sympathy**

IT IS with extreme sadness I have to intimate that Mairi McKeeve, a committee member of the Glasgow Skye Association, passed away after an extremely short illness.

Brought up in the west of Glasgow, of Kyles of Scalpay and Dunvegan, Skye parentage, Mairi will be sorely missed.

Our sympathy is extended to her husband Jim, sons Gordon, Ewan and Kenneth and to their respective families and to the extended family.

There will be a church service tonight (Thursday) in Balshagray Church, Broomhill, Cross, at 7pm.

**Diary dates**

**Friday April 5:** Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, Partick, 9pm-1am. Scottish Piper's Association Club Night, College of Piping, Otogo Street, 7.30pm.

**Tuesday April 9:** Gaelic Quiz, Park Bar, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72 Waterloo Street, 8pm, The Bevvy Sisters.

**Friday April 12:** Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Erskine Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm - see above.

**Saturday April 13:** Scottish Piper's Association Professional and Former Winners Solo Piping Competition, College of Piping, 9am. Donald MacPherson Memorial Recital, College of Piping, 7pm for 7.30pm - see above. Paisley and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh Dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm. Donnie Munro, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh.

**Pub scene**

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be provided by Gunna Sound on Friday with Nicky McMichan on Sunday and Saturday still to be arranged while in the Islay Inn it will be Penny Dogs on Friday and Crooked Reel on Saturday.

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

**Clarification**

MALLAIG creel fisherman Ewen Nicolson has asked *The Oban Times* to clarify that his boat *Grimsay Isle* did not get stuck on a rock after its propeller fouled on a rope during a fishing trip on March 16.

**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.

**PRESS POLICY**

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

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

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

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

**Oban CHORD out of tune and out of time with economic thinking**

Sir, At the recent Oban CHORD meeting, local councillors agreed to spend millions of borrowed money on two proposals.

Proposal number one; tidy up the streets and make them look prettier with soft and hard landscaping. Nothing too radical there; an exercise in doing what they have always done, spend money for little benefit.

We are in the worst economic crisis anyone has ever known, people are losing their jobs, services are being cut, we are all wondering where it's all going to end. No one really knows where it's all going to end, we do know however where it started, borrowed money.

Now there is nothing wrong with borrowed money, as long as you can pay it back. There is nothing wrong with borrowed money if it's used to fund viable sustainable projects.

Again, unfortunately, our council does not understand that when you are making severe cuts with one hand, the worse thing you can do with the other is throw money away to look good rather than do good.

Everything we do with the millions of pounds of borrowed money has to be measured against the goal of recovery and the reversal of public and private sector job losses. Tidying up the town has a part to play, but not at a cost of millions, exposing us to even more public and private sector job losses. When the tidying up is finished and the millions of pounds are spent we will have what most towns already have. It did not save those towns from job losses and cuts in services, it will not save us.

The simple fact is we did not get into this mess because our town was looking a bit shabby. It goes a lot deeper than that. Bad decisions, missed opportunities and not being able to change and adapt to the challenges before us are the exposed weaknesses of our council.

**Ian Dougall, Oban.**

**'Pathetic' coverage of snowstorm**

Sir, I must say I thought your coverage of the snowstorm over Kintyre was pathetic.

Worst snow in 50 years, Kintyre completely cut off for two days, most people without electricity for at least four days, no petrol, collapsed pylons, yet we were relegated to page six beside the complete disaster of Glen Nevis car park being closed.

Really. And the BBC was just as bad. So - media 'nil points'; roads department and electricity board alpha double plus for their amazing efforts in getting us all going again.

**Trish Hurst, Carradale.**

**Frustration at slow drivers**

Sir, My wife and I regularly holiday in and around Lochaber driving everywhere to visit the usual tourist spots and hill walk from our let in Feris.

The scenery, of course, is fantastic and the locals welcoming but what spoils our enjoyment is the speed of quite a

few motorists, or the lack of it.

It really is frustrating sitting behind drivers who average 40 to 45mph on a 60mph carriageway.

After our last visit before the Easter holidays we witnessed unsafe overtaking on double white lines and too many near misses.

To top it all on our last day driving into Fort William from the south, PC Plover past eating an iced cherry cake at the wheel!

Hilarious, if it wasn't so serious. **Gary McKenzie, Grassmarket, Edinburgh.**

**A planning dictatorship**

Sir, How much longer are we going to read in *The Oban Times* letters like those of North Connell residents who are outraged and shocked at the manner in which the Ossians planning application was decided?

I fear the answer has to be: as long as we allow Argyll and Bute Council to make planning decisions for us.

Planning applicants are encouraged to have pre-application discussions/ negotiations with council's planners - but not with the neighbours.

Councillors, unless they affect their own re-election prospects, are generally not interested in the merits of planning applications and rather than think about them will vote on them in accordance with planners' recommendations. Also, who can justify the assumption that election to a local authority makes anyone competent to decide a planning application?

Council planners live in their own protected world where normal ethics and social responsibility can be sacrificed in the furtherance of the latest planning fad or 'guidance' to land on their desk.

The views of neighbours and the public are required to be sought but if different from their own are generally ignored by planners and councillors.

There is no third party right of appeal against a planning decision and no mechanism to compensate a neighbour for the loss they suffer as a result of a planning decision.

Planning as practiced by Argyll and Bute Council sets neighbour against neighbour, tramples over the human rights of the individual and throws common sense and social responsibility to the wind. Effectively it divides and rules and we see the result of that practice all around us in the planning shambles that has arisen since the council took control.

A disgrace on this scale would not be acceptable in any other field of democratic activity and it should not be accepted in something as important as the development of our town, villages and countryside.

Planning under 'our watch' has become downright uncivilised and if we are ever to get the kind of civilised planning that supports the good and inclusive society where the rights of every one of us matter equally we have to take control of planning back from Argyll and Bute Council.

I fear that until we do we will continue to suffer the planning dictatorship that blights so many lives and we will continue to read the distressed and outraged

letters of the kind we have seen for so long.

**Arthur McFarlane, Mount Pleasant, Tarbert.**

**Sustained campaign to freeze fuel duty**

Sir, Further to comments in last week's edition about the freeze on fuel duty, it should be pointed out that this freeze was far from certain.

It took a sustained campaign to get this year's planned fuel duty rise cancelled.

In his budget speech the Chancellor highlighted my role in the campaign to persuade him to cancel the planned increase.

It should be noted that fuel duty is now 13 pence a litre lower than under the last Labour Government's published tax plans. Thanks to this Government introducing the island fuel duty discount, fuel duty on the islands is 18 pence a litre lower.

Unlike the urban based Labour Government, this coalition Government understands rural areas. **Alan Reid MP, 95 Alexandria Parade, Dunoon, Argyll.**

**The £8.6million question**

Sir, One of the problems I get contacted about time and time again is the shortage and the lack of funding available for social housing.

This is a problem which the people of Argyll and Bute are quite rightfully worried about.

Argyll and Bute Council is always complaining about the lack of funds for the construction of social housing but is the council's complaints over lack of funding justified when there is currently £8,652,605 sitting in a ring-fenced account at Kilmory in the 'Second Homes Council Tax Fund for Construction of Social Housing in Argyll and Bute'.

It has been sitting there for many years now; £1,816,659 of this was paid into the fund last year alone.

I would be grateful if Argyll and Bute Council would inform the hard-pressed council tax payers when we can expect to see any direct benefit from this fund. **Alastair Redman, Islay.**

**Magnificent service from Oban garage**

Sir, My wife and I are frequent visitors to Oban.

We come twice a year to the wonderful Melfort Village, Kilmelford, where we have had a timeshare cottage for 28 years.

My wife is disabled and a wheelchair user and we travel in our five-year-old motorhome which has been converted for her.

During our visit in March this year, we noticed a squeak in the engine compartment which got worse as the days progressed.

I took the vehicle to Munro's Garage on the Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban; they had helped us before with a replacement wing mirror.

Neil Munro, chief engineer and co-owner, quickly diagnosed the problem as a fault with the

alternator tensioner bearing. He immediately ordered the replacement bearing from Fiat at Elgin which came by special delivery via Inverness.

When the part arrived Neil discovered to his horror and mine that the broken bearing was not a Fiat part, so the 'replacement' did not fit!

Aware that we were 550 miles from home, he immediately tried to find out what the bearing was and whether he could get one made or modified.

After a whole day spent on the problem, drawing blanks everywhere, including an exchange of emailed photographs with Fiat, he came upon a solution.

It transpired that an alternator tensioner bearing from a Hyundai car would fit as a get-you-home measure.

I am pleased to report that we are now at home in the Cotswolds having driven steadily south, staying at various caravan sites en route. You may imagine the relief we both felt as we parked the motorhome safely in our drive.

It is hard to imagine such magnificent service anywhere in the UK by a garage dealing with, at best, a very occasional customer.

Please publish this letter as a testimonial and appreciation from relieved and very grateful customers. **Dr Brian Ridgewell, Cteltenham.**

**Wonderful job**

Sir, I would like to thank the men of Scottish Power who worked so hard, in appalling conditions, to get us back to normal after the severe gales last week.

They did a wonderful job. **M J Eaton, Barcaldine, by Oban.**



*THIS week we asked the Facebook community what it thought of police officers once again taking the role of traffic wardens in Oban and issuing penalty tickets for those who do not 'pay and display' in the town centre.*

**Duncan Groat:** 'How about providing more parking in the town and filling in pot holes!'

**John Hoos:** 'It's a great idea if the police are keen to discourage spending in local shops - think the town needs to get a grip and sort out parking. It certainly encourages me to spend less locally at the fear of getting a ticket, which is a real shame.'

**Sheila Brown:** 'How about penalties for parking in disabled bays without displaying a badge, or inconsiderate parking?'

**Louise Kilmurray Marshall:** 'Only good if not local, they should go easy on us!'

**Hannah Moutat:** 'It's an awful idea. What about people who work on main streets in town, who cannot afford to pay £5+ a day in parking but need their car. It's awful!'

**Martin Holzke:** 'Cashing in on the whale.'

**Lesley Cuthbertson:** 'As long as they get it right and issue them to people who are not displaying a permit. They might just also want to park in Stevenson Street (if they can find a space) and get all the double yellowers!'

**David Gray:** 'If you park knowingly in a Pay and Display and knowingly do neither, then you have to take the consequences.'

**Alan Cochrane**  
 THE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S  
 SCOTTISH EDITOR

**What ye sow**

Lairds making huge pots of cash by spoiling their neighbours' environment are storing up enmity

IF I WAS offered two hundred grand a year for the use of a bit of wild moorland, I suppose I'd grab it with both hands.'

So said an acquaintance of mine, a person of impeccable right-wing credentials, in relation to the amount of dosh that Scotland's lairds are trousering for allowing developers to stick huge wind turbines on the hills on their estates.

The issue is seeing the breakdown of some traditional alliances. Struan Stevenson, the Conservative Member of the European Parliament and who represents the whole of Scotland, is, by and large, a supporter of free enterprise. But even he has put pen to paper to denounce the behaviour of the nation's landowners.

His book, *So Much Wind: The Myth of Green Energy*, is a devastating critique of the avaricious predilections of many lairds. He estimates that private landowners will earn around £1bn in rental fees from wind farm companies over the next eight years, and that one landowner alone, the Duke of Roxburghe, could earn £1.5m a year from turbines in the Lammermuir Hills.

Others, such as the Earls of Seafield and Moray, will net, respectively, sizeable six and even seven figure sums by allowing developers to erect scores of turbines on their estates.

Subsidies to wind energy could add £400 a year per household to our energy bills by 2020, by when Alex Salmond intends that 100per cent of Scotland's energy requirements would be met by 'renewables', mostly wind power. If that's the case, says Stevenson, we'll need 5,000 wind farms instead of the 1,900 already built. The MEP adds that we're seeing in Scotland, 'the biggest transfer of money from poor to rich that we've ever seen in our history.'

The old relationship between Scottish Tories and lairds is disappearing as fast as new turbines are being erected, with Tory leader Ruth Davidson trying to recapture rural votes with a trenchantly anti-turbine stance. However, the lairds have found new and unlikely friends, in the shape of the SNP government in Edinburgh. They are so gung-ho for wind power that they've approved 80per cent of the most controversial wind farm applications, the largest of which have to be approved by St Andrew's House in Edinburgh. Local councils and anti-turbine community groups have been outraged that applications rejected by councils are then approved on appeal by the government.

Not all wind farm developments benefit the biggest landowners; many make smaller estates and farms profitable. Some, like that at Fintry in Stirlingshire, where the village benefits from the energy and profits of local turbines, are actively welcomed by local communities. But plans like that for Straiton in Ayrshire, which could see the pretty village surrounded by no fewer than 130 turbines in five separate wind farms, arouse implacable opposition. In Straiton they're not interested in the community donations being offered by the developers.

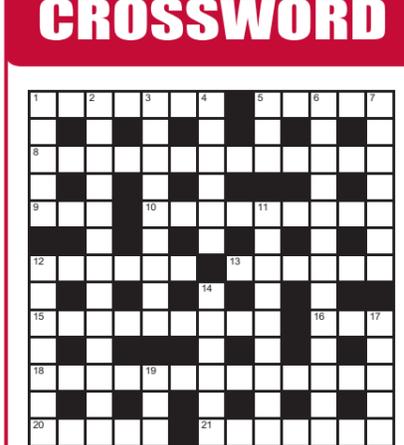
In spite of widespread opposition, there is no slow down in large-scale developments. In the Borders alone, by the end of this year there will be 500 turbines either built or with planning permission. They're not all on land owned by big lairds, but that total does include the Duke of Roxburghe's 48 turbines at Fallago Rig. When Holyrood initiated land reforms that allowedcrofting communities to buy the estates on which they lived, there was much opposition from the right of the political spectrum. But given the way that many landowners have milked the wind farm cash bonanza, no matter the views of their neighbours, I wonder if they haven't forfeited that sympathy. If the Tories aren't their friends anymore, who are? Their new-found friendship with the SNP is a purely mercenary affair. Me? I don't suppose I can blame people too much, given the eye-watering sums that the wind farm developers offer. I just wish we could have a bit less hypocrisy. People who say they are the guardians of Scotland's countryside should be doing a bit more guarding and a bit less feathering of their own nests.

Please publish this letter as a testimonial and appreciation from relieved and very grateful customers.

**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD**

**Across**  
 1 Instrument stroke (4-3)  
 5 Excited call (5)  
 8 Keep fit layout (7,6)  
 9 Sister or Mother maybe (3)  
 10 Artic animal (5,4)  
 12 Freshen (6)  
 13 Hound or shawl! (6)  
 15 Bond (9)  
 16 Former gold coin of Peru (3)  
 18 Endearments (5,8)  
 20 Afterwards (5)  
 21 Authorise (7)

**Down**  
 1 Exhaust (5)  
 2 Seen as ten to when orienteering? (4,9)  
 3 Flag to show when leaving (4,5)  
 4 Type of fencing (6)  
 5 What person? (3)  
 6 Conker tree (5,8)  
 7 To swarm (7)  
 11 Sound of a gun (5,4)  
 12 Charge of wrongdoing (7)  
 14 Again call (6)  
 17 Fine thread (5)  
 19 Viscid substance obtained from coal (3)



**Last week's solution**

AUTHORITARIAN  
 GAOUL  
 PREPACHPULL  
 ORNIVEG  
 CORMANPLEAT  
 PCEG  
 LEASETATLER  
 RCLZU  
 LAMAZERNAME  
 BAMANTDIT  
 TELEPHANTGRASS  
 EITEREAT

Harris Tweed targets US and Canada

HARRIS Tweed Hebrides, the Shawbost-based company on Lewis, has teamed up with one of the world's leading advertising agencies to promote the fabric in the US and Canada.

It is hoped the venture with the Leo Burnett advertising agency, which has more than 100 offices worldwide, will encourage the revival of Harris Tweed in North America – historically by far the biggest export market.

Company chairman Brian Wilson and creative director Mark Hogarth will attend the campaign launch over the coming week at events in Toronto and New York.

Mr Wilson said: 'The idea actually came from the Leo Burnett end. They have a history of sponsoring projects which identify trends in society and bring together people with a shared community of interest through social media.'

'There are vast numbers of people out there who have a great affinity with Harris Tweed and stories to tell about what it means to them.'

The Shawbost mill accounts for 90 per cent of Harris Tweed production.

Sentence deferred

A FORT William man who admitted drunkenly attacking a man who owed him money has had his sentencing further deferred for reports.

Philip McDonagh was due to be sentenced last Wednesday but Fort William Sheriff Court heard the reports had not been prepared as the social work department were not aware the 37-year-old had changed address.

McDonagh, of Orchy Villa, Alma Road, dragged the man out of bed before repeatedly punching and kicking him on the head and body on August 31.

The victim was left with broken ribs and was kept in hospital overnight.

McDonagh also admitted struggling with police after the assault and will be sentenced on April 24.

# Top chef turns up heat in bid to restore air links to Isle of Skye



Off to New York via Glasgow...from Ashaig airstrip on Skye. Chef Michael Smith prepares for departure in the tiny Scottish Aero Club two-seater plane. Photograph by Iain Smith.

HE TRIUMPHED in the Great British Menu competition on BBC2 TV.

Now a top chef is turning up the heat in a bid to restore air links to the Isle of Skye.

Michael Smith arrived in New York on Monday for a Scotland Week ambassadorial trip to the US and Canada as VisitScotland guest chef.

But his flight via Glasgow began from tiny Ashaig airstrip at Broadford on Sunday – in a two-seater plane flown by Scottish Aero Club chairman Dave McElroy.

FlySkye, the campaign group bidding for Ashaig's upgrading so air services to the island can be resumed, secured Mr McElroy's services through a social media appeal for a pilot and plane.

The flight to Glasgow took just 55 minutes compared with five hours by car – figures not lost on the globetrotting Mr Smith, who is chef/director at the Three Chimneys near Dunvegan.

He said: 'If Scotland – particularly the Highlands and Islands – is to compete with other British chefs, restaurants and hotels at this top level, it is vital for people like me to participate in these events on behalf of the

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

country. We cannot afford to be left out. The distances involved with travelling from remote areas of the northwest Highlands involve many hours of personal driving, before embarking upon the 'real' journey to London or elsewhere.

'Travelling long distances would be so much easier, far less time-consuming and more convenient if we had our own airport serving Skye and its surrounding mainland region in Lochalsh, Glenelg and Wester Ross.'

Highland Council-owned Ashaig has been out of full commission since 1988, but recent public pressure led Highlands and Islands Enterprise to commission a full aviation feasibility study into re-opening the airport.

The findings proved positive and last month the council approved the formation of a working party to take the project forward.

The FlySkye Campaign is led by Boyd Robertson, principal of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Gaelic college and Glendale businessman Ian Blackford.

## Out of the ashes new life springs

Highland firefighters battling a wildfire between Morar and Arisaig last Thursday came across a surprise survivor in a burned out area – a newborn lamb. Right, Mallaig firefighter Kenny Merrilees captures the moment his colleague Neil MacKellaig rescued 'Smokey' – the name given to him by the fire crew. It is thought the ewe deserted her lamb while escaping the flames.

Mr Merrilees said Smokey was 'very weak' but had recovered well from his ordeal. The lamb is now in the care of local crofter Bill Henderson, who will hand rear him.



## Sheriff refuses to change Glencoe man's bail order

A GLENCOE man accused of assaulting a teenage girl has had a plea to have his bail conditions altered refused.

Charles Lear, of Croft 2, Tigh Phuirt, had wanted to tutor his alleged victim before her standard grade exams.

The 60-year-old is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on Monday accused of grabbing the girl's arm and twisting it,

pulling her hair and attempting to pull her from a chair.

Following the alleged incident on March 5, Lear was ordered not to approach or contact the teenager until after the trial.

Defending, Hamish Melrose said Lear had been the home-schooled girl's Highland Council-approved tutor since Christmas.

But Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie 'vehemently opposed' Mr Melrose's request for the bail condition to be removed because of Lear's previous convictions.

She said: 'It beggars belief that Highland Council are happy to allow a man with such a record to tutor her. I'm sure there would be people at the school who could help her.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin agreed and refused to change the bail order.

## Man smashed window to get bed for the night

A MAN living rough in Fort William smashed a High Street shop window causing £3,000 of damage so the police would arrest him and give him a bed for the night.

Derek McLean, aged 49, went to Fort William Police Station on March 10 and asked to be locked up.

After being refused he walked down the High Street and threw a stone at the window before waiting on the scene for police to show up. Later McLean tried to headbutt an officer as he was being put in a cell.

Defending, Hamish Melrose said: 'He wanted a bed for the night. This was his way

of achieving that goal.' McLean spent more than two and half weeks in custody before appearing in court, where he was released to stay at an address on Henderson Row.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin ordered McLean to pay £700 compensation to the shop and to carry out 40 hours of unpaid work.



Morocco bound: Calum Bell and Rory MacQueen aim to raise £1,500 each to fund their Outlook Scotland expedition. 20\_1141rip01

## Pair start fundraising for trip of a lifetime

TWO FORT William boys have begun fundraising for a trip of a lifetime to Morocco next summer.

On their 12-day Outlook Scotland expedition, Rory Bell and Ewen MacQueen will tackle a 4,167m peak in the Atlas mountains and take part in environmental and community projects.

Rory, 16, and 15 year-old Calum will help with building renovations, planting crops, teaching English and playing games with local children.

The boys must raise £1,520 each to pay for the venture next June – and families and friends set the ball rolling on Saturday with a soup and coffee morning in St Andrew's Church Hall in Fort William.

Ewen, meanwhile, made a few extra pounds by playing a medley of pipe tunes on the High Street.

Rory said the 'amazing' trip would be something 'really good to look forward to the exams'.

He told The Oban Times: 'We fly into Marrakesh and then go up Mt Toubkal, the highest mountain in North Africa, on a four-day trek. On day five we start community work in Asni village, building walls, labouing and tutoring English in classes.'

'We are going to be carrying everything with us, sleeping bags cutlery, the lot. It will be a challenge but it's going to be worth it.'

He added: 'We will remember it for a long, long time. We are going to form friendships with these people and help to work with them.'

Anyone wishing to sponsor the boys can email Ewen's dad Calum at macqueen7@hotmail.co.uk.

**HECTOR WAS GETTING CROSS, THE POSTIE SHOULD HAVE BEEN BY NOW WITH HIS NEW SCOTTISH FIELD!**



**MAY ISSUE OUT NOW**

**Inside:**

**ORKNEY RISING - Cameron Stout on his beloved islands**

**PLUS..**

**THREE CHEFS IN A BOAT - DELICIOUS RECIPES FROM ARDEONAIG**

**The genius of artist Joan Eardley**

**10 STAGGERING SCOTTISH FACTOIDS**

**Frogs and toads - why these barometers of our countryside's health are under threat**

**AN AYRSHIRE MAN - JAMES BOSWELL**

**Riding of the Marches - caught on camera**

## Quick action on crofting changes

THE SCOTTISH Crofting Federation (SCF) has welcomed moves to amend crofting legislation so the Crofting Commission can consider decrofting applications by owner-occupier crofters.

