

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES



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Rise in number of under-age drinkers

MORE 15-year-olds in Argyll and Bute are drinking alcohol when compared with figures from 2006, with the average of those having their first drink at just 12.

A report by the Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALUS) from 2010 shows a general rise in underage drinking among teenagers.

However, statistics for those smoking and taking drugs had fallen.

In the survey, backed by the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland, 45 per cent of 15-year-olds surveyed said they had drunk alcohol in the week prior to the survey.

Although there has been no significant change in the number of 13-year-olds drinking alcohol, the percentage of both age groups who have ever had an alcoholic drink is higher than the national average.

Oban South and the Isles Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'The figures speak for themselves. The fact the average age of those who took their first alcoholic drink is 12 must set alarm bells ringing for every parent in Argyll and Bute.'

'I maintain that minimum pricing on alcohol is by no means the silver bullet to this issue but is at least a step in the right direction.'

Drug raid

TWO FISH farm workers have been reported to the procurator fiscal for growing cannabis plants in their home in Oban.

The house was raided by police officers on Sunday and the plants were discovered in a cupboard within the house.

Dog owners warned over sheep worrying

A WARNING has been issued by the National Farmer's Union Scotland (NFUS) following a number of attacks on livestock by dogs throughout the country, including an incident at a farm in Appin last Thursday.

Sheep worrying is a growing concern for farmers who fear their sheep becoming distressed, hurt or killed by dogs during the crucial lambing season.

The NFUS and Police Scotland are reminding dog owners to keep dogs under control at this time of year.



No country for old men at ploughing match

Young tractor enthusiasts, from left, Kai MacKenzie, Alexander Macdonald and Donnie MacCorquodale, look like seasoned veterans at last weekend's Lorn Vintage Ploughing Match as they examine one of the classic models on show. Although the majority of those taking part in the ploughing were of a more 'mature' nature, these youngsters proved there is a need to keep the traditional ploughing match alive. Photograph by Bob McCulloch.

Reunion hopes of jailed seaman's girlfriend

THE GIRLFRIEND of jailed seaman Billy Irving is confident she will be able to greet him outside of a prison cell this weekend after he was granted bail.

Yvonne MacHugh hopes to fly out to India's Puzhal Prison in Chennai today (Thursday), where Billy has been locked up since October last year.

The 33-year-old Connemara man, who has now been away from

home for 10 months, is among the 35-strong crew of an anti-piracy ship being held on weapons charges.

Last Wednesday an Indian court granted bail to all but one of the six arrested British crew members but until now the ship's company, the US-based Advanced Fort, had been unable to find the required number of Indian nationals to give surety on

Billy, a former soldier, was

working on the MV Seaman Board Ohio to protect commercial shipping in the Indian Ocean when he and other crew members were arrested.

Alan Reid, MP for Argyll and Bute, went to Downing Street last month with Yvonne and relatives of the other British men imprisoned to hand in a petition with more than 140,000 signatures.

working on the MV Seaman Board Ohio to protect commercial shipping in the Indian Ocean when he and other crew members were arrested.

Stephen McLeish, a former police officer, has urged public authorities to do more to protect children near schools after a young girl was knocked down on Oban's McCaig Road.

The seven-year-old girl suffered minor injuries when she was hit by a car close to Oban Primary Campus last Friday as the schools were emptying at 3.45pm.

Parents at Oban Primary Campus have been handing out leaflets warning motorists to take care around the school grounds and Oban Police Inspector Julie McLeish has

warned enforcement action will be taken against drivers parking irresponsibly at the campus.

Meanwhile, exasperated parents of children at Kilniver Primary School have described the A816 as 'terrifying' and have considered drastic measures, including using hairdryers as

petrol speed guns and leaving dummies with high-visibility

Parents' plea to drivers to slow down near schools

Pupil knocked down near campus

DESPERATE parents are urging public authorities to do more to protect children near schools after a young girl was knocked down on Oban's McCaig Road.

The seven-year-old girl suffered minor injuries when she was hit by a car close to Oban Primary Campus last Friday as the schools were emptying at 3.45pm.

It really pains me to say it but locals are speeding just as much as tourists. I can't fault the police, they spend a lot