Environment minister Paul Wheelhouse announced that a bill is to be raised in the Scottish Parliament to enable the necessary changes.

SCF chairman Derek Flynn said: 'Having brought this to the attention of the Crofting Commission at the beginning of this year, it is gratifying to see that it is being acted on with due haste by the Scottish Government.'

'The Commission took legal advice on the situation, as did the Scottish Government, and it appears they have accepted that there is a glitch in the Crofting Reform (Scotland) 2010 Act and that the only course of action is to introduce new legislation.'

Decrofting was originally made available to landlords who didn't have a tenant on their vacant croft.

The soon to be amended Act made clear that an owner-occupied croft was not vacant and was therefore not available for decrofting.

Mr Flynn said given 'all-round support', a corrective bill should pass through parliament swiftly.



Champion Liam Moynihan, centre, celebrates his win.

## Sprint champ Liam celebrates city win

A FORT William student is 'King of the Hill' after winning an uphill cycling sprint challenge in Edinburgh's old town on Saturday.

Liam Moynihan clocked a time of 18.748 seconds in the first-ever Red Bull Hill Chasers event in the cobbled Grassmarket and Victoria Street.

Champion Liam, 22, said: 'I do most of my racing with my friend Joe Barnes [from Fort William], who is also pro, so I thought he might give me a

run for my money. A few of the other boys are really fast as well so I'm happy to beat them.'

The urban event, its third year, was previously held in Bristol and Malaysia and attracts 500 road, BMX and mountain biking enthusiasts.

Street trials rider Danny MacAskill, from Dunvegan, said: 'It was great to see the crowds lining the streets to watch Liam race to victory – congratulations mate!'



**WIN**  
**a VIP visit**  
**to the Royal Yacht**  
**Britannia**



**WIN TICKETS FOR**



Anya joins Gary and Kevin in the new look Singing Kettle line-up, as all three set off on their greatest ever adventure - Deep into the undergrowth for "Rumble in the Jungle."

Follow the Jungle beat on the hunt for Magical Coloured Kettles and find clues for songs that will captivate and enthrall the whole family.

There's music and mayhem, old friends and new, with plenty to sing about along the way. Packed with Singing Kettle favourites - "Leap Frog", "Do Your Ears Hang Low", "Friends Like You" and "Bear Hunt". A singalong frenzy!

Roars of laughter, fun-filled and action packed combined with the sheer energy of the Singing Kettle make Rumble in the Jungle a "must see" family show in 2013. Bonzo the Dog causes pandemonium with his mischievous monkeying around as the intrepid explorers uncover hilarious surprises under thousands of funky ferns and behind every banana tree. This non-stop, totally awesome safari adventure is a festival of fun for girls and boys of all ages.

Remember - Come dressed as your favourite wild animal to sing along with the sounds of the jungle.



Visit [www.singingkettle.com](http://www.singingkettle.com) for more information.  
 Tickets for Oban can be purchased: Box Office - 01631 567333

Wyx Media have 2 prizes available, with each winner receiving 1 Family Ticket (4 seats), 1 DVD and 1 Funpack. The winning tickets are for the show on Thursday 25th April at 5pm. To enter, simply answer the following question correctly and return the form below by Friday 12th April.

**Question: What is the name of the Dog that causes pandemonium with his mischievous monkeying around?**

Answer.....  
 Name.....  
 Address.....  
 Telephone.....  
 Email.....

Please post your entries to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB  
 Entries to be in by 12 noon Friday 12th April.  
 Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.

**FUN EASTER WORDSEARCH**

Egg	C	K	B	S	P	R	I	N	G	Z	S
Easter	E	H	R	U	N	D	P	P	L	Z	U
Bunny	A	V	I	U	N	U	P	I	K	T	N
Chocolate	S	Y	L	C	Y	N	D	A	E	F	D
Daffodil	T	V	H	O	K	O	Y	N	A	F	A
Spring	E	L	C	K	F	S	N	I	R	L	Y
Hotcrossbuns	R	G	A	F	P	O	T	N	P	O	X
Chicks	H	I	A	M	B	H	E	P	X	W	B
Bonnet	R	D	M	Y	B	I	F	G	E	E	M
Basket	B	A	S	K	E	T	M	U	G	R	J
Sunday	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	S	X
Flowers											
Lamb											

WITH Easter on the horizon this time of year is all about the kids! It is holiday time, which means no school and plenty of play.

We can't rely on the weather in this part of the world but don't let grey skies leave you sitting at home with nothing to do.

There are toy lending libraries in the area, where for a small yearly fee your children can borrow all the toys they like.

Getting creative with your children can be a rewarding experience - not just for them but for you too. If you don't fancy your house ending up like a scene from Art Attack why not take your kids to Oban's Creation Station, fantastic new art classes for youngsters where you can get your hands grubby too.

If outdoor pursuits are more your style you could gather up the family and head for wildlife watching, you could even take a boat trip to make the most of your day. Remember a picnic too.

You might be a more adventurous family and prefer to try orienteering, gorge walking, sailing, climbing or mountain biking.

Of course the weather might not be cooperating, to stay active and dry at the same time you could head to Atlantis Leisure in Oban - their soft play area is ideal for children - and there is a range of activities on over the holidays. They also have a cafe and offer a range of relaxing treatments - so you can enjoy the holidays too.

But perhaps you're one of the unfortunate ones - stuck in an office while others enjoy the holidays - if this is the case, and you would prefer granny and grandpa didn't have a nervous breakdown you should take advantage of some of the day care facilities on offer over the holidays. Many places will run extra sessions at reasonable rates.

If you're running low on things to keep the kids entertained there are thousands of ideas on [activityvillage.co.uk](http://activityvillage.co.uk) - many perfect for when you're out and about in Argyll.

**Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema**

**Brodick** Thu 4 - Sat 6 Apr  
**Millport** Mon 8 - Tue 9 Apr



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

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

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

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

Book in advance at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk) or phone 0871 902 5750. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. £7.00 Adults. Concessions £5.50. 3D +£1.50



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**DCmarine**  
 yacht survey

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# Young FilmG winners celebrate award success



Portree High School pupil Molly Robertson with Gaelic singer Linda MacLeod and Siobhan MacInnes, presenter on BBC ALBA's children's programme Dè a-nis?



Tobermory High School S4 pupils won the FilmG Theme award for 'Tha an t-acras gam tholladh'.

BUDDING filmmakers and pupils from Skye are celebrating after winning four categories at FilmG, the National Gaelic Film Awards at The Arches in Glasgow on March 22.

In the 12-17 age competition, Portree High School S2 pupils claimed the Gaelic category for their short film 'Eilean nam Miann' (Island of Desire) while S1 Portree pupil Molly Robertson took home the Best Production award for her film 'Mo Ghàradh' (My Garden).

In the adult section, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig student Rachel Stridgeon took Best Factual Award with 'Dè an Còrr a dh'iarraas Mise?' (What More Could I Wish For).

Manager Charlene Macleod and support worker Iona MacLennan did the filming, Charlene the editing and Isobel Fraser the voiceover.

Attendees with learning disabilities working at Kyleakin Connections' Nice Café and Bookshop featured in the film and two, Ewen MacLure from Glenelg and Cameron Reid from Kyleakin, travelled down for the gala night along with staff.

Charlene told *The Oban Times*: 'Ewen gave the acceptance speech in front of 500 people. He said 'I have something to tell you - Hello Glasgow!' and the place just erupted. But he did remember to thank everybody.'

Argyll also had its share of success, with Oban High School senior pupil Gillian Mackechnie winning Best Performance for her role as Mairi in 'An Làmh a bheir, 's i a gheibh' (What Goes Around Comes Around) produced by Higher and Advanced Higher Gaelic pupils.

Oban High School Gaelic teacher Angela Smith said she was 'delighted' Gillian had won the school's first FilmG award. Joanne Ford of S4 at Ardnamurchan High School was awarded a Best Performance commendation for her role

in 'An Criochnachair' (The Terminator), while Tobermory High School S4 pupils Carys Christine, Shannon Maclean, Stuart Maclean and Angus MacLennan won the FilmG Theme award for 'Tha an t-acras gam tholladh' (I'm Famished with Hunger).

Shannon and Carys said: 'We were both shocked and delighted to discover we had won the award and went up on stage to receive our trophy. We also won a camcorder worth £500!'

S6 pupil Lucy Langford was also involved with filming but was unable to attend the awards ceremony. This year's competition, the fifth, attracted 62 entries under the theme 'Acras/Miann' (Hunger/Desire).

All winning films can be viewed online at www.filmg.co.uk. Macanta provided an original blend of Gaelic American on the night, with all songs written by Dòl Eòin Mackinnon from Harris - who also took home three of the evening's awards for his music video entry.

12-17 year old category winners: Best Performance: Gillian Mackechnie, Oban High School who plays Mairi in 'An Làmh a bheir, 's i a gheibh' (What Goes Around Comes Around) (The Hungry Heroeses) Adult category winners: Best Community Film: Kyleakin Connections, Isle of Skye, for 'Na Gaisgeach Acrach' (The Hungry Heroeses) Best Student Film: Ricky Hannaway, student at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, but originally from Stornoway, for his film 'Cha tig Toileachas gun Blàths nad Dhachaigh' (Happiness is a Loving Home) Best Drama: Michelle Size who lives in Edinburgh, for her film 'A' coiseachd nam Bhrogan' (Walking in my Shoes) Best Music Video, Best Performance and FilmG Theme Award: Dòl Eòin Mackinnon for his music video 'Manadh' (Apparition) Best Factual Film: Rachel Stridgeon for 'Dè an Còrr a dh'iarraas Mise?' (What More Could I Wish For) People's Choice Award: Dariusz Sipowski from Poland and a student at City of Glasgow College, for 'Blas a' Bhruadair' (Sweet Dreams)



Gillian Mackechnie of Oban High School won Best Performance Award for her role as Mairi in the film 'An Làmh a bheir, 's i a gheibh'.



Winners in the Gaelic category, Portree High School, with award presenter Dr Alasdair Allan MSP.

winners: Best Performance: Gillian Mackechnie, Oban High School who plays Mairi in 'An Làmh a bheir, 's i a gheibh' (What Goes Around Comes Around)

Best Factual Film: Greenfaulds High School, Cumbernauld for 'Dòchas' (Hope)

Best Drama: Tain Royal Academy for 'Na Loidhnichean' (The Lines)

Best Production: Molly Robertson from Broadford, Isle of Skye for 'Mo Ghàradh' (My Garden)

FilmG Theme Award: Tobermory High School, Isle of Mull, for 'Tha an t-acras gam tholladh' (I'm Famished

with Hunger) FilmG Award for Gaelic: Portree High School, Isle of Skye, for 'Eilean nam Miann' (Island of Desire)

Adult category winners: Best Community Film: Kyleakin Connections, Isle of Skye, for 'Na Gaisgeach Acrach' (The Hungry Heroeses)

Best Student Film: Ricky Hannaway, student at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, but originally from Stornoway, for his film 'Cha tig Toileachas gun Blàths nad Dhachaigh' (Happiness is a Loving Home)

Best Drama: Michelle Size who lives in Edinburgh, for her film 'A' coiseachd nam Bhrogan' (Walking in my Shoes)

Best Music Video, Best Performance and FilmG Theme Award: Dòl Eòin Mackinnon for his music video 'Manadh' (Apparition)

Best Factual Film: Rachel Stridgeon for 'Dè an Còrr a dh'iarraas Mise?' (What More Could I Wish For)

People's Choice Award: Dariusz Sipowski from Poland and a student at City of Glasgow College, for 'Blas a' Bhruadair' (Sweet Dreams)



Rachel Stridgeon won best factual film.



Award winners Kyleakin Connections alongside guest presenters Tony Kearney, left, and Sally Howitt of River City, third left.

## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

# Twenty years ago

Thursday April 1 1993



### Family's music festival success

The Henderson family, of Fort William, swept the boards at Lochaber Music Festival. t13twenty05



### Portree High School basketball success

The fourth annual Scottish Islands Basketball Tournament returned to Skye recently, attracting a total of 16 entries, boys and girls, representing eight schools. At the end of the event, the Portree High School team emerged victorious and they are pictured above celebrating their success. t13twenty06



Marion gets to work. t13twenty03

### Half a beard for charity

Jim Jamieson doesn't usually do things by half - except if it's for charity. And that's exactly why he's been walking around Oban recently with half a beard. The lighthouse keeper, of Pulpit Rock, Oban, shaved off his beard, with a little help from hairdresser Marion McPherson, to raise funds for Oban's Lorn Resource Centre.



### Traders concerned over 'narrow road'

OBAN shopkeepers are concerned over the new pavement in the town's main shopping area. Workmen have been upgrading the George Street pavements for Strathclyde Regional Council's roads department and have laid attractive paving and ramps suitable for wheelchairs. Part of the pavement has been widened, leaving a bay for lorries to unload, but shopkeepers are worried the narrower road is not wide enough to allow large vehicles to pass safely. t13twenty07



### Child hands cash to council

Left: Twenty-two-month-old Christina Georgeson and her mother Susan present a £24,250 cheque to Dunollie district councillor Ian Smyth on behalf of Oban Housing Association. The association recently bought Cawdor House, at Oban's Railway Pier, from Argyll and Bute District Council and plan to convert it into four bedsits for homeless families. t13twenty02



The end result. t13twenty04



Lochaber High School S5 and S6 drama pupils performed an evening of one-act plays before parents and friends as part of their practical exam toward their Intermediate 2 Drama qualification. 'Eclipse' by Simon Armitage, 'Be my Baby' by Amanda Whittington and 'My Narrator' all proved a big hit with the audience. Many pupils involved will now go on to study Higher Drama next year. Above, the cast and crew of the three plays with drama teacher, Mrs Jacqui Hume.

### Skye poet short-listed for bilingual award



Maolios Caimbeul has shortlisted for prestigious Irish/Gaelic poetry competition

ISLE of Skye poet Maolios Caimbeul (Myles Campbell) has been shortlisted for a prestigious bilingual competition for poetry in Irish Gaelic or Scottish Gaelic.

His poem, Taistealaiche a' Coimhead Thairis air Cuan Ceò (c. 1815) (Wanderer Looking over a Sea of Fog 1815) draws inspiration from the famous oil painting by Casper David Friedrich.

The work is one of eight selected for the Comórtais Fíliochta an Chóirnéil Eoghain Uí Néill 2013. The poetry contest, now in its sixth year, is an integral part of the longest running cultural exchange between Ireland and Scotland, Turas nabh Fíli. Sibéal Davitt, office secretary at Comhfháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge in Dublin, said: 'There was huge competition for the shortlist again this year and the judges will surely have a difficult job picking a winner on the night.'

'We received applications from 26 poets and only eight poems were chosen out of 54 in total, 15 of which were written in Scottish Gaelic.'

The shortlisted poets will gather at Cois Teallaigh in Kildare St in Dublin on April 19 to read their poems - but only one will take home the coveted Corn an Chóirnéil Eoghain Uí Néill and a €500 cash prize. The winning poem will be published in literary magazines 'Comhar' and 'Feasta'.

Campbell, whose writing has gained renown both within Scotland and internationally, was crowned the Bard at the Royal National Mod in 2002. He was also writer in residence at Sabhal Mór Ostaig, the Gaelic college on Skye, in 2008.

### Atlantis Leisure ninth annual lock-in draws a crowd

MORE than 100 Oban High School S1 pupils recently took part in the ninth Atlantis Leisure Lock-in, run by Christian youth work charity Hope 2 Oban (H2O).

The 10-hour extravaganza began at 10pm on Friday, March 22, finishing at 8am the following morning.

Throughout the event, young folk had the opportunity to use the pool, gym, dance studio, roller disco and the superb Lost City soft-play.

H2O would like to thank the Atlantis team, volunteers from Oban High School, Oban Youth Café, The SSC and the SRU as well as folks from the H2O volunteer team. Special thanks are due to local business for their much-appreciated support for the evening: Café Atlantis, Jackson's the Butcher, Breckenridge and Bookers.

## Argyll and Bute Dance Festival comes to Oban High School

Winter weather denies Campbeltown Grammar School

HIGH school pupils from across Argyll came to Oban High School for the annual Argyll and Bute Dance Festival.

Dance groups from Oban High, Hermitage Academy and Lochgilphead High competed in junior and senior competitions on March 25 but Campbeltown Grammar were unable to attend because of the weather.

The judging panel for the day was Jonathan Barton and Sara Maria Smith from Ballet West and dance teacher Claire Firth.

Before the results were announced Ballet West students performed two dances, a solo classical piece followed by a funky, 40-strong routine, which was an inspiration to the young dancers in the competition. Sara Maria also performed a beautiful ballet solo before the results were announced.

Winners:  
Junior competitions:  
1 Hermitage 3; 2 and ('most entertaining' award) Hermitage 2; 3 Hermitage 4.

Best Presentation - Lochgilphead 1, Rona Lockart, Erin Dowrie, Eve Maxwell, Rachel Coll, Isla Fowler, Rosie Hetherington, Alex Neilson.

Individual Prize of a half price summer school, donated by Ballet West, - Jake Sutherland, Hermitage Academy.

Senior competitions:  
Overall winners and Best Presentation - Oban High School 'Fix You', Caitlin Taylor, Meroula Hondrou, Maeve Hannigan, Laura Grout, Taylor MacInnes, Danielle Fothergill.



The senior winners of the 'Most Entertaining' award were Oban High School's Gwen Stefani group.

Lauren Lawson; 2 Hermitage Academy Seniors; 3 Oban High School 'Brothers of yo Sisters', Carys Rimmer and Katherine Tamplin.

Most Entertaining - 1 Oban High School 'Gwen Stefani mix', Lauren Angus, Lora MacLeod, Chloe MacLeod, Helen Stage, Allyson Boyd, Chelsea Higgins, Eilidh MacLean, Kate Werran, Hannah Gillies.

Individual prizes donated by Moira Barbour - Lauren Angus (OHS), Helen Stage (OHS), Carys Rimmer (OHS).

Outstanding Dancer Award - Eilidh MacLeod, Hermitage Academy.  
Individual prize - Caitlin Taylor, Oban High School.



Ian Muir on accordion, Marie Fielding on fiddle and Neil MacMillan at Inveraray

### Ian Muir Trio entertain at Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club

INVERARAY and District Accordion and Fiddle Club had a good crowd for its March club night.

Supporting players were Fyne Folk, with Sally Hall, Alex John MacLeod and Jake MacKay on fiddle, Nick MacFarlane and Iain Macaskill on accordion and Agnes Liddell on keyboard. Also on accordion was Ruairidh MacLean, Ullapool; Alex MacKinnon, Carradale; Colin Sut-

cliffe, originally from Blackpool but now living locally, John Renton, and on melodeon, James MacArthur. On fiddle, Charlie Saune from Rothesay; on keyboard, Jimmy MacDonald, Tighnabruich - and Jake MacKay on 'moothie'.

Guest artists were the Ian Muir Trio - with Ian on accordion, Marie Fielding on fiddle and Neil MacMillan on keyboard, and they gave a very

well rehearsed programme, including fiddle solos from Marie, with plenty of good craic from Ian throughout. Before the final set, chairman Niall Iain MacLean thanked all the artists for a superb night's entertainment and the band finished with the well known De'il among the Tailors.

Next week the club looks forward to the welcome return of Freeland Barbour and the Occasionals.

### Aberfeldy's revamped Birks Cinema to open with special golden ticket promotion

FILM buffs are looking to 'cream in' on a Golden Ticket as Perthshire prepares for the opening of the revamped Birks Cinema.

The much anticipated opening of a new state of the art cinema in Aberfeldy is drawing near and the race is now on residents to keep their eyes peeled for an exclusive Mackie's Ice Cream-sponsored Golden Ticket to the opening event.

#### Community-led

After a seven year fundraising campaign and a £1.3million construction programme, the cinema is set to roll out the red carpet this April in a series of events that will mark the re-opening of the iconic building.

Offering the very latest blockbuster films this community-led social enterprise is staging a very special evening of glitz and glamour to give locals a taste of Hollywood at an exclusive Golden Ticket event on Friday, April 19.

Tickets have been distributed all around Perthshire this week but local residents need to race to find one of just 200 winning tickets, and they have until April 12 to claim the coveted prize.

Golden ticket scratch cards are available to any visitors at participating retailers around Highland Perthshire - residents just need to be on the look-out for posters in shop windows or visit their local Co-Operative stores to take part.

Paul Foley, manager of The Birks Cinema trading company which runs the cinema said: 'We are so excited to be in the final stages of preparing to open our doors. It will soon be 'curtains up' for us and we want the residents of Highland Perthshire to be the very first to sit in those lovely plush red seats and to welcome The Birks Cinema in true Highland style.'

Karin Mackie, marketing director at Mackie's of Scotland, said: 'There has been a terrific response from the community for the cinema - and the Golden Tickets provide a chance to be on the red carpet on the first night.'

There is an additional chance to win two tickets to the opening night on Mackie's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mackiesicecream.

For more information on the cinema and its film schedule visit www.birkscinema.co.uk



Paul Foley of The Birks Cinema, at the start of the search for 100 Golden Ticket Winners.

### Skye pupils boost acting skills

SKYE AND Lochalsh primary and secondary Gaelic medium education pupils were recently given the chance to boost their acting skills in a Gaelic drama festival at Sabhal Mór Ostaig in Sleat.

Over 50 P6-7 pupils from Sleat, Broadford, Dunvegan, Staffin, Portree, Kilmuir, Plockton and Lochcaron primaries, followed by 30 Portree High School pupils performed their own productions on stage.

Arthur Donald, SMO drama artist in residence, said: 'This was the first drama festival for primary and secondary schools to be held on Skye. I think everyone enjoyed the festival and that they are already looking forward to the next one.'

Portree PS headteacher John Finlayson said: 'The pupils had a fantastic time and it was a great opportunity for them to mix and work with their peers from other schools.'

The festival received financial support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig through their Gaelic Drama Network initiative.



Portree pupils at the drama festival at Sabhal Mór Ostaig

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Times *life*

# Fans of all ages turn out for season finale



Oban High School Novice Juvenile Band with Pipe Major A J MacColl. 15\_t14netherlorn07

ROBBIE Dewar, the six-week-old son of Oban Pipe Band pipe major, Euan, was by far the youngest audience member at last week's Netherlorn Piping Society recital, the final meeting of the season.

It was his first time at a piping concert and the infant - grandson of society president Alistair Dewar - seemed to enjoy his first experience of the piping world. Well, he didn't cry.

But Robbie has a long way to go to match the achievement of the longest-serving society member and the oldest person in the room last Thursday, Mary Ferguson.

The 102-year-old honorary member of the Netherlorn Piping Society, who lives in Benderloch's Ford Spence Court, grew up in a piping family and never misses the recitals, which have been a monthly fixture at Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Like the previous recitals over the winter months, last Thursday's meeting gave Oban's pipers of the future their chance in the spotlight.

Both Oban High School pipe bands, the juvenile and novice juvenile sections, gave a medley of society president Alistair Dewar - seemed to enjoy his first experience of the piping world. Well, he didn't cry.

The audience was also enthralled with the skill level of 18-year-old Angus 'AJ' MacColl, the son of champion Benderloch piper, Angus. AJ played his own arrangements of well-known tunes after leading the novice juvenile band.

Headline piper on the night, however, was Campbeltown native Willie McCallum, whose impeccable style was a real treat for all the piping supporters in the room.



MC Iain Hurst, left, discusses the programme with society president Alistair Dewar. 15\_t14netherlorn06



The hard-working committee members of the Netherlorn Piping Society are, from left: Caroline McCulloch, Glynis Dewar, Rosemary MacColl and Margaret Macintyre. 15\_t14netherlorn05



Members of the Oban High School Juvenile Pipe Band. 15\_t14netherlorn03



Members of the infamous Kilmelford and District Metropolitan Pipe Band, who meet regularly at the Culfaill Hotel. From left: Jamie McAndrew, Jim Robb, Donnie Campbell and Fergus Gillanders. 15\_t14netherlorn02



102-year-old Mary Ferguson, an honorary member of the Netherlorn Piping Society, was the oldest in attendance last Thursday. 15\_t14netherlorn04



Six-week-old Robbie Dewar, who attended his first piping recital last Thursday, is pictured with his dad, Oban Pipe Band pipe major Euan. 15\_t14netherlorn01

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**The Incredible Burt Wonderstone** Thur 4th, 20:30  
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Wreck It Ralph (PG)

Ralph is tired of being overshadowed by Felix, the 'good guy' star of their game who always gets to save the day. But after decades doing the same thing and seeing all the glory go to Felix, Ralph decides he's tired of playing the role of a bad guy.

Oz: The Great and Powerful (PG)

When Oscar Diggs, a small-time circus magician with dubious ethics, is hurled away from dusty Kansas to the vibrant Land of Oz, he thinks he's hit the jackpot - fame and fortune are his for the taking that is until he meets three witches, Theodora, Evensora and Glinda, who are not convinced he is the great wizard everyone's been expecting.

The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (15)

Superstar magicians Burt Wonderstone and Anton Marvello have ruled the Las Vegas Strip for years, raking in millions with illusions as big as Burt's growing ego. But lately the duo's greatest deception is their public friendship, while secretly they've grown to loathe each other. But there's

still a chance Burt and Anton can save the act - both onstage and off - if only Burt can get back in touch with what made him love magic in the first place.

The Croods (U)

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Safe Haven (12A)

An affirming and suspenseful story about a young woman's struggle to love again, Safe Haven is based on the novel from Nicholas Sparks, the best-selling author behind the hit films The Notebook and Dear John. When a mysterious young woman arrives in a small North Carolina town, her reluctance to join the tight knit community raises questions about her past. Slowly, she begins putting down roots, and gains the courage to start a relationship with Alex,

a widowed store owner with two young children. But dark secrets intrude on her new life with such terror that she is forced to rediscover the meaning of sacrifice and rely on the power of love in this deeply moving romantic thriller.

Beautiful Creatures (12A)

An affirming and suspenseful story about a young woman's struggle to love again, Safe Haven is based on the novel from Nicholas Sparks, the best-selling author behind the hit films The Notebook and Dear John. When a mysterious young woman arrives in a small North Carolina town, her reluctance to join the tight knit community raises questions about her past. Slowly, she begins putting down roots, and gains the courage to start a relationship with Alex,

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Ardshiel, Bishopton Road, Lochgilphead

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donald.files@sky.com



**Donald Files**  
PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER  
Telephone 01631 565043  
Mobile 077327 32447

# Business

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk  
01631 568021

## Jura celebrates as community shop opens its doors

RESIDENTS on the Isle of Jura toasted the opening of the island shop on March 25 as a community venture.

Jura Community Store will be run by Jura Stores Community Interest Company (JSCIS) and membership to the company is open to all Jura residents aged 16 and over. Non-residents can become associated members and under 16's can become junior members.

Denise Rozga, chairwoman of JSCIS said: 'This is a great opportunity for the community to make the community shop successful and make life on Jura more sustainable.'

'The community acquisition of the shop has not only ensured that the island maintains access to essential goods and services, but will also give the community independence and create a social hub in the village.'

A community effort to buy the island's only shop was launched last year when the business was faced with closure. The Isle of Jura Development Trust, on behalf of the community of Jura, secured funding from the Big Lottery Fund and HIE to purchase it under the Scottish Government's Community Right to Buy.

The refurbishment of the building will start in autumn this year.

## Fish farm company gains international environmental certification

A FISH farming company has achieved an international certification standard for its environmental management system (EMS).

The Scottish Salmon Company's (SSC) EMS is now fully certified to ISO 14001 and this underpins SSC's continual drive for environmental improvements and best practice across the whole business.

In particular, SSC's environmental management system measures and monitors performance in reducing waste, increasing energy efficiency and cost savings.

Paul Condy, of SSC's environment team, said: 'This is an important achievement and forms a key component of our business strategy which focuses on our ongoing commitment to improving our environmental practices within our farming operations.'



Ardbeg Distillery's Jackie Thomson was named Global Icon Visitor Centre Manager of the Year at the World Whisky Awards.

# Islay distillery completes hat-trick of awards with World's Best Single Malt

AN ISLAY distillery has completed a hat-trick of awards at the renowned World Whisky Awards in London.

Ardbeg Distillery scooped the World's Best Single Malt 2013 accolade and declared the Best Islay Single Malt for its latest limited edition, Ardbeg Galileo.

However, there was further success at the awards ceremony, organised

by Whisky Magazine, when popular Ardbeg distillery visitor centre manager, Jackie Thomson, was named Global Icon Visitor Centre Manager of the Year.

'A lovely surprise'

Jackie told *The Oban Times*: 'It is lovely to get the recognition but because I hadn't seen our edition of Whisky Magazine, which had

arrived the previous day, everyone at our table apart from me knew I was going to win!

'It was therefore a lovely surprise and we had a great night.'

'I am pleased to have won the accolade but I work with a great team here and I enjoy the interaction with visitors.'

Allan Little, Ardbeg senior brand

manager, said: 'Receiving these awards is amazing. We're over the moon to be recognised as the World's Best Single Malt 2013, Best Islay Single Malt and Jackie is an inspiration to us all every day.'

'We are thrilled she has been acknowledged as the Global Icon Visitor Centre Manager of the Year.' Ardbeg Galileo was launched to

celebrate the Islay distillery's world-first experiment in space on the International Space Station.

The ground-breaking study blasted off when samples of the Ardbeg-crafted molecules took off for the International Space Station (ISS) in an unmanned Russian spacecraft.

Skye's Talisker Distillery won the Best Island Malt category.

## CalMac on lookout for calendar images

AMATEUR photographers of all ages are being given the opportunity to have their work featured in a calendar.

Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) is inviting entries to a competition which will see winners photos take pride of place in CalMac's 2014 calendar sold on-board its ships.

Other prizes include CalMac travel vouchers, Amazon camera and photo-shop vouchers and a framed print of the winning image.

Martin Dorchester, managing director of CalMac, said: 'Our calendar is a wonderful showcase for the west coast of Scotland and is highly prized by those who buy or receive them.'

'Our ships and ports often provide a perfect vantage point from which to capture the stunning scenery, and we know from social media sites and picture sharing websites that there are many of amazing pictures taken at all times of the year, in all conditions, that would be perfect for our calendar. We have therefore decided to launch this competition to encourage people to take more pictures of and around our ships, and submit the best to us.'

The competition deadline is Monday May 20.

Images can be emailed to [emarketing@calmac.co.uk](mailto:emarketing@calmac.co.uk).

## Susie documentary to be shown on BBC 2

A DOCUMENTARY about racing driver Susie Wolff, which was made by her brother, David Stoddart, will be aired across the UK this month after impressing BBC bosses in Scotland.

Aired on BBC Scotland last month, the programme, which documents the Oban driver's rise through the motor racing ranks to Formula One testing, had viewing figures of 186,000 in Scotland.

If the network showing of *The Fastest Woman in the World* gets a similar share of the viewing figure this month, there could be as many as two million watching.

For anyone who missed it first time round, the network programme will air on BBC2 on April 14 at 5.30pm.



## Seawater Operations Manager Loch Etive, nr Taynuilt

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland, England and Ireland.

We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Seawater Operations Manager for our five seawater farms on Loch Etive, nr Taynuilt.

Our farms in Etive have a combined annual production of 1,500t sea-grown rainbow trout @ 4.8kg. This tonnage is expected to increase over the next 2-3 years with the development of existing sites within Etive and the opening of new production in a separate geographic region.

As Operations Manager you will be responsible for the day to day planning, running and reporting of the five farms. Reporting to and working closely with the Seawater Manager, the successful candidate will ideally already be a Site Manager within the aquaculture industry, or an experienced Assistant Manager that is keen to progress into management, with proven ability for developing site infrastructure and establishing best farming practice. Essential skills will include the ability to manage and motivate personnel, first class planning and organisation abilities and a high degree of computer literacy. In addition, applicants should have a full driving license and be prepared to undertake travel as required.

Depending on experience, we offer a salary package in the range £33k-£39k, along with the opportunity to develop your management career within acompany at the forefront of UK trout farming. Assistance with housing may be available.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, by Monday 18th April 2013, to:

Lindsey Elder, HR Assistant, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office 01698 810008, E-mail: [lindsey.elder@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:lindsey.elder@dawnfresh.co.uk)

Informal enquires can be made to Sean Lydon, Seawater Manager, Office 01866 822549, E-mail [sean.lydon@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:sean.lydon@dawnfresh.co.uk)

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We have a variety of hours available which cover mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

All vacancies you would be able to support others to engage in activities and participate as needed, enable individual development and maintain the practical skills needed to live an independent life.

As an organisation, we are committed to developing skill and providing an extensive training programme with career opportunities within ENABLE Scotland. We offer positive terms and conditions, including a contributory pension scheme.

For an application pack, please e-mail [rhona.ferrier@enable.org.uk](mailto:rhona.ferrier@enable.org.uk) or telephone 01631 565062 quoting post reference number OS/0122. We particularly welcome applications from candidates with a disability and make our forms available in alternative media. Completed application forms should be returned to Rhona Ferrier at ENABLE Scotland, Oban Services, Unit 3, McLeod Building, Lochavullin Estate, Oban, PA34 4PL or by email to [rhona.ferrier@enable.org.uk](mailto:rhona.ferrier@enable.org.uk).

Closing date: Friday 12th April 2013.

To view and apply for all our vacancies, please visit [www.enable.org.uk](http://www.enable.org.uk)

These posts will be subject to a PVG Check.

ENABLE Scotland is an equal opportunities employer. Scottish charity number SC009024.

## RECRUITMENT

### RIVERSIDE FILLING STATION

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The Manager, at the address below.

There for you: Riverside Filling Station

Oban Rd, Lochgilphead, PA31 8NG



### Telesales Operator

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Contact: Gabriella McKenzie for an application form

Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG

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enquiry@forteith.co.uk

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(All pay rates will be NMW or above)

Please telephone us on 01880 820577 or e-mail a CV to [anchorhotel@lochfyne-scotland.co.uk](mailto:anchorhotel@lochfyne-scotland.co.uk) or simply call in for an application form.

The Anchor Hotel and Sea Bed Restaurant  
Harbour Street. Tarbert. Argyll. PA29 6UB

### Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr



#### Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre

Has the following vacancies:

**Heritage Centre Manager**

(part time, initially for 1 year contract) &

**Heritage Recorder**

(part time, initially for 9 month contract)

For further information please see our web site at [www.lismoregaelicheritagecentre.org](http://www.lismoregaelicheritagecentre.org)

Or contact the secretary

Tel: 01631 760360 or Email [jmjbaker@hotmail.com](mailto:jmjbaker@hotmail.com)

### BIDWELLS

#### Couple required for Lochshiel Estate

Due to retirement an excellent opportunity for a full time estate worker and part-time housekeeper has arisen on a coastal estate 40 miles west of Fort William, close to Acharacle.

The estate worker's duties will include maintenance of the estate buildings, including the main house and holiday cottages, as well as responsibility for the upkeep of the estate gardens and policies. The ideal candidate should have carpentry/joinery skills. Machinery maintenance, experience with chainsaws and boats would be an advantage.

The part-time housekeeper will be responsible for managing and assisting with the changeovers of the holiday cottages.

A competitive salary is offered including the availability of a good sized two bedroom house.

Applicants must be well organised, highly motivated, and used to working independently but prepared to work with others.

Please apply in writing, including current CV by 30 April to: Graeme Ferguson, Bidwells, Carn Dearg House, North Road, Fort William, PH33 6PP



### FINANCE ASSISTANT

£18,000 depending on experience

Dawson Energy Limited (part of the 3sun Group), is one of the UK's leading suppliers of skilled manpower to the renewable energy industry. We are involved with projects throughout the UK and Europe with offices located in Great Yarmouth, Oban, Aberdeen, Norway & Denmark. We are currently seeking a Finance Assistant to work alongside our Finance team at our Oban office. This position will include general finance administration tasks and inputting data in line with the Company's current systems as well as other administration duties as required. The successful candidate will have previous experience of payroll and will be confident in using Sage, Excel, and other Microsoft packages including Word and Outlook, will hold a Business Administration NVQ preferable at level 3, or equivalent qualification, and will be experienced in working to deadlines.

A full job description is available on request. Applicants should apply in writing including their CV, preferably online to [Julie.Lockhart@dawson-energy.co.uk](mailto:Julie.Lockhart@dawson-energy.co.uk) or by post to J.Lockhart at the address below. Closing date for applications is 5th April 2013.

Dawson Energy Limited, Glenshellach House, 7e Glengallan Road, Oban, PA34 4HG

### EDITOR

Fish Farmer Magazine & Websites

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Please supply a full CV with covering letter to: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)



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Please apply by email with full C.V and covering letter to: [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

# Business

## Business match-maker aims to boost business development

Mentoring scheme links people with skills to small businesses

'A DATING agency for businesses' is how some have described an imaginative programme that is pairing up companies in Argyll with people who can aid their development.

If the Business Mentoring Programme is the Argyll commerce answer to Blind Date, then project executive Pauline Cameron is the county's Cilla Black.

### Lismore gift maker

Pauline works with companies keen to develop a particular aspect of their business and pairs them up with a 'mentor' from a database of businessmen and businesswomen with the relevant skills.

Last Thursday Pauline visited Nicky Lewis, owner of the Lismore-based gift maker Seahorse, which has seen its online sales increase from zero to £100,000 in year one. This was partly thanks to help from mentor Peter Burrell, of the Highbank Collection in Lochgilphead.

Pauline explained: 'I'm like the dating agency for these businesses.

'If I am approached by a business requiring mentoring, I match them up with a business that has the best



Nicky Lewis of Lismore-based gift maker Seahorse has seen online sales increase from zero to £100,000 in year one

skill set.'

Nicky chuckles in agreement with Pauline's analogy. 'It was like a date when Peter came for our first meeting

and I took him to lunch on Lismore,' she added. 'I had to share quite a bit of personal and sensitive information about the business but this was treated

in the strictest confidence.

'It can be difficult to see the wood for the trees when you are so involved in the business, so having someone like Peter as a sounding board allows you to take a step back and really consider things.'

'While Seahorse had strong design credentials, we were very weak on the financial management side.'

'Peter provided invaluable advice on costings and profit margins.'

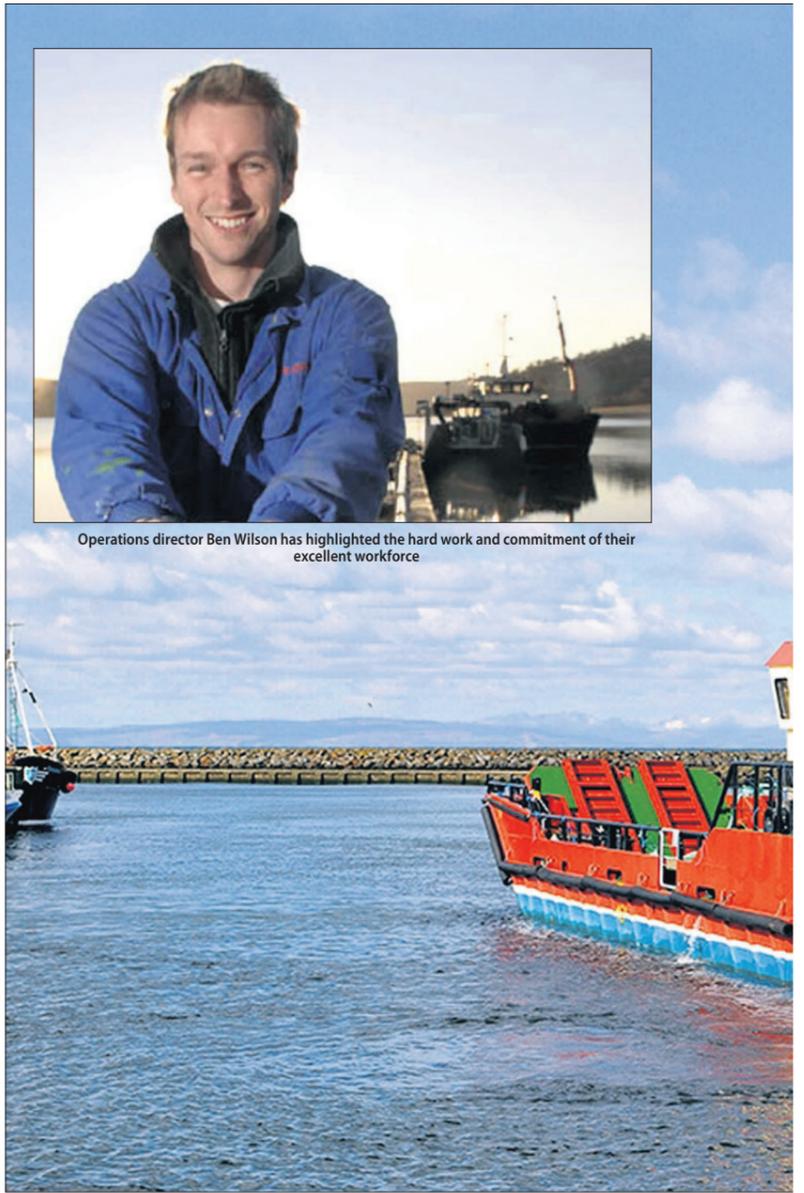
The programme tries to avoid pairing up businesses in the same town and insists on strict confidentiality from mentors.

'It takes a certain attitude to say, 'it's not working and I need support', says Pauline.

'It is not a weakness to say your business needs support - even Richard Branson has mentors for aspects of his business.'

Pauline, who currently works with 17 businesses on the scheme in Argyll, is keen to recruit more business people as mentors.

She can be contacted on 01631 566007 or via [pcameron@businessmentoringscotland.org](mailto:pcameron@businessmentoringscotland.org).



Operations director Ben Wilson has highlighted the hard work and commitment of their excellent workforce

### Overhaul to system sees changes to PAYE in force this week

FROM this week, the way employers process payments for staff will change as part of the biggest overhaul to the Pay As You Earn (PAYE) system in 70 years.

The move means employers will have to report Real Time Information (RTI) when paying employees from April 6, instead of sending P14 and P35 forms at the end of the year.

The government says the system will be quicker, easier and more accurate for employers.

A spokesman for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs said: 'We want to help and support all businesses to make the change so we will therefore not be imposing any penalties for in-year late reporting until 2014.'

For more information, see [hmc.gov.uk/rti](http://hmc.gov.uk/rti).

### Isle of Eriska Hotel chef strikes gold at first Scottish Restaurant Team Challenge

Winners announced at Scottish Culinary Awards dinner

A TALENTED chef and his culinary team from the Isle of Eriska Hotel, Benderloch were awarded a gold medal after taking part in the first Scottish Restaurant Team Challenge.

Simon McKenzie and his team travelled to the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre at the start of March to take part in the ScotHot challenge, an event attended by some of the most talented kitchens and chefs from across the country.

Guest judges included world renowned chef, Albert Roux.

Each team was given a mystery basket of ingredients and given only an hour and a half to prepare a three course meal for four guests.

The Isle of Eriska Hotel team prepared hake, broccoli puree, coriander mussel salad and gnocci for the panel of four judges - but had to wait until the end of the month to find out if they were successful, when the winners were announced at the Scottish Culinary Awards dinner at Glasgow's Crowne Plaza.

A complete surprise, Simon was overjoyed when the triple-rosette winning hotel's name was called out.

He said: 'My team and I are delighted to have won this prestigious award.'

'From time to time it is fun to do something different from the day-to-day tasks we have at the hotel and

benchmark our skills against other industry professionals out there.

'I was fortunate to have three exceptional members on my team that day which made us stand out from our fellow competitors and highlights how lucky I am to get to work with such talented individuals on a daily basis.'

Due to work commitments, Simon was the only member of the team who was able to travel to pick up the award, but he paid tribute to Emma, Matt and Jakub as he collected the award.

He said: 'A great night all round, I only wish my team members could have been with me to receive the award.'

**Argyll & Bute Community Health Partnership**

**Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay Kintyre Medical Group**

**Bank Dispenser (2 Posts) - Band 3**

Hours as required  
 £16,110 - £19,077 (Pro rata)

**Musdale Surgery**  
**Southern Medical Practice**

A Bank Dispenser is required for a small GP Practice to cover Annual Leave. You should have English and Maths at Standard Grade Level (or equivalent) or above and be computer literate. The successful candidate must be flexible and be able to work under pressure to meet tight deadlines. You must be able to work, paying close attention to detail with a high level of accuracy. Informal enquiries for the Musdale Surgery post are welcomed by Catherine O'Hanlon, Practice Manager, Tel: 01586 421206.

Informal enquiries for the Southern Medical Practice are welcomed by Annie Colville, Practice Manager, Tel: 01586 830635.

Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8LB - Tel 01546 906788 (24 hour answering service) or e-mail - [recruitmentlab@nhs.net](mailto:recruitmentlab@nhs.net)

Please remember to quote the relevant reference number for the vacancy you are applying for.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 18 April 2013.

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**West Islay Tidal**

Proposed Tidal Energy Project south west of Islay

**Public Information Days**

DP Marine Energy Ltd and DEME Blue Energy propose to build one of the world's first commercial scale tidal energy parks in the waters to the south west of Islay.

Public Information Days will be held in Bowmore, Port Ellen and Portnahaven. This is an opportunity to drop-in, ask questions and find out more about the project.

Bowmore Hall, Tues 9th April, 11am to 2pm  
 Port Ellen, Columba Hall, Tues 9th April, 5.30pm to 8pm  
 Portnahaven, Rinns Hall, Wed 10th April, 11am to 3pm

For more information visit the website:  
[www.westislaidtidal.com](http://www.westislaidtidal.com)  
 Or contact Blair Marrie  
[blair.marrie@dpenergy.com](mailto:blair.marrie@dpenergy.com)  
 +44 (0) 7775 846039

**Argyll Animal Aid**

**AGM**

Great Western Hotel, Oban  
 Lorn Suite  
 April 9th 7.30pm  
 All very welcome

**Any enquiries to Catherine Goodbrand (Chairman) 01631 565990**

The Scottish Parliament  
 Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**David Stewart MSP**

Regional MSP for the Highlands & Islands

**Advice Surgeries**

Monday 8th April 2013, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
**Atlantis Centre, Dalriach Road, Oban**  
 Tuesday 9th April 2013, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
**Argyll Inn, 69 Loch Nell Street, Lochgilphead**

No appointment required

Write: PO Box 5717, Inverness, IV1 1YT  
 Telephone: Constituency Office 01463 716299  
 E-mail: [david.stewart.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:david.stewart.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AN, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
13/00450/PP	Formation of new vehicular access with associated parking area	Land Adjacent To Kellan Mill Lodge Killeochran Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA72 6JY	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
13/00518/PP	Erection of boathouse and formation of vehicular access	Land South Of Warehouse Pier Road Scarinish Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Tiree Area Office
13/00611/PPP	Site for the erection of 5 dwellings	Land North West Of Woodside Cottage Salen Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA72 6JB	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
13/00612/PP	Erection of 2 wind turbines (37 metres high to hub height, 54 metres high to blade tip) and associated infrastructure including access tracks (amendment to planning permission 12/01463/PPP) - change in height of 1 turbine from 37m hub height to 45m hub height (54m to blade tip to 67m to blade tip)	Land North West Of Barran Caltunn Cottage Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
13/00624/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference: 10/00087/PPP (Site for the erection of 21 No. dwelling houses and formation of vehicular accesses)	Land West Of Upper Cemetery Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Tobermory Area Office

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
13/00478/CONAC	Partial demolition of dwellinghouse including roof area containing dormer and single storey extension on north/south elevations and demolition of detached shed	Dunard Breadalbane Street Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6PX	Tobermory Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 7:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
13/00636/LIB	Installation of roller shutter door, internal bund and associated external flue	Warehouse 2 Bruichladdich Distillery Bruichladdich Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA49 7UN	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

**EDINBURGH**  
 THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

**CLANN AGUS TEAGHLAICHEAN**

**Iar-cheannard**  
 Bun-sgoil Taobh na Paire  
 Tuarastal: 42,288 (a-reir meud na h-obrach)  
 uairean-obrach: 35  
 còd-aithneachaidh EDN005108

**Prìomh Thidsear**  
 Bun-sgoil Taobh na Paire  
 Tuarastal: 37,284  
 uairean-obrach: 35  
 còd-aithneachaidh EDN005109

**tidsear bun-sgoil**  
 Bun-sgoil Taobh na Paire  
 Tuarastal: 21,438-34,200  
 uairean-obrach: 35  
 còd-aithneachaidh: EDN005110

**Closing Date: 19 April 2013**  
 To find out more and apply go to [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/jobs)

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 In association with [myjobscotland.com](http://myjobscotland.com)

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/jobs)

**Gardener / Arborist required for Achamore Gardens on the Isle of Gigha.**

The position will be principally within the Rhododendron garden and the duties will primarily be (but not limited to) mowing, pruning, planting, weeding and general maintenance of the gardens. A significant part of the job will also involve supplying firewood to the island.

Experience of and aptitude in using strimmers, chainsaws, knapsack sprayers, mowers and tractors will be beneficial as will relevant certificates. Training will be arranged for suitable candidates as necessary.

The pay will reflect the degree of experience and skills of the successful applicant. Housing may be available to rent if required.

For more details email: Malcolm MacLachlan, [gardens@gigha.org.uk](mailto:gardens@gigha.org.uk) or call 01583 505275 and leave a message. Alternatively write to Malcolm MacLachlan, The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust, Craft Workshop 1, Gigha, Argyll, PA41 7AA

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

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Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan

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01631 568021



# Mull firm secures multi million pound contract

## New jobs follow seven year contract to service Orkney and Shetland fish farms

A MULL-based family run company has secured a multi million pound business deal allowing them to create five new jobs.

Inverlussa Marine Services' newest deal secures a seven year contract to service the Meridian Salmon Group's Orkney and Shetland fish farm sites.

**Doubled workforce**  
This is the latest in a steady flow of work, from different marine sectors, which has seen Inverlussa rewarded for having the confidence to invest in its fleet of workboats.

The company now employs 27 people and has almost doubled its workforce in a year, during one of the worst recessions on record.

The firm, which puts a big part of its success down to having a highly experienced and loyal staff, has commissioned not one but two new workboats, with a total investment of £3.1 million, in just 10 months.

**New vessel**  
The latest vessel to join the Inverlussa fleet is the *Geraldine Mary*, a 21-metre site service vessel built at A Noble and Sons, in Girvan, and specifically designed to cater for the new Meridian contract.

Ben Wilson, operations director, said: 'None of this would have been possible without the hard work and commitment of our excellent workforce. This also shows the importance of the fish farming sector in the west coast.'

'There has been a lot of work put in to get the funding together and at a time when all the banks are coming in for heavy criticism, the Clydesdale Bank has been nothing but a big support to our company, we couldn't have expanded so quickly without its help.'

'Highlands and Islands Enterprise has helped with the project in a lot of ways too, giving valuable business support and ongoing staff development.'

In line with its investment, Inverlussa's turnover in the last year has doubled, with the Inverlussa fleet being tasked to help with everything

from renewable energy projects, to fish farm servicing and marine haulage work.

The *Geraldine Mary* is the fourth vessel in Inverlussa's current service fleet. She joins the *Heleen Burnie*, which came into commission 10 months ago, the *Margaret Sinclair* and the *Carol Anne*.

The new boat is specifically designed to carry out fish farm site service, including mooring work, net changing and a host of other general tasks.

Mr Wilson added: 'The new boat has created five new jobs - four crew, plus a shore based manager.'

'The seven year contract we have signed with the Meridian Salmon Group, with options to extend, is a huge achievement for our hardworking staff.'

Colin Blair, seawater production director at Meridian, said: 'We have worked with Inverlussa for a good number of years now and have always received a first class service. This has given us the confidence to enter into a contract of this nature.'

'It is heartening to see a small Scottish business investing in new workboats in Scotland, to serve the aquaculture industry and creating good quality Scottish jobs.'

### Students visit Argyll and Bute fish farms

FIVE students from Scotland's Rural College, Barony Campus, at Dumfries, visited The Scottish Salmon Company's operations in Argyll and Bute as part of their course.

The students, working towards their National Progression Award (NPA) in fish husbandry and welfare, were taken to fish farms at Quarry Point and Stronachullin in Mid Argyll where they were given a tour of the land-based operations before going on a boat to view the salmon cages on Loch Fyne.

The five day trip had started with a health and safety briefing and introduction to The Scottish Salmon Company before finishing with a tour of the company's processing facility at Cairndow.

### Oban's Bell Ingram appoint chartered quantity surveyor

OBAN'S branch of Bell Ingram has appointed Hugh Nicol as its first chartered quantity surveyor as it moves to expand its range of rural land management services.

Hugh, who has more than 25 years experience in the construction industry, has extensive local knowledge of the area, having grown up in Argyll, with family across the west highlands and islands.

He said: 'After working in Edinburgh, Australia and Guernsey, it's exciting to return to where I call home and be in the position to bring valuable industry experience to benefit the people within the local community.'

### Isle of Islay company gains from rise in 'glam' camping

AN INNOVATIVE Islay company is to take advantage of the growing 'glamping' market after it won £30,000 to help develop their unique idea.

Glamping - or glamorous camping, to the uninitiated - is a term created for those who like the idea of camping but prefer their home comforts.

Reacting to the trend, the Islay-based Stormpods, a sister company of Stormcats run by Gus Newman, has developed a small hut - or Stormpod - which is fully furnished with a bathroom, kitchen, bedroom and living area.

The turf-roofed Stormpod is so sympathetically sited that people



passing by the demonstration pod on Islay have failed to even notice it.

Inside, however, connection to mains electricity allows for a microwave, fridge, heater, shower and other mod cons. Stormpods manag-

ing director Gus Newman explained: 'With the turf on the roof, you can't hear the wind and rain hitting it, so it is ideal for west coast weather. The demonstration Stormpod is only 10 metres from the road but people just

walk past it. When people are staying in it, passers-by are more likely to ask why there's a car in the middle of the field!

This is the first ever fibreglass shell accommodation and is aimed at the tourist market but I have already been approached by people who want a 'granny annex' extension on their property or even a hot tub.'

Stormpods recently reached the final 20 of a competition run by Scottish EDGE and were one of the 17 businesses that were awarded £30,000 of funding.

The company plan to use the funding to aid marketing and building demonstrator pods.

### MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

#### Outfall Replacement: Dunbeg

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Water has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of an outfall replacement at:

Cost of Project 230,000		
Description	Latitude	Longitude
Location	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
	56 26.8539' N	05 26.3118' W
	56 26.8512' N	05 26.2346' W
	56 26.9674' N	05 26.2081' W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at **Oban library, 77 Albany Street, Oban.**

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: [MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk), quoting reference: **FKB/C1651**

Scottish Water

### Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

#### Proposed sublet of a Grazings Share(s)

Roderick Munro is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to sublet the grazings share(s) in the Mill Lands, Uig, Skye Common Grazings pertaining to the croft/holding at No 4 to Seumas Campbell of AMhulleann Ghlas, Uig, Skye for 10 years. If you have an interest in this application you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

### Improved proposals for Dawnfresh Fish Farm on Loch Etive



Learn about our improved plans to create a fish farm on Loch Etive by Airds Bay. View our proposals and have your questions answered.

**Monday 15 April 2013**  
1pm-6.30pm Taynuilt Village Hall, Taynuilt PA35 1JN

**Tuesday 16 April 2013**  
1pm-4pm North Connel Hall, Argyll PA37 1RF  
6pm-8pm Ardchattan Primary School, Ardchattan PA37 1RH

If you are unable to attend the exhibition, or would like more information about the proposals, please contact Dawnfresh at [dawnfresh@communityline.org](mailto:dawnfresh@communityline.org) or write to Dawnfresh, c/o MHP, 3 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7HW

### CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

Name, Croft, Extent/Reason, Conditions, Case number Mr & Mrs A R Cameron 6 Eorabus, Kilfinichen & Kilvickoon 0.4157 ha - Amenity ground 4.86.40627

Conditions:  
(1) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of the date of the direction.  
(2) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

### www.highland.gov.uk

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://www.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
12/04866/FUL	Chalet NE of Camus Mhor Mallaig Bheag Mallaig	Erection of house (renewal of Planning Permission 07/00591/FULLO)
13/00941/FUL	Fishermen's Mission Station Road Mallaig	Alterations and change of use from Fishermen's Mission to Mixed Use including: Retail, Professional Services, Business, Cafe, Hostel and Residential Use
13/01078/FUL	Tesco Stores, High Street Fort William	Alterations to building

Time period for comments is 14 days.  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)




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**Proposed Assignment of a Croft**

Mr Duncan McDougall is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at Creag Mhor, Isle of Colonsay to Miss Hannah Johnston of Point Cottage, 22 West Shore Street, Ullapool, IV26 2UR.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

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## Kintyre farmers count cost of snow storms

KINTYRE sheep farmers are facing up to the possibility of devastating losses after last month's snows cut off the peninsula.

The 'freakishly gruesome' spell of ferociously cold wind and snow is expected to be a big blow for many hill farmers in Kintyre and other parts of Scotland.

While the snow may be melting, it's deadly toll is still to be fully realised.

One such farmer facing up to the grim realities of the weather is Jamie Black of Tandy Farm, who has 600 Blackface and Blackface crosses on his 1,000 acre hill farm above Kilkenny.

Around 100 ewes had lambed before the winter blast hit, and Mr Black estimates dozens of those may have already been lost.

He said: 'It is the worst late March weather we have had to deal with.'

'It was the last thing farmers needed once the lambing season was under way. We desperately need some warmer weather to keep the loss of life to a minimum.'

'Three or four days without food takes a lot out of a pregnant ewe. When she loses strength, she will walk away from her newborn.'

'It is critical lambs get their first milk. The mother's milk is very thick and full of nutrients and essential antibodies. If they can get that they can survive.'

With snow in some gullies reaching 20 feet in depth, he fears he may not know the full extent of the damage done until May.

He added: 'Just because the snow is over and everybody has got their power back on, it doesn't mean everything is okay.'

'This has knocked the animals' condition back inestimably. Probably a month was knocked off the mothers' condition in the space of three days because it was impossible to get out to feed them.'

Media coverage of the plight of Scottish producers has seen an unprecedented level of support shown by the general public, with hundreds of messages of goodwill and many offers of help and assistance to producers.

NFU Scotland president, Nigel Miller said: 'Last week's devastating weather hit many producers at lambing time, the most crucial part of the sheep year.'

'Those affected have spent a hellish week trying to find and feed vulnerable ewes and lambs, carry on caring for those ewes still to lamb and preserve life where possible.'

'Unfortunately, the weather has been so extreme that, as the snow recedes, considerable losses are also going to be found.'

'Head office, regional staff and local secretaries will continue to work with our members in the worst affected parts of the country identifying areas where we can help and what assistance they may need to get through this difficult and traumatic time.'

'While there has been tremendous empathy from fellow farmers for those hit by the weather, what has been most gratifying is the public response and a genuine appreciation of the hard work, effort and pride that goes in to putting food on people's plates.'

'For those still struggling with snow, there may be little respite. However, for shoppers there is the opportunity to show Scottish producers how much they value their efforts. Visiting the butcher or supermarket and putting some tasty Scotch Lamb on the menu will help lift spirits in what is a bleak lambing time for many.'



Sheep farmers throughout the south west may have to wait until May to find out how many of their sheep have survived last week's snow storms



Jamie Black said that the snow storms were the last thing farmers needed once lambing was underway. 08\_c14sheep01

## Crofting grant scheme should be part of SRDP claims new report

A GRANT scheme specially targeted at crofting should form an essential part of the next round of the Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP), according to a new report to the Scottish Government.

The findings, produced by a working group convened by the parliamentary cross-party group on crofting, explore how the programme could be revised to better assist crofters.

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) urged the team working on the SRDP to heed the report's recommendations.

SCF parliamentary spokesman Norman Leask said: '[The new SDRP] was originally scheduled to start in 2014, but despite a possible delay we have fed our views into the development team as it is imperative

that the needs of crofting are taken into account as it is being designed.

'The government officials are being very receptive and helpful in this. We are suggesting that a new scheme, which we have called the Crofting Support Programme (CSP), should replace the Crofting Counties Agricultural Grant Scheme (CCAGS).

'As well as the existing measures in CCAGS, the CSP would have new options specifically aimed at crofters and common grazings.

'We also call for reinstatement of Standard Costs, increased intervention rates, increased capital grants and improved scheme accessibility. We have urged that the scheme should continue to be specifically for

crofters.'

The report includes a view from NFU Scotland that the scheme should be opened up to non-crofters. None of the other organisations represented in the working group supported this view.

Mr Leask said: 'CCAGS is a crofters' scheme and so should the CSP be - the name says it all. Why anyone would want to open it to non-crofters is beyond me. Crofting is the only regulated land tenure system of its kind in Scotland, or perhaps anywhere. It is a model of rural development and as such should have its own support scheme. If non-croft holdings want to enjoy the benefits of being regulated, such as the CSP, they can become crofts. We would welcome that.'

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## Roy Bridge shepherd and Sam win at Invergarry

ROY BRIDGE shepherd Brian Strachan and his two-year old nursery dog Sam made it a home victory for Lochaber at the Invergarry open sheep dog trial on Saturday.

Some 59 dogs ran on a beautiful day with ideal conditions and while the sheep were reasonably well behaved, a lot of dogs had problems at the start of the drive going around the handlers feet and through the chute.

Sam and Mr Strachan saw off strong competition from some of Scotland's top national and international handlers to take the trophy.

The delighted shepherd told The Oban Times after the event: 'I am over the moon, especially

to win with a young puppy in his first open trial.

'He is a very special dog this one. A lot of people have asked to buy him but he is not for sale.'

A total of £730 was raised for local charities on the day.

Results:  
1st Brian Strachan - Sam 97 points; 2nd Stuart Davidson - Queen 94 points; 3rd Ewan MacKinnon - Mist 93 points; 4th John MacLaughlin - Bill 92 points; 5th Jessie Main - Roy 91 points; 6th Andrew Carnegie - Chip 91 points; 7th John MacKillop - Kep 89 points; 8th Michael MacNally - Fin 89 points; 9th Peter Martin - Jen 88 points; 10th Ian MacKay - Ben 87 points

## Caledonian Marts welcome 16-year old judge at Stirling

CALEDONIAN MARTS (Stirling) Ltd had forward 903 cattle for their annual April show and sale when they had the youngest judge on record for the centre.

Sixteen year old John Graham, Mains of Burnbank, Blair Drummond was the SSS Young Farmers Club Stockjudging Winner for the 2012 season.

Bullocks averaged 226p and sold to 283p per kg for two 335kg Limousins from Windyedge, Dalry and £1500 for a 680kg Aberdeen Angus from Castlehill, Torrance.

Heifers averaged 216p and

sold to 275p per kg for a 450kg Limousin from Auchinstarry, Kilsyth and £1540 for a 575kg Limousin from the same home.

An excellent entry of forward cattle met the dearest trade so far this year.

The overall champion was a 330kg Limousin bullock from Robin Dunlop, Windyedge, Dalry which sold at £935 to John Blayloch, Hallburn, Longtown.

The reserve champion was a 545kg Limousin heifer from Jim Wilson, Auchinstarry, Kilsyth which made £1290 to D G Watt, Cairntack, Belhelvie.



Brian Strachan and his two year-old nursery dog Sam saw off all-comers at Invergarry on Saturday

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**Market reports**

**ISLAY United Auctions**  
Bullocks  
Aberdeen Angus X: £1110, £990(7), £980(8), £840(6) RSPB Aoradh.  
CharolaisX: £1110, £1060, £1050(2), £1030(2), £1020(5), £940(2), £930(6), £850(8) RSPB Aoradh.  
LimousinX: £1020(4), £1010, £970(9), £900(3), £890(4), £870(6) RSPB Aoradh; £860 Woodend Heifers  
Aberdeen Angus X: £800, £700(7) RSPB Aoradh.  
CharolaisX: £1070, £1020, £960, £940(5), £930(4), £910, £900, £850(5) RSPB Aoradh; £830 Cladville; £820(4) RSPB Aoradh.  
LimousinX: £790(2) and £770(7) RSPB Aoradh.  
Prices per kilo  
Bullocks  
Aberdeen Angus X: 263p(6), 254p(7) RSPB Aoradh; 248p(2) Dunlosit Estate; 246p(8) RSPB Aoradh; 230p Dunlosit Estate.  
CharolaisX: 272p, 268p(2), 258p(8), 249p(2), 246p(5), 243p(5), 241p, 237p(2) RSPB Aoradh.  
LimousinX: 256p(4) RSPB Aoradh; 254p Woodend; 253p(4), 250p(4), 249p(3) RSPB Aoradh; 248p(2) Dunlosit Estate; 245p(2), 243p(9) and 238p(2)

£1140 Inch of Leckie;  
£1120 Woodend;  
£1090 Inchie;  
£1055 Drumcairn;  
£1030 Shorttrigg;  
£1020 Leysbent;  
£1010 Castlehill;  
£1000 Gillandersland;  
Prices per kilo  
Bullocks:  
283p Windyedge Bungalow;  
262p Tandy;  
256p Mid Ervie (Stranraer);  
251p Mains of Struie & Mid Ervie;  
248p Tandy;  
247p West Park & Woodend;  
246p Tandy, Windyedge & Mid Ervie;  
245p Sheildrum & Balcachie;  
241p Gibbleston & Woodend;  
240p Peacockbank;  
Heifers:  
275p & 268p Auchinstarry;  
254p Blairlaw (Barrhead);  
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£1200 Hattrick;  
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£1540 & £1340 Auchinstarry;  
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11 Renault Clio Extreme 1.2, 3dr, Grey, 12,000 miles	£8,250
60 Renault Clio I-Music 1.2, 5 door, Grey, 12,500 miles	£7,950
60 Grand Scenic Dyn, 1.4 TCE, Red 24,000 miles	£9,850
10 Renault Clio Dyn, tom tom, DCI, 5dr, Beige, 9,400 miles	£9,550
10 Peugeot 207 Sport, 1.6 Auto, 5dr, silver, 13,650 miles	£8,450
10 Renault Clio Dyn, TCE estate, 1.2, 5 door, blue, 18,000 miles	£8,250
10 Renault Clio Dyn, tom tom, TCE, 1.2, 5 Door, Black, 18,500 miles	£8,500
10 Ford Focus Zetec 1.6, 5 door, Blue, 18,500 miles	£7,995
59 Peugeot 207s SWHDI Estate, Silver, 22,000 miles	£8,950
59 Renault Clio Dyn 1.5DCi, 3dr, Red, 10,750 miles	£8,450
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Mrs Ina Young, Ballachulish would like to thank all her family and friends for all their kind wishes, cards flowers and gifts on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

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**BIRTHS**



**MACARTHUR - MCKINNON**

Neil and Karen are pleased to announce the safe arrival of our daughter, Ruby Morag Sine on Saturday March 16, at the A.M.U. Granddaughter to Sine and (late) James McKinnon, Sannox and the late Alasdair and Morag MacArthur, Tiree. Sister to Hector and Ruairidh.

**ENGAGEMENTS**

**POLLARD - HART** - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Rebecca, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Pollard, Kilmore and Samuel, elder son of Professor and Mrs George Hart, Chester.

**GOLDEN WEDDINGS**



**LANG - SHAW**

Douglas to Moira married on April 3, 1983, at Giffnock Congregational Church, Glasgow, by Rev Hamish Smith, B.D.



**SCOTT - HUGHES**

At Oban Congregational Church on April 8, 1963, by Rev Hall-Bissett, George to Sheila. Present address: 39 Cecil Street, Stirling.

**MACKINNON - VALENTINE** - Kenneth to Clare on April 6, 1963, at Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh by the Very Rev Dr Ronald Salby Wright. Present address: Ardcuan, Oban, Argyll.

**DIAMOND WEDDING**



**MACCALLUM**

George (Islay) and Margaret (Harris), nee MacKay, were married on April 8, 1953, at St Columba's Church, Glasgow. Many congratulations from all the family.

**DEATHS**

**HIGGINS** - Bert Suddenly, after a long illness, at The Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, on Tuesday April 2, 2013. Robert (Bert), beloved husband of Fiona (Members of Oban Sailing Club and Skipper of "The Golden Rule") and much loved son of Hilda. Funeral service, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited, at Woodside Crematorium, Paisley, on Tuesday April 9, at 1.00pm. Family flowers only please.

**JOHNSTON** - Peacefully after a long illness, borne bravely, at the Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead on March 29, 2013, Victor P. Johnston, aged 65 years, of 9 Brae Road Ardtrishaig. Much loved husband of Patsy and loving father of Stuart and Blair. A dear brother of Malcolm, Walter, and Janice. A much admired brother-in-law and uncle to all the family. A good neighbour and dear friend and former work colleague to many. A keen and involved member of the local community. Funeral service will be held in Ardtrishaig Parish Church on Friday April 5, at 1pm, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Mid Argyll Hospital.

**MACINTYRE** - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on April 1, 2013, Frances, nee Fraser, 17 Glenview, Dalnally, wife of the late Archie, much loved mother of Keith and the late Sharon and much loved granny of Morven, Callum, Leanne, Fergus, Findlay and Cameron. Funeral service Friday April 5, Dalnally Parish Church 1.00 p.m.

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully at Erskine Hospital on Monday April 1, John Anthony Macdonald of Keppoch, Roy Bridge a loving husband, father and grandfather. Funeral at St Margaret's R.C. Church, Roy Bridge on Saturday April 6, at 2 p.m.

**MACKAY** - Peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban, on April 2, 2013, in his 99th year, James formerly of Lianag, Barcalaine, dear husband of the late Nancy, beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral will take place at Cardross Crematorium on Tuesday April 9 at 1:15 pm.

**MACKINNON** - Suddenly, on March 31, 2013, in his 83rd year, John, Millpark Place, Oban, (formerly Isle of Tiree), beloved husband of Betty, dearly loved dad to Duncan and Fiona and a much loved papa and scannair to all the family. Funeral will take place from The Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Friday, April 5, 2013 at 1.00 p.m. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only. Retiral collection/donations will be taken if desired for Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (known as ABCD).

**MCCORMICK** - Donald, Blackrock, Islay on March 21, 2013, aged 88 years, much loved husband, dad and grandpa. So sorely missed.

**MCDOWALL** - Peacefully on ward B, Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on March 29, 2013, in his 87th year, James Robinson McDowall, much loved husband of and great grandfather. Sadly missed. Funeral Private.

**READE** - Peacefully at home on Sunday 31, Jeff Reade of Sgriob-Ruadh Farm Tobermory at the age of 75. Beloved husband of Christine, father to Brendan, Matthew, Garth and Joe. There will be a gathering of family and friends at Sgriob-Ruadh at Midday on Friday April 5, to celebrate his life, followed by interment at Calgary cemetery. All welcome. Donations to Cancer Research please.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**MACPHERSON** - Donald and family would like to thank everyone for the many kind expressions of sympathy received in the loss of Sandra. Special thanks to Father MacKinnon, Glen Mor Medical Practice, Macmillan Nurses, Belford Hospital and Mike McFall. Also, everyone who paid their respects at the church and graveside. The sum of £1,775.00 was raised for Macmillan Nurses and Mary's Meals.

**PATERSON** - The family of the late George Paterson would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy in their recent bereavement. Sincere thanks to the Lorn Medical Centre District Nurses, all carers, Elaine Madej and special thanks to Dr Emma Boyle for her kindness and support to George and his family. Sincere thanks to the Rev Donald McKinnon for a comforting and moving service and to Hamish Hoey & Sons for their compassion and excellent handling of the funeral arrangements. Thank you to all who attended the service and graveside.

**MEMORIALS**

**ANDERSON** - In loving memory of a dear mum, granny and great-granny Mary Hay, died April 6, 1999. Loved and remembered always.

**BIRD** - In loving memory of my dear wife Nan, (nee MacCuish) who died April 2, 1999. If I could have one lifetime wish One dream that could come true I'd pray to God with all my heart For yesterday and you. - Your loving husband Terry.

**BIRD** - In loving memory of Nan, our dear mum, nannie and great-gran who died April 2, 1999. If roses grow in Heaven Lord Please pick a bunch for me Place them in my mother's arms And tell her they're from me. - Ruthie, Murdo and family x

**CLARK** - Remembering with love my darling fiance George who died April 7, 2006. I will always love you. - Jackie xxx

**CLARK** - In loving memory of my beloved son George, who passed away April 7, 2006. Your memory is my keepsake With which I will never part I have you in my heart Loved and remembered everyday.

**CLARK** - In memory of my dear sister Effie, who died at Kilninan on March 26, 2009. You left me quietly your thoughts unknown You left me memories I am proud to own Sorely missed by sister Mary at Kilninan, Torloisk, Mull.

**HEAP** - In loving memory of our darling son and brother Edward Alexander (Eddie) accidentally killed at work on April 4, 1979 aged 18 years. There is always a face before us

A voice we would love to hear A smile we will always remember Of a son we loved so dear. Always loved. - Mum, Dad, family and Auntie Peggy. xx

**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.

**MACLENNAN** - Remembering our parents John died April 3, 1984, Cathie on April 11, 1989.

Precious memories will be with us forever. - Ewen, Rosemary and family, 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. In our hearts and memories always

**MATHESON** - In memory of Peggy, beloved mother, sister, granny and aunt. Precious memories, how they linger.

- Inserted by the family.

**MORRISON** - Treasured memories of my partner and our wonderful mum Christine, who was taken from us 10 years ago.

Sadly missed. - John, John and Conor x.

**PATERSON** - In loving memory of a dear brother and uncle Alec (Nab) who died April 7, 2006.

A beautiful memory dearer than gold Of a brother whose worth can never be told There's a place in our hearts no one can fill We miss Nab and always will. - Love Curly and Rhonda xxx Miss you Uncle Nab, you're simply the best. - Jacqueline xxx

**PROSSER - MAXWELL** - In loving memory of my darling daughter Yvonne Elizabeth, called to Jesus April 6, 1989.

A flower, petals tightly furled Was lifted from her mortal clay And firmly planted in a world Where full blooms grow in rich array.

- Love mum and family.

**WALKER** - In loving memory of my dear father Archie who died on March 29, 1996. Sadly missed.

- Inserted by his loving son Archie.

**CHARITY DONATIONS**

**CANCER RESEARCH UK** **Fighting Cancer on all fronts ...** CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation **Commitment of over £15 million each year** Cancer Research UK Angel Building 407 St John Street London EC1V 4AD

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**Duncansburgh Church holds Easter coffee morning**

Duncansburgh Macintosh Parish Church of Scotland held an Easter coffee morning on Saturday in aid of church funds. From left, helpers Andy Muirhead and Alec Callison join Allana Baxter and her mum Mary MacLeod for a cuppa. 20. f14church01



**Seder Meal enjoyed by Kilchrenan and Dalavich congregation**

The Rev Robert Brookes arranged a very different commemoration of the Last Supper. A Seder Meal was given by him in Dalavich Church on Maundy Thursday. The Passover Seder is a Jewish ritual feast that marks the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Passover. Pictured are some of the congregation who attended the meal which was an enlightening experience and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended.

**Muckairn Guild turns spotlight on Mary's Meals**

MARY'S Meals' Kim Webster gave an illuminating talk about the Dalnally-based charity at Muckairn Guild's March meeting. Stella Huntingford welcomed everyone and led worship before Marlene Stanners read the passage from Mark, chapter six on feeding the 5,000. After the hymn, 'The church is where God's people are praising', Kim explained how the charity began in 2002 and grew out from the charity Scottish International Relief. This original charity was begun by Magnus

and Fergus MacFarlane-Barrow from their family home in Dalnally in 1992. Mary's Meals now works in 16 countries and 93 per cent of donations are used in charitable work. Share The charity follows the creed that those who have more than they need share with those who don't have enough. Kim then showed a film called 'Making a Difference in Liberia', where Mary's Meals provides for 66,000 children daily, using locally-grown food if possible.

The film gave a wonderful impression of happy children eager to learn. Nan Ninkster gave a vote of thanks before the tea. The meeting closed with the hymn 'Jesus' hands were kind hands'. The final guild meeting of the session on 'A Faith to Proclaim' will be next Monday, April 8, with drama readings and annual general meeting. A coffee morning to raise funds for Mary's Meals will be held in Taynult Village Hall on May 4.

**MEMORIALS**

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- SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION** Sunday 7 April 2013 2nd of Easter
- St John's Cathedral, Oban Holy Communion.....08:00 Combined Mattins and Eucharist.....10:15 Children's Corner Loop System Large Print Hymn Books All Welcome Nicki McNelly, Provost. (01631) 562323 Kilbrandon Kirk Holy Eucharist.....15:15 St James, Ardrebeknisk, Cladich Holy Eucharist.....11:00 Holy Cross, Portnacroish, Appin Evensong.....18:00 A cordial welcome to people from any church or none
- St Columba, Gruline, Mull Holy Eucharist.....11:00 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist.....08:00 Evensong.....20:15 Holy Eucharist ..... Wed 10 April 14:30

**Thought for the Week**

**Light in Dark Times**

DOES life ever overwhelm you? You can't go on. An illness, a death, a wayward child, unfaithful partner, financial struggles, lost your vision, rejected by friends, beset by foes: these are dark days and things couldn't be worse; all your strength has gone: "As your days, so shall your strength be." (Deu.33:25). Heman the Ezrahite (real name) felt like that. He was so depressed and defeated he complained, "Darkness is my closest friend." (Ps.88:18). In dark days, the Psalms can lighten the way. It's good knowing others have dark times, yet survive to praise God. At times God may seem distant and silent. We don't sense His warmth. Dark clouds surround us. When God seems distant, He isn't. He's there protecting us. "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." (Deu.33:27)

One Argyll day recently, it was cold and cloudy. Suddenly the sun appeared. The warmth on my face felt so good. But just as quickly, the cloud returned. The sun hadn't moved. It was still there but the clouds hid it. Life's like that. It may seem dark. But God hasn't moved. Clouds of life temporarily cover His light and warmth. Trust Him. Talk to Him. He's there. Dark days are never the end! Let Him light your way.

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# Double delight as Saints dump Postal

## Miller delivers the goods with two goals against league leaders

**Umbro SAFL Premier Division Postal United 0 Oban Saints 2**

TWO SECOND half goals from substitute Alan Miller were good enough to give Saints all three points against league leaders Postal United at Crownpoint 3G last the weekend.

The Oban side were without their Bulgarian and Japanese contingent for this fixture but welcomed Sean Ford back into the squad.

Postal, who won the Centenary Cup, Jimmy Marshall Trophy and League Championship last season, came roaring out of the blocks and had Saints pinned back in the opening exchanges and almost took the lead in the first minute, but thankfully for the visitors a header from Brian Hughes hit the underside of the bar and came down into the hands of keeper Daniel Cassells - what a let-off.

**Nasty cut**

Saints lost the services of Keith Millar early in the game. Firstly he was caught by a flying elbow and received a nasty cut to his left eye. He was patched up and returned to action, but five minutes later he was caught on the face again and this time there was no way back for the Saints skipper. He had to leave the field with his other eye closing rapidly. His place in midfield was taken by Myles McAuley.

The visitors forced themselves back into the game and had a stonewall penalty turned down in the 20th minute when a high cross into the box was clearly punched away by a Postal defender, but referee James Gal-

agher didn't see the incident and waived away the claims from the Oban players and sidelines.

This incident seemed to give up the Oban lads as they came roaring into the game and Ross Maitland, Donnie Campbell and Eddie Swift all had chances to score.



Alan Miller - two second half goals clinched the points.

The game was played at a tremendous pace, but with a lot of good football into the bargain.

Postal were trying to find striker Mick Anderson with the high ball, but he was getting little change out of Marc MacCallum who had a great game against the big striker.

The half time whistle arrived with the scoreline blank - which was probably just about right.

Saints started the second half well, taking the game to United and were unlucky with a couple of half decent efforts.

The Oban side replaced Eddie Swift after ten minutes of the second half as he's been suf-

fering with a chest infection all week.

Due to a lack of strikers on the bench, Alan Miller was drafted in up front alongside Donnie Campbell and it didn't take Alan long to make his mark on the game when he got on the end of a Willie Gemmell free kick to bury the ball past Postal net minder Tom Hollis.

Unlike the first half it was the Oban side who were pressing forward at every opportunity with Donnie Campbell tormenting the Postal defence with some clever play.

As the half wore on the game was flowing from end to end and Alex Craik was on hand to clear a Postal shot off the line. This was followed by a couple of good saves from keeper Daniel Cassells.

**Increased**

Saints were on top now and increased their lead in the 71st minute and it was that man Miller again who was on hand to stab the ball over the line after some good play from the Oban team.

Postal were never out of things, but were finding it hard going against a determined Saints defence, although they rode their luck a bit when Alan Miller, back defending, saw his attempted clearance come back off the post and booted clear - a lucky escape.

As the game drew to a close, the home side pushed more men forward which meant they were leaving spaces at the back which Saints almost exploited on two occasions. Paul Kerr was unlucky not to have topped off

**FOOTBALL**

a good afternoon's performance with a goal but his shot whistled inches past the post. Alan Miller had another good chance to net his hat-trick but the ball wouldn't come down for him in the box and his shot sailed inches over the bar.

There was no further scoring with Saints good value for their win in a hard-fought match where there was no quarter asked or given from the players.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted: He said: 'We knew it was going to be tough and we had to win. If Postal had got the points then the league race would probably have been over for us.'

'It's still their title to lose, but it means we're still in the mix, although we will have to play on Saturdays and Sundays nearly every weekend from now till the end of the season which will be very difficult.'

'I thought the boys were excellent today. We had a slow start, but after settling down played some good stuff. It was important we bounced back after the poor display in the West Cup the week before so it was good that we had such a big game to play in immediately after the cup defeat.'

Saints have two games this weekend. On Saturday they face high flying Castlemilk in a league match and on Sunday they take on Carlton YM in the second round of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy. Both games will take place at Glencruitten and will kick-off at 2pm.



Alasdair Currie in his Citroen AX. Photo: KSS Images

## Difficult start for young Mull rally driver in 1000 Ecosse Challenge

YOUNG Mull rally driver Alasdair Currie got off to a difficult start in the opening round of the Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge at the PJ Planthire and Groundwork's Charterhall stages last weekend.

Two big spins on the first group of stages put the Citroen AX driver well down the leaderboard but an improved performance in latter rounds gave him a 10th place finish overall.

'It was a bad start,' said the 15-year-old, who is co-driven by long term navigator Mark Runci-

man. 'The first two stages were terrible and we were caught out on the first stage due to not gaining grip on the almost un-driveable mud covered track.'

'We finished 10th overall, which wasn't the start we were hoping for, but it's a finish and we now have some valuable points on the leader board.'

Round 2 will take place at Ingliston on April 27.

Alasdair is backed by John MacDonald Transport, Howford Hydraulics, Forge Construction, Western Isles Hotel and the Craignure Inn.

## Co-op continue MacTavish Cup sponsorship

**SHINTY**

THE CAMANACHD Association got the first round of this season's MacTavish Cup underway last Saturday, in the knowledge that The Co-operative had extended its sponsorship of the tournament.

The group has extended its sponsorship of the MacTavish Cup for the 2013 season and will also add a major primary school event on the day of the final on June 15 at Bught Park, Inverness.

Through the new partnership, The Co-operative will work with the Camanachd Association on this new initiative to encourage more children to get involved in sport and enjoy healthy lifestyles.

Camanachd Association president Archie Robertson said: 'We are delighted to be retaining our relationship with The Co-operative.'

## Kilmore are the champions

**CARPET BOWLS**

RESULTS of Lorn Carpet Bowling League at the end of the season. Kilmore won the league with Cairnbaan runner-up.

Club	P	Pts
Kilmore	12	77
Cairnbaan	12	65
Benderloch	12	57
North Connel	12	44
Connel	12	41
Easdale	12	30
Taynuilt	12	24

The finalists of the Knock Out cup played on Tuesday March 26 at North Connel Bowling Club were Cairnbaan and Kilmore. The score at the end of full-time was 4-4.

Three extra ends were played and Cairnbaan carried off the Campbell Trophy for 2013.

The MacGregor Cup was played for in Kilmelford on Saturday March 30 and one rink from all seven clubs were represented.

The winners of the trophy was the rink from Benderloch, skipped by Alastair, with Jean, Michael and David, who beat the Connel Rink, skipped by Sandy with Marion, Rosemary and Jan.

## Oban club holds open triples event

**CARPET BOWLS**

OBAN Indoor Carpet Bowls Club held its last competition of the season last Tuesday with an open triples at Atlantis Leisure.

After three games, every team was within striking distance but two teams were level on six points each.

Hugh MacCorquodale, Marian Fisher and Duncan Campbell won four out of five games, while Norrie Etherson's triple only had to win the last game on the green to take the title but were defeated at the last end to give the championship to Hugh's triple.

Hugh said afterwards: 'The main player in my team today was Marion. She was in a class of her own and played wonderful bowls all day.'

The bowling club would like to thank hosts Atlantis Leisure, whose staff are extremely helpful.

## Cellar crowned Oban Pool League champions by the narrowest of margins

CONGRATULATIONS to the newly crowned league champions the Cellar.

They may have huffed and puffed in the penultimate week but last Thursday in the concluding round of fixtures the destination of the title was never in doubt.

With the luxury of knowing a draw would suffice, the Cellar dismantled the Lochavullin to lift their maiden crown in style and dash any lingering hopes Markie Dan's 'A' had of being the first side to ever retain the league championship.

Markies had kept the pressure on by securing an early victory over the Lancaster 'B' but with scores filtering around the players via mobiles they knew their grip on the trophy was at an end. Elsewhere the Claredon

**POOL**

put home advantage to good use against Markie Dans 'B' to record their second successive victory and Lochnell stroled through a depleted Kelvin outfit. Both sides will be looking to carry this kind of form into this weekends inaugural Shoot-Out Shield.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all publicans for their hospitality, the captains for their commitment and finally the players who now form the biggest weekly participated league in Argyll.

Results: Lancaster 'A' 10, Gluepot 0 (match conceded); Lochnell 8, Kelvin 2; Markie Dans 'A' 6 Lancaster 'B' 4; Claredon 6, Markie Dans 'B' 4; Cellar 8, Lochavullin 2.

**Final League Table**

	Pts
1 Cellar	32
2 Markie Dans 'A'	31
3 Lancaster 'B'	25
4 Lancaster 'A'	22
5 Lochnell	18
6 Lochavullin	15
7 Claredon	14
8 Markie Dans 'B'	11
9 Kelvin	8
10 Gluepot	4

**Player of the Year Standings**

- 1 Jim Muir
- 2 Barry Clark
- 3 Geo Adam
- 4 Colin Maxwell
- 5 Peter MacDougall
- 6 Richard MacDougall
- 7 Laura-ann Sneddon
- 8 Michael MacQueen
- 9 Donnie MacLean
- 10 Dougie Swan



Players who took part in the second annual Oban Hockey Club six-a-side tournament. 16\_1212hockey01

## Indoor six-a-side hockey at Atlantis Leisure

OBAN Hockey Club hosted its second indoor six-a-side tournament at Atlantis Leisure, attracting more than 30 adults and children.

The recent tournament was in the form of a round robin, kindly umpired by Derek Pretswell, and the winning team was the

Oban Hockey Club committee, who were awarded the new unsponsored trophy.

**Great success**

The afternoon was a great success and a variety of prizes was awarded: Youngest player of the tournament - Katy McKinnon. Best female player - Suzi Billing. Best

male player Phil Kerrison. Best goal - Mark Lockhart.

**INDOOR HOCKEY**

If anyone would like to join the hockey club contact Tara Pollock at tpollock@hotmail.co.uk

**All you have to do**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

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**WIN £1650**

**LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...**

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

I McNaughton, Riverside Court, Tobermory & E Wilson, Lochaber Road, Fort William

**Spot the SHINTY BALL COMPETITION**

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name .....

Address .....

..... Tel No. ....

Please tape your £1 coin here

Shoot-Out Shield takes place on Saturday and Sunday

THIS Saturday and Sunday sees the group stages of the inaugural Oban Pool League Shoot-Out Shield, sponsored by local carpet and vinyl contractors D & G Flooring.

Each team will play each other once in a round robin with the top two sides qualifying for the finals on April 20.

The six-man event will see players play one frame per match in an exciting and fast-paced format, concluding in a penalty shoot-out should a stalemate situation arise at the end of the matches.

The full playing schedule is available on the league website or via facebook.

The league committee would like to thank their sponsors for their financial backing and hope this new competition can replicate their early success.

Group one - Saturday April 6:

- 1 The Cellar
- 2 The Gluepot
- 3 The Claredon
- 4 Markie Dans A
- 5 Markie Dans B

Group two - Sunday, April 7:

- 1 Lancaster A
- 2 The Lochnell
- 3 Lancaster B
- 4 The Lochavullin
- 5 The Kelvin

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Results

**Saturday 30 March**  
**Co-operative MacTavish Cup 1st Round**  
 Beaulieu 3 - 1 Strathglass  
 Caberfeidh 0 - 5 Kinlochshiel  
 Inverness 0 - 11 Lovat  
 Newtonmore 5 - 3 Fort William  
 Skye 1 - 1 Kingussie  
 Kingussie won 3 - 2 on penalties

**AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup 1st Round**  
 Aberdour 5 - 1 Strachur  
 Glenorchy 1 - 0 Oban Celtic  
 Glasgow MA 9 - 0 Kilmory

**Orion Group Premiership**  
 Glenurquhart 2 - 1 Oban Cam  
 Inveraray 3 - 1 Kyles Athletic

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
 Lochside Rovers 0 - 2 Bute

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
 Aberdeen Uni P - P New'more  
 Field Unplayable & Aberdeen  
 unable to travel - match  
 rescheduled  
 Beaulieu 1 - 1 Skye  
 Fort William 0 - 4 Glenurquhart  
 Glangarry 2 - 1 Kinlochshiel  
 Lovat 2 - 1 Kingussie

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
 Ballachulish P - P Tayforth  
 Tayforth unable to field a  
 team points to Ballachulish  
 Glasgow MA 1 - 7 Col Glen  
 Inveraray 6 - 0 Bute  
 Kyles Athletic 6 - 0 Aberdour

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
 Kilmallie 4 - 0 Lewis  
 Lochaber 7 - 1 Inverness  
 Lochroom 2 - 1 Caberfeidh  
 Lochcarron P - P Strathglass  
 Strathglass unable to field a  
 team points to Lochcarron  
 Strathspay 1 - 5 Boleskine

Fixtures

**Saturday 6 April**  
**Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup 1st Round**  
 Ardnarmurchan v Strathglass  
 Rab Douglas  
 Ballachulish v Kinlochshiel  
 Ewan MacDonald  
 Beaulieu v Bute  
 Calum Girvan  
 Boleskine v Newtonmore  
 Ronnie Campbell  
 Glangarry v Strathspay  
 Donald MacRae  
 Inveraray v Glasgow MA  
 John MacGregor  
 Inverness v Lovat  
 Archie Ritchie - 12pm  
 Kyles Athletic v Caberfeidh  
 Robert Baxter  
 Lochaber v Skye  
 Alex MacVicar - 12pm  
 Lochcarron v Lochbroom  
 John MacLeod  
 Lochside Rovers v Oban Celtic  
 Lachie Wood - at Ganavan  
 Tayforth v Glenurquhart  
 Neil MacDonald

**Ballimore Cup 1st Round**  
 Oban Celtic v Bute  
 Deek Cameron - 12pm  
 at Mossfield

**Orion Group Premiership**  
 Glenurquhart v Fort William  
 Evan MacRae  
 Kinlochshiel v Kyles Athletic  
 Innes Wood  
 Kingussie v Lovat  
 Colin MacDonald - 3pm  
 Lochaber v Inveraray  
 Graham Cameron - 3pm  
 Oban Cam v Newtonmore  
 Ted McDonald - 3pm

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
 Inverness v Caberfeidh  
 Willie MacRae  
 Skye v Beaulieu  
 Neil Ferguson  
 Strathglass v Kilmallie  
 John Angus Gillies

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
 Aberdour v Taynuilt  
 Dunkie Kerr  
 Glenorchy v Kilmory  
 Billy Wotherspoon

(All throw ups 2.30 unless stated)

**Womens Camanachd Association**  
**Sunday 7 April**  
**Marine Harvest National Division 1**  
 Aberdour v Glangarry  
 Badenoch & Strathspay v  
 Glasgow Mid Argyll

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
 Lovat v Lochaber  
 Strathglass v Skye

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
 Dunald v Cowal & Bute

# Sutherland Cup ties take centre stage this weekend

## Newtonmore come from behind to beat Fort William in bruising battle

BRUISED and battered **FORT WILLIAM** travel to Glenurquhart hoping to rekindle their league challenge after last weekend's brutal battle with **NEWTONMORE** in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup.

It all happened at the Eilan - Newtonmore's Steven MacDonald and the Fort's Niall MacPhee were sent off in 'More's 5-3 extra-time win, but worse for Fort William was the injury toll. Gordie MacKinnon sustained a broken hand - and still returned to the field of play to draw the extra defender. Sean Cameron broke his ankle while Liam MacIntyre had two fingers and a hand broken in a swing of a caman.

Fort went 2-0 ahead through Duncan Rodger and Gary Innes but John MacKenzie gave 'More hope when he pulled one back on the stroke of half-time.

Gary Innes fired the visitors 3-1 ahead just after the break but Danny MacRae cut the deficit on 66 minutes before MacKenzie repeated his first half late show with a last gasp leveller.

In extra time 'More proved the stronger, with MacRae and Fraser Macintosh scoring to earn the hosts a hard-fought 5-3 win.

Apart from his walking wounded, Fort co-manager Adi Robertson will also be without Niall MacPhee (suspended), Gary Innes (working in France) and Duncan Rodger, Bryan Simpson and Jack Fraser (stag night at Aintree) for the Glen game. Stevie Stewart is also struggling with a hamstring pull.

Robertson, however, was still distraught at his team's cup exit in the powderkeg clash with 'More.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It was that kind of game, especially when they went behind we had no protection from the referee whatsoever.'

'Gordie was taken out going through in the box and should have had a penalty. We did not deserve to lose and at 2-0 up their keeper made a great save. If we had got that third goal that would have been nice.'

'More coach PJ Macintosh disputed Robertson's take on the game.

He said: 'I would not say we were physical - I think they picked up more bookings than we did. Both their injuries were accidental and Liam MacIntyre put his hand in too far. Putting Glen Macintosh and Fraser Macintosh on changed the game for us.'

'More travel to take on Oban Camanachd on Saturday. 'It will be a hard, hard game,' said PJ. They are a much improved side.'

**OBAN CAMANACHD** manager Gussie Campbell has described this weekend's 'massive' game as a test of how far his young team has come this season.

The Oban side host champions Newtonmore at Mossfield on Saturday and although they are missing key defenders, there is good news with the return of Andrew MacCuish, Garry Lord and David MacInnes.

Campbell said: 'I think this weekend will be a test of how far the boys have come since winning promotion. We played Kyles early on in the season but I thought both teams were still a bit raw.'

Camanachd were left wondering when their luck will change after another close defeat to Glenurquhart in the competitive Orion Group Premiership.

The Oban side lost by the odd goal in three in Drumnadrochit but the players thought they had equalised at the death, only to find out referee Deek Cameron's whistle had already gone for a free hit in their favour.

Campbell said: 'We played really well and matched them in every area and I thought the play

from both teams was very easy on the eye. It was a great game for the neutral.

'But we pushed hard at the end for an equaliser and the boys thought they had got it, only to be pulled back for a free hit. That was a difficult one to take.'

**GLENURQUHART** welcome Fort William in the Orion Group Premiership having notched up their first win of the season against Oban Camanachd last weekend.

**LOVAT** travel to Kingussie in the Orion Group Premiership full of confidence after thrashing Inverness 11-0 in the MacTavish Cup first round.

The Kiltarlity men will be boosted by the return to the squad of Owen Ferguson and Duncan Davidson, who both came on in the second half against Inverness.

Ferguson suffered a nasty mouth injury in the 1-1 draw with Kinlochshiel the previous week but after dental work and stitches to his upper lip was desperate to play against the city men.

Lovat coach Allan MacRae told *The Oban Times*: 'Owen got a hit in the mouth the week before but he came on for the last 20 minutes. We made him wear a helmet - and he was not too happy with that!'

MacRae added: 'Kingussie are always fit and a good team, although they are going through a wee bit of a transition at the moment.'

'We drew with them 2-2 down there last year and I would be delighted to get a win. But it will be a difficult game down there at the Dell because they will be up for it.'

**LOCHABER** Camanachd are still in search of their first Orion Group Premiership win having banked two draws so far - and it doesn't get any easier for the Spear Bridge men with league leaders Inveraray providing Saturday's opposition.

Top priority for coach Michael Delaney will be finding a route to goal - Lochaber have scored



Newtonmore's Danny MacRae and Fort William's Neil Robertson battle for the ball during last Saturday Co-operative MacTavish Cup tie at the Eilan. Photo: Stevie Tunstall.

SHINTY

just one in their four premiership games to date.

**KINLOCHSHIEL** return to league duty at Kirkon against a Kyles side desperate to get back to winning ways after their loss to Inveraray.

'Shiel dispatched Caberfeidh 5-0 last weekend in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup courtesy of a John MacRae hat-trick, which was bookended by goals from Finlay MacRae and Donald Nixon.

But beating a wounded Kyles will be a different matter entirely, especially as 'Shiel coach Johnston Gill will be without the services of key men Duncan 'Ach' MacRae and Gordie MacDonald.

Gill told *The Oban Times*: 'They are both first team players and losing them is a blow to us, but we will just have to get on with it.'

'Kyles will be smarting after getting beat at the weekend. We beat them this time last season in our home game but then we had the element of surprise - and that won't be the case this time.'

'But our defence has been playing well and if carry on in that vein on Saturday I will be happy.'

**INVERARAY** player-manager Garry MacPherson has dismissed suggestions his side are league contenders after an assured victory last week over title-chasing Kyles Athletic.

The rookie coach showed tactical guile to thwart the Kyles frontline and secure a derby win that moved the Royal Burgh to the top of the Orion Group Premiership.

Inveraray's game plan to shackle Kyles hitman Roddy MacDonald paid dividends, as Lewis MacNicol and Peter MacIntyre, in only his second game, put Inveraray into a 2-0 half-time lead at Winterton Park.

MacPherson hit a decisive third goal on 71 minutes and a Thomas Whyte goal for Kyles in injury time was little consolation for the visitors.



Inveraray's Garry MacPherson breaks away from Kyles Athletic's David Zavaroni during the Royal Burgh side's 3-1 Orion Premiership win at the Winterton last Saturday. Photo: John MacTavish

One standout performer for the home side was veteran Scott Robertson, who was drafted in from the reserves to replace the suspended Allan MacDonald.

MacPherson said: 'We learnt a lot from the Camanachd Cup final defeat last season. In that game we got ahead but kept pushing for more goals but on Saturday we sat in and hit them on the counter-attack. The guys at the back, like Douglas Dando and Scott Robertson, were solid. I was a bit worried about Scott because he hasn't trained much and he missed two penalties the previous week for the reserves!'

Coach Duncan Kelly should have a full squad at his disposal and half back Martin Graham is back training as his recuperation from a knee injury continues.

Kelly told *The Oban Times*: 'I don't know if Martin will be fit enough to play on Saturday. Strathglass have had some half decent results lately but if we can play to our full potential we should beat them.'

'All we have to do is to make sure we play to our best on the day.'

**SKYE CAMANACHD** must pick themselves up after last weekend's heartbreaking MacTavish Cup exit to Kingussie in a penalty shoot-out for the visit of Beaulieu in a vital North Division One clash.

Coach Willie MacRae and his team were seconds away from notching a famous win over Kings only for Fraser Munro to equalise Neil MacVicar's 80th minute strike in the dying seconds.

Extra time could find no winner and it was the premiership side who edged through 3-2 on penalties, leaving many of the young Skye team distraught.

Skye coach Willie MacRae told *The Oban Times*: 'They scored with the last hit of the ball - I just couldn't believe it. It was a cracking game with a big crowd there - everybody was talking about it afterwards.'

'I felt really sorry for the boys who missed the penalties - they were just in bits afterwards. I have never walked into a changing room in my life that was so quiet after a game.'

'We switched off for one second and they scored - I was gutted about that. But I told them you have just played a premier-

ship team and matched them right to the end.'

He added: 'I also said it's pointless playing like that if you can't do the same against Beaulieu at the weekend.'

**GLENGLARRY** welcome Strathspay in the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup first round on Saturday, hopeful of a decent run in the competition.

Coach Ewen Cameron will be without the services of Matthew Clark and Kenny Henderson, who both have work commitments.

Cameron told *The Oban Times*: 'We have never seen Strathspay play but although they are a league below us they say they are very fit.'

One of the strongest defences in South Division One will come up against one of the most dangerous attacking lines as **OBAN CELTIC** host Bute this weekend.

While the Oban team have proved difficult to beat, thanks to a settled defensive line-up, Bute offer a real attacking threat, particularly with Iain MacDonald playing further forward this year.

The Ballimore Cup match is the first time the two sides have met this season and Oban Celtic president David Hamilton admits it will be a tough game.

'They seem to be going quite well,' said Hamilton, 'apart from that strange defeat to Aberdour. 'We are waiting on confirmation on a few players but we could be three players short for the game.'

Celtic lost 1-0 in Dalmally last Saturday but had chances to draw the match after Glenorchy went down to 10 men in the final 10 minutes.

Hamilton said: 'It was a good, hard game of shinty and we came into the game in the second half. We knew Dalmally would be a hard place to get points from.'

Having had no game for the past two weekends, **TAYNUILT** will be eager to cross camans with on-form Aberdour in Fife.

Manager Willie Gillies has been watching South Division One games in Oban during his team's break and is confident his team can do well in the league this season.

League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inveraray	4	3	1	0	10	5	7
Kyles Athletic	4	3	0	1	9	4	6
Newtonmore	3	2	1	0	10	5	5
Kingussie	3	2	0	1	7	5	4
Lovat	4	0	4	0	5	5	4
Kinlochshiel	4	1	2	1	7	8	4
Glenurquhart	5	1	1	3	5	7	3
Fort William	4	1	1	2	4	8	3
Oban Camanachd	5	1	0	4	8	12	2
Lochaber	4	0	2	2	1	7	2

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilmallie	4	4	0	0	17	3	8
Beaulieu	4	3	0	1	14	8	6
Skye	4	2	1	1	11	6	5
Caberfeidh	4	1	0	3	6	11	2
Inverness	4	1	0	3	6	22	2
Strathglass	4	0	1	3	5	9	1

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glasgow MA	4	2	2	0	15	1	6
Glenorchy	4	2	1	1	11	7	5
Oban Celtic	4	2	1	1	9	6	5
Lochside Rovers	4	2	0	2	5	12	4
Bute	3	1	1	1	8	7	3
Taynuilt	3	1	1	1	5	6	3
Aberdour	3	1	1	1	6	9	3
Kilmory	3	0	1	2	2	5	1
Strachur	2	0	0	2	0	8	0

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenurquhart	5	3	1	1	10	7	7
Lovat	5	3	1	1	15	12	7
Beaulieu	5	2	2	1	7	6	6
Skye	5	2	2	1	7	10	6
Newtonmore	3	2	0	1	14	3	4
Glangarry	4	2	0	2	6	5	4
Aberdeen Uni	3	1	1	1	3	3	3
Fort William	4	1	1	2	3	7	3
Kingussie	5	0	2	3	7	12	2
Kinlochshiel	5	0	2	3	8	15	2

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inveraray	4	4	0	0	17	2	8
Ballachulish	3	3	0	0	18	2	6
Kyles Athletic	3	3	0	0	15	0	6
Col Glen	4	2	0	2	12	12	4
Tayforth	3	1	0	2	4	9	2
Aberdour	4	1	0	3	6	13	2
Bute	3	0	0	3	0	13	0
Glasgow MA	4	0	0	4	3	24	0

Marine Harvest North Division 3							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilmallie	5	5	0	0	22	8	10
Boleskine	5	4	0	1	22	7	8
Lochaber	5	4	0	1	23	13	8
Lochbroom	5	3	0	2	15	11	6
Caberfeidh	5	2	0	3	11	13	4
Lochcarron	4	1	1	2	11	15	3
Inverness	5	1	0	4	11	16	2
Strathspay	4	1	0	3	4	12	2
Lewis Camanachd	4	0	2	2	4	13	2
Strathglass	4	0	1	3	4	19	1

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## Murrayfield - here we come!

'We will be playing in our first national final during our 50th anniversary season'

### SRU National Bowl Oban Lorne 27 Broughton 0

THERE were scenes of jubilation at Glencruitten on Saturday as Oban Lorne booked their place in the SRU National Bowl Final at Murrayfield.

The Green Machine put in a dominant display against Broughton to win 27-0 and set up a final tie against bowl favourites Grangemouth on April 20 at the home of Scottish rugby.

In the wake of the historic win, Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club president Dee Bradbury said: 'Saturday was a special day for everyone at the club; the players, fans, volunteers and staff all raised their game and created a piece of history.'

'I am so proud of everyone involved. It makes it even more special that we will be playing in our first national final during our 50th anniversary season.'

Craig Wright, who racked up seven points with his boot, said the feeling at full time was 'incredible'.

'This is just amazing,' he said. 'These guys are the best team to play with. I am absolutely buzzing right now. Bring on Murrayfield!' Up to 200 spectators found a space to watch from the sidelines or the clubhouse as young Luig piper Innes MacQueen led the two teams onto the pitch.

But Oban Lorne's pre-match preparations had begun five

hours earlier with a team breakfast at the Regent Hotel. Mobile phones were confiscated as players gathered to discuss tactics and to watch DVDs, including the famous British Lions speech by Jim Telfer. The team then walked to Glencruitten together.



Second row Jamie MacMillan celebrates an Oban Lorne victory. 15\_114rugby04

Head coach Corrie Louw explained: 'We had to keep the players focused on the task ahead of them. We spent a lot of time together as a team during physical training and team-bonding sessions. It was vital that we acted as a whole unit in this game.'

The high intensity of this match from the first whistle to the last showed what it meant to both

### RUGBY

teams. In the flurry of big hits and hard tackles, some elegant footwork from young Lorne stand-off Ruaridh Aitken allowed him to make a lung-bursting 70-yard dash into Broughton territory and bring the first roar from the large crowd.

**Try**  
Then the forwards showed their worth, with a series of drives bringing Tommy Sutherland to the line. He was stopped just short and the quick-thinking Ryan Jackson did enough to touch the ball down for the first try of the game, converted by Wright.

But Broughton, inspired by the rampaging number eight Sandy Urquhart, always looked dangerous and only some desperate Oban defending on their own line prevented a score by the Edinburgh team.

Twins Cameron and Struan Smith seemed to be everywhere, repeatedly putting in bone-crunching tackles.

Offensively, Oban's familiar tactic of driving mauls almost paid dividends but handling errors caused two promising moves to break down.

Frustrated by an inability to build on their early score, it was an even more determined Oban Lorne that took the field for the second half and a lineout and



Prop Tommy Sutherland crashes through a Broughton tackler to score the home team's second try. Photo: Stephen Lawson

drive, followed by a series of pick-and-gos saw Sutherland score Oban's second try of the game.

Despite the sin-binning of Mark McTighe, who was the fall guy for repeated team infringements, Oban continued to dominate the second half and a Craig Wright penalty to make it 15-0 in Oban's favour had an excited crowd

believing victory was in sight. Then, following a scrum five metres from the Broughton line, the fleet-footed Aitken zig-zagged his way to the Broughton line, touching down for the third try.

In the closing minutes Allan Wright, who just seconds earlier got on the end of a brilliant Dougie Pender pass and avoided desperate tackles to touch down in the corner, despite the Broughton full-back's best efforts.

The loudest cheer of the day came with the final whistle as emotional players celebrated with friends, family and supporters. The Green Machine will play the national final on April 20 and the club is currently organising buses for supporters.

Despite cup fever becoming an epidemic in Oban, the players must focus their attentions on the league title race as they host Millbrae this Saturday at 3pm.



Proud father Robert Wright celebrates with sons Allan, left, and Craig, who scored 12 points between them. 15\_114rugby08



Members of Oban Lorne's women's team were among the army of supporters. 15\_114rugby01



Oban Lorne captain Robin MacQueen celebrates his team's famous win with son Ruaraidh, aged 6, and four-year-old daughter Abby. Photo: Stephen Lawson



We did it: Oban Lorne displayed their team unity with a celebratory huddle at full time. 15\_114rugby05



A delighted squad pose for one final team picture before the celebrations get underway. Photo: Stephen Lawson

### SAFL results and upcoming fixtures

#### FOOTBALL

LAST Saturday's results from the Scottish Amateur Football League: Premier Division - Postal United 0, Oban Saints 2; Division 1A - Port Glasgow Hibs 4, Dunoon Athletic 3.

This weekend's fixtures: Saturday - Premier Division - Oban Saints v Castlemilk; Premier Division 2 - Dunoon v Paisley; Division 1A - Tarbert v East Kilbride YM; Division 1B - Lochgilphead Red Star v Inverkip Thistle; Jimmy Marshall Trophy, quarter final, Campbeltown Pupils v Eaglesham.

Sunday - Jimmy Marshall Trophy, 2nd round - Oban Saints v Carlton YM. All games kick-off at 2pm

#### Golf at Glencruitten

##### GOLF

GEORGE Currie, Charles MacIntyre and Kenny MacLean won the three-man Stableford at Glencruitten on Saturday with a score of 109 points.

Innes MacColl, Daniel MacMillan and Finlay Sinclair were second with 108 points.

In joint third place with 106 points were Sean Dunstaffnage, Cameron Milne and Gavin Owens, along with Peter Dunn, Michael Kelly and Keith MacCallum.

Saturday is the first round of the McKay Cup with the second round on Sunday. The Captain's Prize will be played on Sunday.

#### Oban beat the Fort

##### SQUASH

OBAN squash team beat their rivals from Fort William as the squash team league got underway.

The Oban side, which is sponsored by Oban Filling Station and Simmers and Co., won 15 games to nine.

The next round will be played in Fort William on April 10.

#### Taynuilt results

##### GOLF

GENTS: ARC Shield - 1 Richard Bergant 38 pts (12); 2 Mark Grant 36pts (17); 3 Paul Walton 36 pts (14). Ladies: Two Clubs and a Putter - 1 Grace Petrie 16 pts (24); 2 Sandra Elliott 16 pts (27); 3 Moira MacVicar 15 pts (33).

#### Islay Golf Club

##### GOLF

ISLAY Open played 30/31 March: Nett Scores - 1 David Lamont 71 - 73 144; 2 Keith MacDonald 75 - 72 147; 3 Ross Currie 73 - 74 147.

#### Primary winners

##### TABLE TENNIS

PRIZES at the sixth annual Oban Primary School Table Tennis Competition were split between Park and Rockfield schools.

Rory Dowd, from hosts Park, won the boys' competition while Rockfield's Kirsty MacArthur won the girls' event.

Runners up were Scott Mossman and Grace Thomson, Rockfield.

Park Primary School thanked Oban Cash for Kids for a donation of £400 to buy a new table for the club.

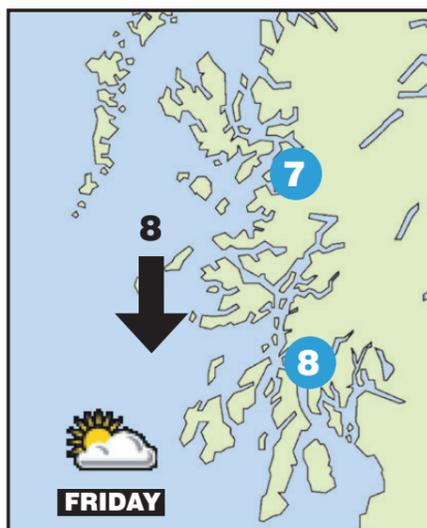
## Weather

**Thursday** Sunny intervals  
Winds light north easterly  
Temperatures -1°C to 8°C

**Friday** Sunny  
Winds light, northerly  
Temperatures -1°C to 8°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Sunny intervals  
Winds moderate north westerly  
Temperatures -1°C to 9°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 4, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	13.01	2.7	18.51	1.4	***	**
Thur	06.14	1.4	13.01	2.7	18.51	1.4	*** **
Fri	01.41	3.1	07.41	1.4	14.41	2.9	20.15 1.3
Sat	02.52	3.3	09.02	1.3	15.39	3.1	21.23 1.1
Sun	03.42	3.5	09.57	1.1	16.15	3.3	22.14 0.9
Mon	04.23	3.7	10.41	0.9	16.44	3.5	22.58 0.7
Tues	04.59	3.9	11.18	0.8	17.14	3.7	23.38 0.6
Wed	05.34	4.0	11.53	0.7	17.45	3.9	*** **

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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# **The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.**

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION**

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Thursday 4 April, 2013

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**Celtic High Cross returns to Iona**

Page 9



**Islay distillery hat-trick of awards**

Page 21



**Forest leisure activities plan**

Page 2

**Off-piste skier dies in Glencoe avalanche**

THE AVALANCHE death toll in Glencoe this year stands at five after searchers found the body of an off-piste skier near Glencoe Mountain Resort on Sunday.

Daniel Maddox, aged 41, from Clackmannanshire, died in a huge snowslide on Meall a Bhuiridh on Saturday afternoon.

See full story, page 8.

**Hunt continues in Knoydart for missing journalist**

NO TRACE of an Inverness journalist missing in remote country north of Knoydart has been found despite an extensive search operation involving police, coastguard, mountain rescue teams and helicopters.

Clive Dennier's Volkswagen Polo was discovered at Kinloch Hourm but the 50-year-old remains unaccounted for.

Mr Dennier was reported missing 10 days ago. It is believed he had gone hillwalking.

Police said on Tuesday: 'Unfortunately for Clive's family and friends, he has not been located.'

'We are grateful for the continued assistance from all agencies and the public.'

**Caol man denies making up story about being mugged**

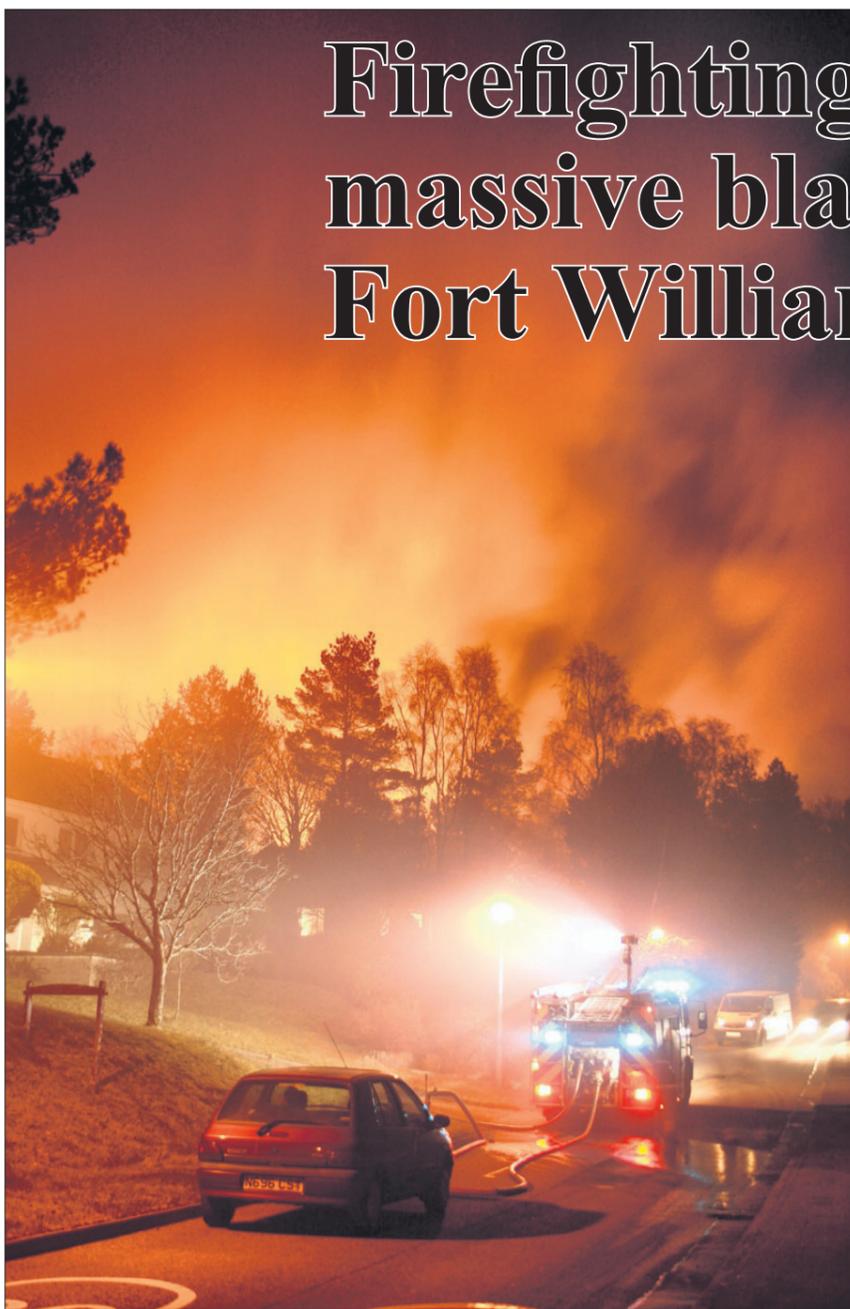
A CAOL man has denied fabricating a story about being mugged by a masked man while cycling through Canal Parks.

An area of woodland was cordoned off for around 24 hours after James Mathers, 35, told police he had been struck on the face by a man who then stole his wallet which contained £180 on November 27.

The claim raised further fears in the village, as it came just 12 days after an elderly shopkeeper was held up at knife-point in Caol shopping centre.

Mathers, of 16 Cameron Place, is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on June 5, with a further hearing set for April 24.

# Firefighting heroes stop massive blaze yards from Fort William homes



Raging inferno: the wildfire approaches local homes on Monday night. Photograph courtesy of Sally Hudson.

HERO firefighters stopped a massive wildfire just yards from homes near Fort William on Monday night.

Corpach residents closest to the raging inferno were packed up and ready to leave as the blaze approached.

But fire crews and beaters, aided throughout the day by accurate helicopter water bombing, managed to prevent flames from reaching properties in Badabrie and Pobs Drive.

The wildfire burnt three square miles of moorland along a four-mile front as it swept down Banavie Hill and Druim Fada towards nightfall.

Artist Felicity Nightingale, 55, who lives in Pobs Drive with her two daughters, told *The Oban Times*: 'The fire reached the line of trees and pine woods at the end of Pobs Drive but the fire crews saved them.'

'We were all standing there and looking grim - I think the worst thing was not knowing what to do.'

'I did pack up the car and had the garage doors open so we could drive away in case

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

the flames leaped across. But the fire crews were wonderful and stopped it. We are just so grateful to them all.'

Kilmallie Community Council secretary Russell Leaper said local member Christine Hutchinson, from Badabrie, sheltered her 84-year old neighbour whose home was at risk.

He said: 'Christine was very impressed how the fire services ran from house to house dealing with each firefront as it came down. She lost power as well for a while.'

He added: 'We heard many accounts of superb work by the police and fire services who worked so effectively to minimise the damage.'

'Kilmallie Community Council would like to pass on our thanks and appreciation to all those involved.'

Kilmallie Shinty Club manager Duncan Kelly watched the fire

sweep down a mile from his Camaghael home.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'My mate is building a kit house over there just now and he was up there trying to stop the fire getting to it.'

'The fire started at the back of Banavie and was just going up one side of the hill but then it suddenly spread.'

Hundreds of amazed onlookers watched the drama unfold from vantage points across Loch Linnhe in Fort William.

Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy said on Tuesday: 'I have never witnessed anything quite on the scale of yesterday's massive hill fire above Banavie and Corpach.'

'But most of all it makes us all profoundly grateful for the professional expertise and courage of our firefighters and the other emergency services.'

Firefighters also tackled wildfires at Morar, Glenfinnan, Kishorn and Plockton on Tuesday. Crews were also in action at smaller wildfires in the Western Isles and on the Isle of Skye.

## Business as usual at aluminium smelter despite prolonged dry spell

ALUMINIUM production at Rio Tinto Alcan's (RTA) Lochaber Smelter remains unaffected by the prolonged dry weather - for the time being.

Sufficient water is still flowing through huge pipes round Ben Nevis from lochs Treig and Laggan to keep the turbines turning.

But weeks without rain combined with low temperatures in the mountains delaying snowmelt has significantly reduced water levels. Burns either remain frozen or

are running at a trickle in the driest late winter and spring for many years.

RTA Lochaber Smelter spokesperson Jim Beattie told *The Oban Times*: 'There is no impact on production as yet. We are monitoring the situation closely because it has been a very dry spell.'

Forecast He added: 'There is rain in the forecast so we are praying that is the case.'

Mr Beattie was unable to say if or when production would

be affected if the drought continues. Huge amounts of power are required for the smelting process, which is only viable at Fort William because the plant produces its own hydro electricity.

The Met Office forecasts no rainfall for Fort William through Saturday.



## Wild boar leave trail of destruction in Lochaber

WILD boar are leaving a trail of destruction across parts of inland Lochaber, it is being claimed.

And the Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA) is so concerned at the damage being wrought that the issue will be the top item at its regional meeting in Glengarry Community Hall next Friday.

It is understood a local estate in northwest Lochaber introduced the boar around six years ago, but the animals broke out of a fenced enclosure.

Since that time, according to local SGA member Lea McNally, the beasts have spread out and greatly increased in numbers.

Following the escape, local sources report a woman on a stalking expedition shot one huge boar from 40 yards. Four men were needed to lift the animal into the cart.

Mr McNally, from Invergarry, told *The Oban Times*: 'Boar are now well established in Achnacarry, Glengarry and as far as Invergarry. 'No one knows the numbers, as they are

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

mainly nocturnal and living mainly in Forestry Commission Scotland woodland.

'In my area they are ravaging arable land and killing lambs. Who knows what they are doing to small birds for instance?'

'We now have some people promoting them as a sporting asset - but the SGA have called for their eradication as a non-native species.'

'The debate is - are they an alternative sporting species or a threat to the environment in the future?'

Glenloy Wildlife owner John Mercer, who has noted boar activity 'from Acharacle to Loch Garry', took a different view.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We think wild boar are a useful addition to the local fauna and it would be a shame to see them exterminated.'

'They were native here not so long ago, maybe 300 or 400 years. If there were limited control, that would not be a bad thing. But in the scheme of things they are going to do more good than harm.'

'They root up bracken cover and brambles - but on the down side you don't want them digging up bluebell bulbs.'

A Forestry Commission spokesperson confirmed that boar were present in the national forest estate.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'They will occasionally uproot a deer fence but we keep on top of that. The boar are not a big problem for us.'

SGA chairman Alex Hogg and a representative from Scottish Natural Heritage will attend the open meeting in Glengarry Community Hall, which starts at 7pm.

Mr McNally said: 'We hope SNH will give their view of wild boar in the area.'

SNH is currently working on a national policy for wild boar and whether any control measures are required.



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Harris Tweed targets US and Canada

HARRIS Tweed Hebrides, the Shawbost-based company on Lewis, has teamed up with one of the world's leading advertising agencies to promote the fabric in the US and Canada.

It is hoped the venture with the Leo Burnett advertising agency, which has more than 100 offices worldwide, will encourage the revival of Harris Tweed in North America – historically by far the biggest export market.

Company chairman Brian Wilson and creative director Mark Hogarth will attend the campaign launch over the coming week at events in Toronto and New York.

Mr Wilson said: 'The idea actually came from the Leo Burnett end. They have a history of sponsoring projects which identify trends in society and bring together people with a shared community of interest through social media.'

'There are vast numbers of people out there who have a great affinity with Harris Tweed and stories to tell about what it means to them.'

The Shawbost mill accounts for 90 per cent of Harris Tweed production.

Sentence deferred

A FORT William man who admitted drunkenly attacking a man who owed him money has had his sentencing further deferred for reports.

Philip McDonagh was due to be sentenced last Wednesday but Fort William Sheriff Court heard the reports had not been prepared as the social work department were not aware the 37-year-old had changed address.

McDonagh, of Orchy Villa, Alma Road, dragged the man out of bed before repeatedly punching and kicking him on the head and body on August 31.

The victim was left with broken ribs and was kept in hospital overnight.

McDonagh also admitted struggling with police after the assault and will be sentenced on April 24.

# Top chef turns up heat in bid to restore air links to Isle of Skye



Off to New York via Glasgow...from Ashaig airstrip on Skye. Chef Michael Smith prepares for departure in the tiny Scottish Aero Club two-seater plane. Photograph by Iain Smith.

HE TRIUMPHED in the Great British Menu competition on BBC2 TV.

Now a top chef is turning up the heat in a bid to restore air links to the Isle of Skye.

Michael Smith arrived in New York on Monday for a Scotland Week ambassadorial trip to the US and Canada as VisitScotland guest chef.

But his flight via Glasgow began from tiny Ashaig airstrip at Broadford on Sunday – in a two-seater plane flown by Scottish Aero Club chairman Dave McElroy.

FlySkye, the campaign group bidding for Ashaig's upgrading so air services to the island can be resumed, secured Mr McElroy's services through a social media appeal for a pilot and plane.

The flight to Glasgow took just 55 minutes compared with five hours by car – figures not lost on the globetrotting Mr Smith, who is chef/director at the Three Chimneys near Dunvegan.

He said: 'If Scotland – particularly the Highlands and Islands – is to compete with other British chefs, restaurants and hotels at this top level, it is vital for people like me to participate in these events on behalf of the

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

country. We cannot afford to be left out. The distances involved with travelling from remote areas of the northwest Highlands involve many hours of personal driving, before embarking upon the 'real' journey to London or elsewhere.

'Travelling long distances would be so much easier, far less time-consuming and more convenient if we had our own airport serving Skye and its surrounding mainland region in Lochalsh, Glenelg and Wester Ross.'

Highland Council-owned Ashaig has been out of full commission since 1988, but recent public pressure led Highlands and Islands Enterprise to commission a full aviation feasibility study into re-opening the airport.

The findings proved positive and last month the council approved the formation of a working party to take the project forward.

The FlySkye Campaign is led by Boyd Robertson, principal of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Gaelic college and Glendale businessman Ian Blackford.

## Out of the ashes new life springs

Highland firefighters battling a wildfire between Morar and Arisaig last Thursday came across a surprise survivor in a burned out area – a newborn lamb. Right, Mallaig firefighter Kenny Merrilees captures the moment his colleague Neil MacKellaig rescued 'Smokey' – the name given to him by the fire crew. It is thought the ewe deserted her lamb while escaping the flames.

Mr Merrilees said Smokey was 'very weak' but had recovered well from his ordeal. The lamb is now in the care of local crofter Bill Henderson, who will hand rear him.



## Sheriff refuses to change Glencoe man's bail order

A GLENCOE man accused of assaulting a teenage girl has had a plea to have his bail conditions altered refused.

Charles Lear, of Croft 2, Tigh Phuir, had wanted to tutor his alleged victim before her standard grade exams.

The 60-year-old is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on Monday accused of grabbing the girl's arm and twisting it,

pulling her hair and attempting to pull her from a chair.

Following the alleged incident on March 5, Lear was ordered not to approach or contact the teenager until after the trial.

Defending, Hamish Melrose said Lear had been the home-schooled girl's Highland Council-approved tutor since Christmas.

But Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie 'vehemently opposed' Mr Melrose's request for the bail condition to be removed because of Lear's previous convictions.

She said: 'It beggars belief that Highland Council are happy to allow a man with such a record to tutor her. I'm sure there would be people at the school who could help her.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin agreed and refused to change the bail order.

## Man smashed window to get bed for the night

A MAN living rough in Fort William smashed a High Street shop window causing £3,000 of damage so the police would arrest him and give him a bed for the night.

Derek McLean, aged 49, went to Fort William Police Station on March 10 and asked to be locked up.

After being refused he walked down the High Street and threw a stone at the window before waiting on the scene for police to show up. Later McLean tried to headbutt an officer as he was being put in a cell.

Defending, Hamish Melrose said: 'He wanted a bed for the night. This was his way

of achieving that goal.' McLean spent more than two and half weeks in custody before appearing in court, where he was released to stay at an address on Henderson Row.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin ordered McLean to pay £700 compensation to the shop and to carry out 40 hours of unpaid work.



Morocco bound: Calum Bell and Rory MacQueen aim to raise £1,500 each to fund their Outlook Scotland expedition. 20\_144rip01

## Pair start fundraising for trip of a lifetime

TWO FORT William boys have begun fundraising for a trip of a lifetime to Morocco next summer.

On their 12-day Outlook Scotland expedition, Rory Bell and Ewen MacQueen will tackle a 4,167m peak in the Atlas mountains and take part in environmental and community projects.

Rory, 16, and 15 year-old Calum will help with building renovations, planting crops, teaching English and playing games with local children.

The boys must raise £1,520 each to pay for the venture next June – and families and friends set the ball rolling on Saturday with a soup and coffee morning in St Andrew's Church Hall in Fort William.

Ewen, meanwhile, made a few extra pounds by playing a medley of pipe tunes on the High Street.

Rory said the 'amazing' trip would be something 'really good to look forward to the exams'.

He told The Oban Times: 'We fly into Marrakesh and then go up Mt Toubkal, the highest mountain in North Africa, on a four-day trek. On day five we start community work in Asni village, building walls, labouing and tutoring English in classes.'

'We are going to be carrying everything with us, sleeping bags cutlery, the lot. It will be a challenge but it's going to be worth it.'

He added: 'We will remember it for a long, long time. We are going to form friendships with these people and help to work with them.'

Anyone wishing to sponsor the boys can email Ewen's dad Calum at macqueen7@hotmail.co.uk.

## Quick action on crofting changes

THE SCOTTISH Crofting Federation (SCF) has welcomed moves to amend crofting legislation so the Crofting Commission can consider decrofting applications by owner-occupier crofters.

Environment minister Paul Wheelhouse announced that a bill is to be raised in the Scottish Parliament to enable the necessary changes.

SCF chairman Derek Flynn said: 'Having brought this to the attention of the Crofting Commission at the beginning of this year, it is gratifying to see that it is being acted on with due haste by the Scottish Government.'

'The Commission took legal advice on the situation, as did the Scottish Government, and it appears they have accepted that there is a glitch in the Crofting Reform (Scotland) 2010 Act and that the only course of action is to introduce new legislation.'

Decrofting was originally made available to landlords who didn't have a tenant on their vacant croft.

The soon to be amended Act made clear that an owner-occupied croft was not vacant and was therefore not available for decrofting.

Mr Flynn said given 'all-round support', a corrective bill should pass through parliament swiftly.



Champion Liam Moynihan, centre, celebrates his win.

## Sprint champ Liam celebrates city win

A FORT William student is 'King of the Hill' after winning an uphill cycling sprint challenge in Edinburgh's old town on Saturday.

Liam Moynihan clocked a time of 18.748 seconds in the first-ever Red Bull Hill Chasers event in the cobbled Grassmarket and Victoria Street.

Champion Liam, 22, said: 'I do most of my racing with my friend Joe Barnes [from Fort William], who is also pro, so I thought he might give me a

run for my money. A few of the other boys are really fast as well so I'm happy to beat them.'

The urban event, its third year, was previously held in Bristol and Malaysia and attracts 500 road, BMX and mountain biking enthusiasts.

Street trials rider Danny MacAskill, from Dunvegan, said: 'It was great to see the crowds lining the streets to watch Liam race to victory – congratulations mate!'

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## Police return to issuing parking tickets in Oban

POLICE officers in Oban have again taken up responsibility for enforcing on-street parking in Oban town centre, at the request of Argyll and Bute Council.

The arrangement is a repeat of the three-month pilot scheme that ran from July to October last year.

Outside the term of the pilot scheme motorists have enjoyed a free-for-all in the town centre, resulting in council revenue from pay and display machines falling away.

The responsibility for on-street parking is still with the police force, which made its traffic warden posts redundant last year, leaving cars unchecked within paid-for parking bays.

The local authority is in the process of de-criminalising parking charges on Oban's streets and expects to take over responsibility for charges next year.

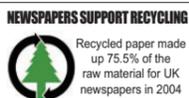
Before any formal decision is made on Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE), a final business case will be considered by elected members at full council. It then goes to the Scottish Government, which will consider final approval.

But in the meantime police officers have been brought in to make sure motorists pay for parking.

Acting chief inspector Alistair Davidson of Oban Police said: 'The revenue lost from the meters since traffic warden posts were disbanded affects local authority spend in vital areas and that's why we need to encourage people to put their coins in the meters.'

'It is also about encouraging the free flow of traffic and assisting the needs of the business community.'

Nearly 500 parking tickets were issued to motorists in Oban during the previous pilot scheme.



# Ministers back campaign for safety boat

## MP and MSPs urged to support call for high-spec safety vessel for Loch Awe

A CAMPAIGN launched this week to find £220,000 for a safety boat on Loch Awe has received the backing of Scottish Government ministers.

Since the deaths of four fishermen on the loch in 2009, calls have been made for a dedicated safety boat for the loch and a fund towards the purchase of a boat stands at around £8,000.

On Tuesday community safety minister Roseanna Cunningham MSP gave her backing to a renewed campaign, launched by the voluntary body LochWatch Loch Awe and its parent company Loch Awe Safety Company.

LochWatch Loch Awe volunteer Iain MacKinnon said the group had helped to improve loch safety by educating visitors to the loch but insisted a safety boat was the next step logical step.

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by EUAN PATERSON [epaterson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:epaterson@obantimes.co.uk)

**"It is a high-spec boat but it needs to be."**

**Iain MacKinnon**

He said: 'It was important to achieve the educational aspect before we bought a boat. We couldn't walk before we could run.'

'Now, I think it is imperative we get this all-weather boat that has the equipment to operate in thick fog, because I was among the people on the shore that night

the fishermen died - we couldn't see a thing. It is a high-spec boat but it needs to be.'

Another cabinet minister, Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, was also present at the campaign announcement at Loch Awe Hotel, alongside Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid, Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor, councillors Louise Glen Lee, Roddy McCuish and Elaine Robertson and representatives of the emergency services and VisitScotland.

Mr MacKinnon lobbied those present to support an Inland Water Safety Group that would co-ordinate education and rescue training across Scotland. Such a group was recommended by the Tompkins Report, published following the Loch Awe drownings in 2009.

Urging people to back the campaign, councillor Glen Lee, who is also secretary of Loch Awe Safety Company, said: 'Today we realised the level of support there is and having the community safety minister here was fantastic.'

Mr McGrigor, who lives by the loch and chairs the Loch Awe Safety Company, said: 'We have been looking for something to improve safety around the loch for a long time and I think this plan could be an example for the whole country.'

Donations to help buy the modified Pilot House 27 boat can be made via the LochWatch Loch Awe website or by cheque to Loch Awe Safety Company, Post House, Kilniver, PA34 4UT.

## ACHA to build new homes at Bonawe

TWO new family homes for rent will be built in Bonawe, the Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) at a cost of £283,000.

ACHA will build the homes on land it owns between Ardchattan Primary School and Kenmore Cottages.

Of the total cost, £156,000 comes from Argyll and Bute Council's Rural Housing Development Fund and the remaining £127,000 coming from ACHA. Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's

chief executive said: 'It is vital small rural communities like Bonawe have affordable housing to help people stay or to return to.'

'I hope these additional houses, along with the 16 that ACHA own at Kenmore Cottages, provide opportunities for young families to remain in Bonawe and support the local Primary School.'

ACHA plans to put the project on site in the late summer and it will last for a year.



The whale was spotted in the relatively shallow waters of Oban Bay and has become a tourist attraction. Picture - Chris Jackson, of Chalice Charters

## Visiting whale causes quite a stir in Oban Bay

LOCALS and visitors alike were still gathered along the water's edge at Oban Bay this week after the area welcomed its biggest ever visitor - a 40ft sperm whale, estimated to

weigh approximately 16 tonnes. The whale, believed to be a young male, swam into the bay on Saturday afternoon, drawing gasps from disbelieving onlookers who wasted no time

in trying to grab photographs of the unusual visitor. While the whale's presence has created quite a buzz, there is concern that the whale could be ill and people have been

warned to stay away from the mammal. As *The Oban Times* went to press, fears were growing for the whale's safety. For more, see page 15.



Alistair MacGregor, chairman of Oban and Lorn Youth Pipe Band Association, and Arthur Gillies, president of Oban Pipe Band accept the cheques from Netherlorn Piping Society president Alistair Dewar. 15\_114pipecheque01

## Netherlorn Piping Society boosts bands' funding

NETHERLORN Piping Society marked its final recital of the season by presenting two cheques to pipe bands in Oban.

Oban Pipe Band, the town's adult band, and Oban and Lorn Youth Pipe Band Association (OLYPBA), which funds Oban High School's two bands, each received £1,000 to help towards travel costs to this year's competitions.

Netherlorn Piping Society president Alistair Dewar said: 'When we resurrected the society nine years ago we set out to support pip-

ing in the area, especially among the younger players.

We raised an initial £6,000 to help the Oban High School Pipe Band and from just a small group of players, Angus MacColl and the OLYPBA look after more than 70 young pipers, drummers and chanter players.'

The money has been raised by the society from its monthly recitals. The final recital of the season was held last Thursday in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, when Campbelltown's Willie McCallum was the headline performer.



Willie McCallum was the headline performer at the final society recital. 15\_114netherlorn09

## Solution may be on horizon for Bridge of Orchy water problems

Council agreed to repair and upgrade if Scottish Water adopt in long-term

A MEETING between the Scottish Government, Scottish Water and Argyll and Bute Council looks to have found a solution to the water problems in Bridge of Orchy.

While the council has agreed to repair and upgrade the water supply, with financial assistance from village residents, Scottish Water will adopt the supply as part of its next capital budget from 2015 to 2021.

**Public meeting**  
A date will soon be set for a public meeting in Bridge of Orchy to discuss the proposal.

The plan has received a cautious welcome from residents of the tiny Argyll village, who have just come through their third winter without a reliable water supply. Just last weekend residents and visitors to the village were without water after the supply tank froze.

Joe Barnwell, chairman of the Bridge of Orchy Community Association, said: 'This is a similar proposal to what was offered by the council before but they wanted to repair it and walk away, leaving us with the liability. That was never going to happen.'

'If you take this proposal at face value we are getting what we hoped for and that

is a good thing. 'It is just a pity it has taken this long to get Scottish Water on board because it just seemed that to them, a private water supply was a taboo subject.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, who included cabinet secretary for infrastructure Nicola Sturgeon MSP in the discussions, said: 'A letter has gone to residents explaining the role for the council in repairing and maintaining the water system with a contribution from those in the village.'

'The intention of the government is to put into Scottish Water's capital plan in 2015 arrangements for first time adoption for private supplies. That will be progressive because there are hundreds across the country but the intention is that Bridge of Orchy would be one of the first in the next capital plan.'

Oban North and Lorn councillor Louise Glen Lee said: 'It was good to get all the partners round the table and see some real progress at last.'

'I am assured that by the end of Scottish Water's next capital budget we will see a transfer of assets but I would hope the Bridge of Orchy supply would be transferred sooner rather than later.'

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**Kilmore Village Hall**  
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**Price set for Oban lifeboat whisky**

OBAN Lifeboat's rare fundraising whisky is to go on sale for £195 a bottle.

The Oban Lifeboat Management Committee decided last Tuesday that a limited number of bottles of the 18-year-old single malt would go on sale this month. Two of the 297 limited edition bottles, gifted to the charity by Oban Distillery, sold at auction for £260 each last week.

At the lifeboat committee meeting £195 was agreed as the price because that was the average figure, out of all the suggested prices put forward by committee members.

The whisky will go on sale at Birchwood Service Station, Oban, next Tuesday (April 9) and additional bottles will be available for Internet buyers only, via the Green Welly Stop website.

**Pub deadline moves closer**

PUB giant JD Wetherspoon is no closer to confirming an opening date for its new Oban pub - despite having submitted an application for a licence.

Lodged last month, the company has applied for permission to open from 11am until midnight from Sunday-Thursday, and until 1am on Fridays and Saturdays. Objectors have until April 16 to lodge their concerns with the local authority.

**Mòd Dhailriada set for September**

THE 85th Mid Argyll Provincial Mòd will be held on September 21 this year.

Mòd Dhailriada has been held annually since 1922, with the exception of the war years.



The Oban Bay sperm whale kept a large crowd enthralled all weekend Picture - John MacTavish



Some spectators got a closer look at the 16 tonne visitor than others Picture - Kevin McGlynn

**'Lost' whale thrills crowds at Oban Bay**

'It seems apt in the year of Natural Scotland that it is helping bringing visitors to the area.'

THE UNEXPECTED arrival of a 40-foot sperm whale into the relatively shallow waters Oban Bay has delighted locals and visitors alike, while delivering a welcome boost to the start of the tourist season.

Crowds have been gathering on the North Pier and along Corran Esplanade to catch a glimpse of the whale - the largest predator on the planet - and waterside bed and breakfasts have been inundated with calls from people keen to find the best vantage point.

**Concern**

However, the arrival of the whale, estimated to be a young male weighing approximately 16 tonnes, on Saturday morning has also prompted concern for the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT), with the charity warning would-be whale spotters to keep their distance from the giant mammal, which may be ill.

That hasn't stopped people maintaining an interest - even if at distance.

Struan Smith, who runs boat charter firm Coastal Connection with twin brother Cameron, said: 'A lot of people have been gathering along the shore to look for it.'

'The bed and breakfasts along the waterfront seem to be get-

ting a lot of bookings too.

'We're supposed to stay away from it but we've only really had two people ask if we could sail next to it - I think they're happier watching from the shore.'

'I don't know if it's ill but I hope it does get out of the bay.'

**Excitement**

Linda Battison, chairwoman of the Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA) echoed that sentiment.

'It's certainly caused quite a lot of excitement,' she said. 'It is good for the town from a tourism point of view but not so good for the poor whale because it's lost or ill.'

'While it is good that it's bringing visitors to the town I hope it also manages to get out okay.'

'It does seem apt though in the year of Natural Scotland that it is helping bringing visitors to the area.'

Olivia Harries, HWDT biodiversity officer, said: 'This is a spectacular animal but we are urging boat users to stay away from the whale wherever possible so as not to cause it distress.'

'While it's exciting to see an animal of this size so close to shore, sperm whales usually inhabit very deep waters - so we are concerned the whale may be

sick.

'Cetaceans have a tendency to come closer to shore when ill and can eventually strand. However, this individual may simply be confused and if so it will hopefully navigate to deeper waters eventually.'

The Coastguard has issued a warning to all boats warning them of a large, live whale in the bay and advised that they proceed with caution.

Chalice Charters, based in Oban, managed to take some impressive images of the sperm whale, showing the animal's characteristic tail fluke as it dives.

**Rare**

Chris Jackson, of Chalice Charters, said: 'We watched while the whale ranged north/south in the harbour keeping to deeper water - the maximum depth here is only about 40m.'

'The ferries did proceed with caution and there was little boat traffic about. At first I thought it was a humpback whale, but it certainly is a sperm whale - the first I've ever seen, so very exciting.'

Sightings of sperm whales are rare in the Hebrides but not unheard of. The last reported sighting to HWDT was a group of five individuals in the Sound of Raasay in February.

Despite reports being rare, the UK still has the highest number of sperm whale sightings in Northern Europe.

Sperm whales are the largest predator on the planet, with males reaching lengths of 18 metres.

They are found globally, although it is thought that only males frequent sub-polar regions. They famously dive to incredible depths to hunt a variety of prey, including the giant squid.

HWDT ask members of the public that encounter a whale, dolphin or porpoise - collectively known as cetaceans - to report sightings to HWDT through its website, www.hwtd.org.

'By reporting sightings, the public will be directly contributing to a better understanding of the local marine environment.'

'If people manage to take an image of cetaceans, we would be very grateful they could forward these to our sightings officer at sightings@hwtd.org.'

'Images can be used in photo identification studies - allowing our researchers to track the moments of individuals, collectively adding to the understanding of the different species, both locally and internationally,' added Olivia.

**Campbeltown lifeboat man saves the day by sleeping on the job**

AFTER last week's power cuts rendered the Campbeltown Lifeboat's communications system useless, operations manager George Bradley came to the rescue by sleeping in the station.

The lifeboat's paging system, along with mobile phones, were out of action for three days while the power was off, meaning there was no way of contacting the crew if a lifeboat was needed.

George slept in a sleeping bag for three nights in the cold station next to the landline

phone in case there were any emergency calls.

He said: 'When the power goes off the battery back-up lasts for 15 hours.'

'We get called out by Belfast Coastguard so I said if they need a lifeboat, phone the station.'

'Then I would go round the town and knock on doors to get a crew.'

Speaking about how cold it was without heating in the station, he explained: 'I had a flask of water in the kitchen but I didn't get

out of the sleeping bag to make a cuppa!'

George was quick to downplay his actions and highlight the hard work of all the lifeboat volunteers over the weekend, who made themselves available during the week of power cuts.

There were no lifeboat callouts, however the crew were kept busy, driving around the town passing announcements to residents using a Tannoy system, also assisting in transporting people from the outlying villages to Campbeltown Hospital.'



Oban High School pupils performed the first showcase of the traditional music programme.

**Showcase success for Oban High music project**

OBAN High School is hopeful its School of Traditional Music programme can be established as a three-year project after a successful first showcase event.

The 12 pupils who won a place on the programme performed to an audience at the high school last Tuesday. The students played a number of group sets with a great variety of jigs, reels, slow airs and Gaelic singing.

The pilot project, which has been running for eight weeks, has given pupils access to one-to-one tuition and ensemble work. The musical mastermind behind the project is Sileas Sinclair and as well as tutoring and arranging the sets she has been leading the ensemble work. Other tutors are Joanie Garvin on fiddle, Finlay Wells on guitar and Andrew Stephenson on flute, whistle and small pipes. In collaboration with the musicians, Eilidh MacInnes choreographed a couple of sets for her Highland dancing students who performed with the musicians.

Morven McKerrell, the school's principal teacher of music, said: 'The School of Traditional Music would like to say a huge thank you to Roddy MacIsaac who has been instrumental in helping us gain the funding from Celtic Charity Fund.'

'We are very hopeful that the project will establish itself as a three-year programme where we can continue to promote traditional music in Oban High School.'

**Police appeal after injured man loses his memory in Oban**

A MAN who sustained a fractured skull and eye socket last weekend in Oban says he can't remember how he sustained the injuries.

The man, who is in his 40s and from Glasgow, was visiting a relative in the town. But sometime overnight between Saturday and Sunday, at the back of Airds Place, he sustained serious injuries to his face and head.

Police have not named the man but have appealed to any witnesses who may be able to say what happened to the man.

Acting chief inspector Alistair Davidson said: 'Anyone who saw or heard anything in that area last Saturday night into Sunday morning should get in touch.'

'The man has now out of hospital but suffered serious injuries and cannot recall the events prior to his injury. Anyone with any information can contact DS Keith Phillips at Oban Police Station on 01631 510500.'

**Clarification over Campbeltown Grammar School closure**

THE OBAN Times would like to point out an inaccuracy in last week's report on the confusion over the closure of Campbeltown Grammar School.

The posting on facebook regarding the closure, which appeared to show conflicting information, has not prompted a formal review of internal communications.

Also, the posting was not removed from the council's 'weathering the storm' facebook page.

**Dunbeg roundabout plan to be discussed at Oban meeting**

PLANNERS will meet in Oban's Corran Halls later this month to run the rule over an application to build a roundabout near Dunbeg.

West Highland Housing Association's application for the roundabout, on the A85, will be discussed on April 16 from 11am.

**Most litter comes from locals say North Connel volunteers**

NEARLY a wheelie bin full of litter was dropped on a one mile stretch between North Connel and Ledaig every month over the winter - and locals are being blamed.

Two residents of Ledaig who became fed up of watching as the roadside verges became home to more and more litter decided to start doing a biannual clean up two years ago, but have been shocked by the volume of trash discarded from car and van windows during the last five months.

**Prime culprits**

After their latest litter pick, Frankie Lanos and Max Bonniwell decided to show people exactly how much rubbish they're collecting in a bid to end the 'unwelcome' practice of just throwing litter out the car window - adding that locals need to take as much responsibility as anyone.

Frankie, who first moved to Ledaig in 2010 from Oban, said: 'The rubbish which accumulated over the past five winter months on a one mile stretch of the A828, between the North Connel turn-off and the Moss Road, was sufficient to fill four wheelie bins.'

'The same stretch of road had yielded three wheelie bins full over the previous seven summer/autumn months.'

'From this evidence we have to come to the unwelcome conclusion that locals, rather than tourists, are the prime culprits.'

'Large numbers of tourists are attracted to this most beautiful part of Scotland in which we are privileged to live. We do ourselves and the environment no favours by treating it as a litter bin.'



Frankie Lanos with the latest batch of litter collected by her and Max Bonniwell between North Connel and Ledaig, near Benderloch.

The vast majority of discarded rubbish is from fast food containers, crisps bags, sweet wrappers, bottles and tins, although the pair have also found soiled nappies, condoms and, disgustingly, bags of sick.

Frankie added: 'We suspect that the main culprits may be 'white van men', but without having ever seen any litter being thrown from any vehicle - which is amazing considering how much there is - it might be unwise to jump to conclusions.'

Margaret Adams, chairman of Ardcattan Community Council that covers the area, said: 'I think it's an educational problem with people. It would be far better if people just used a bin.'

The issue is likely to be discussed at the next meeting of the community council, on April 16, North Connel Hall from 7.30pm.

**HECTOR WAS GETTING CROSS, THE POSTIE SHOULD HAVE BEEN BY NOW WITH HIS NEW SCOTTISH FIELD!**

**MAY ISSUE OUT NOW**

**Inside:**  
**ORKNEY RISING - Cameron Stout on his beloved islands**  
**PLUS..**  
**THREE CHEFS IN A BOAT - DELICIOUS RECIPES FROM ARDEONAIG**

**The genius of artist Joan Eardley**  
**10 STAGGERING SCOTTISH FACTOIDS**  
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## Fort William take the lead, but same old failings rear their ugly head

Debatable penalty decision gave Buckie the chance to level from the spot

REPORT BY STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

FOOTBALL



Darren Quigg clears his lines under pressure from Lewis MacKinnon as Buckie turn the screw 20\_f14football04

IT WAS the same old story for Fort William at Claggan Park on Saturday – but for 20 minutes they were every bit a match for a strong Buckie outfit.

The Fort had the audacity to open the scoring through veteran midfielder Gary Farquhar with just five minutes on the clock.

But the home fans were not celebrating for long – seven minutes to be precise – as a debatable penalty decision gave 'Deano' Donaldson the chance to level from the spot.

Fort were competing for every ball and really knocking Buckie out of their stride but gradually the visitors began to find their rhythm.

Pint-sized striker Jo Sutherland was proving to be a real handful up front with his trickery – and Sutherland it was who provided the pin-point cross for Lewis MacKinnon to apply a cool finish to edge Buckie 2-1 ahead on 27 minutes.

**Still in the hunt**  
At 2-1 down the home team were still in the hunt but any hopes of a revival were soon in ashes as the visitors cut loose on an uncharacteristically dry and bouncy pitch.

First a superb cross from 'Spider' Stewart found Donaldson, who looped a clever header over Kyle Robertson into the far corner.

Then the diminutive Sutherland weaved through the Fort defence

to crash a shot off the bar – and it was that man Donaldson who was in the right place and the right time to knock the ball into the net for his hat-trick.

Matters did not improve for the Fort in the second half and Robertson had to be at his best to push away a great MacKinnon drive.

Buckie were playing flowing football by now and it was no surprise when the green and whites made it 5-1 as Jamie Shewan showed his legendary composure to coolly send a clever lob over the onrushing keeper and into the far corner of the net.

**Out of sight**  
To their credit Fort never gave up the ghost but Buckie by now were out of sight and retained



Andy MacLean carries the ball into the Buckie box despite Dean Donaldson's wild challenge 20\_f14football01

possession with ease up to the final whistle.

Man of the match for Fort William was Ryan MacDon-

ald, who put in a great shift in defence.

Fort were in action again last night (Wednesday) against

Brora Rangers as they seek to cut the four-point deficit separating them from second bottom Lossiemouth.

### Trotternish Ridge Race entries open

FOOTBALL

ENTRIES are now open for Skye and Lochalsh Running Club's Trotternish Ridge Race on May 18.

Runners start from Flodigarry and take on a 16-mile course with approximately 6,000 feet of ascent.

The course is unmarked and there are few paths over the rough and steep terrain. Runners are expected to make their own way between six checkpoints and must therefore be competent with map and compass.

Registration for the 'A' race, which is limited to 50 runners due to SNH restrictions this year, is from 9am-10am at Portree High School.

All competitors will be transferred to start of race from Portree and back from finish by courtesy coach.

All runners must have completed two comparable races or have relevant experience, must carry full body cover including hat and gloves, together with a map, compass and whistle.

Water will be available at checkpoints 2 and 4.

There will be a prizegiving and refreshments at The Tongadale Hotel, Portree on the evening of the race.

To enter visit [https://www.sentries.co.uk/event.php?event\\_id=966](https://www.sentries.co.uk/event.php?event_id=966)

Over 18s only.

### Caledonian Canal cycle race

CYCLING

WEST HIGHLAND Wheelers ladies hold their race along the Caledonian Canal next Wednesday. Competitors are asked to meet at the Moorings Hotel car park at 6.30.

Meanwhile, the club will hold a mixed race at Spean Bridge the same evening. Starters meet in the golf club car park at 6.45pm.

### Mini rugby still on over Easter break

RUGBY

LOCHABER Rugby Club is advising all mini rugby mums and dads that coaches are not taking a break over Easter and mini rugby (P3-S2) will be on as usual at Banavie this Saturday from 10am-11.30am.

### Penultimate game for under 17s

YOUTH FOOTBALL

FORT William under 17s play their penultimate game of the season next Saturday, April 14 when they travel to Ainess United.

### No jackpot winner this week

LOTTERY

NUMBERS in the Fort William FC Lotto draw on Sunday night were 6,12 and 13. There were no winning tickets and so next week's jackpot is £200.

Follow us on facebook



From left, Davie Cameron, Colin Pinkett and Brian Stewart of handicap winners Council celebrate with John and Pam Weller, Brian Johnstone and Tommy McKnight of scratch winners the Alley Cats. 20\_f14bowling01

## Alleycats are the champions

AFTER THE final week of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre Alleycats won the scratch division with 74 points.

Council were in second place with 59 points followed by Ardtoe/Nevis Radio in third place with 48 points.

The handicap division was much closer and was won by Council with 52 points. Alleycats were in second place with 49 points, with Ardtoe/Nevis Radio in third on 43 points.

The top individual game of the season came from Rossamy Wareing (Ardtoe/Nevis Radio) with 241 scratch, 294 handicap. The highest 2 game scratch

TEN PIN BOWLING

series of the season came from Tony White Locke (Alleycats) with 394. The top two-game handicap series of the season went to Rossamy Wareing with 492.

The best team scratch game of the season was 650 from Alleycats. The best handicap game of the season was 875 from Ardtoe/Nevis Radio.

Alleycats had the best two-game scratch series of the season with 1208. Rotavators had the top two-game handicap team series of the season with 1639.

## Phoenix boxers do well in Swindon

It was a case of planes, trains and automobiles for six young Lochaber Phoenix Boxing club members as they travelled to Swindon last weekend to compete in a show run by the local Horseshoe ABC.

First Scotrail provided free tickets on the sleeper train to London and the train from Glasgow to Fort William on the return. In between times the squad travelled by car and plane to make it home.

Kein Johnstone, 11, faced Jack Bull of Devides ABC who found the Lochaber lad too much to handle and his corner pulled him out of the contest at the end of the first.

This was a first class performance by Johnstone and he looks to have a huge future ahead of him.

**Superiority**  
Robert Stewart-MacDonald, 11, took on Tom Varey of Swindon ABC and built on early superiority to claim a unanimous decision.

He is another of the club's quartet in this age group who his set to make his mark in the boxing game.

Another Lochaber 11 year-old, Scottish title holder Cameron Whyte, met Luke Brown of host club Horseshoe ABC and his

undoubted quality shone through and the unanimous verdict by a wide margin. Whyte also captured the best boxer of the night trophy into the bargain.

The last Phoenix 11 year-old to fight was Dan Nixon who boxed Lazio Topaz of Heart of Devon ABC.

**Impressed**  
Nixon showed a good understanding of the old adage 'to hit and not be hit', but Topaz's high punch rate impressed the judges and the English lad won on a split decision. The club expects all four youngsters to be vying for the Scottish title.

Thirteen year-old Robbie Hall scored Lochaber's fourth win out of five on the night with a comprehensive victory over Jerry Doran of Cheltenham ABC, who was forced to take a standing eight count right on the final bell.

Hall won on a unanimous decision and has the potential to go very far indeed.

Unfortunately, team captain Chris Bradley's bout was cancelled at the last minute but made the trip to support his squad.

Meanwhile, Lochaber Phoenix hold their next home show at the Nevis Centre on Saturday 20th April and tickets are available from the venue and

Niall Clark(07554994744) and Steve Docherty (07767069532). The show will feature boxers from Fort William and all over

Scotland from 11 year-olds to heavyweights.

BOXING



Cameron Whyte: one of four Lochaber Phoenix winners at Swindon on Saturday night 20\_f14boxing06

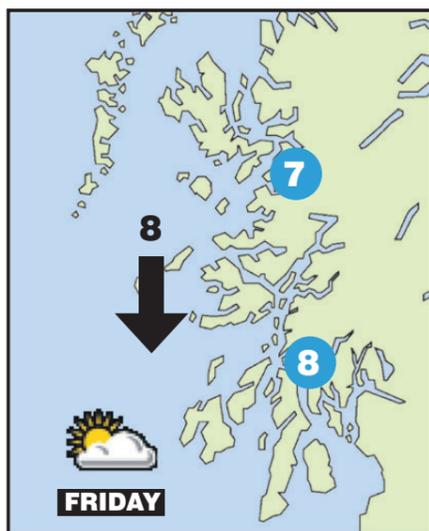
## Weather

**Thursday** Sunny intervals  
Winds light north north easterly  
Temperatures -1°C to 8°C

**Friday** Sunny  
Winds light, northerly  
Temperatures -1°C to 8°C.

**Weekend** Sunny intervals  
**Outlook** Winds moderate north westerly  
Temperatures -1°C to 9°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 4, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	13.01	2.7	18.51	pm	1.4	***	**
Thur	06.14	1.4	13.01	2.7	18.51	1.4	***	**
Fri	01.41	3.1	07.41	1.4	14.41	2.9	20.15	1.3
Sat	02.52	3.3	09.02	1.3	15.39	3.1	21.23	1.1
Sun	03.42	3.5	09.57	1.1	16.15	3.3	22.14	0.9
Mon	04.23	3.7	10.41	0.9	16.44	3.5	22.58	0.7
Tues	04.59	3.9	11.18	0.8	17.14	3.7	23.38	0.6
Wed	05.34	4.0	11.53	0.7	17.45	3.9	***	**

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with



website: [www.northwestmarine.co.uk](http://www.northwestmarine.co.uk)  
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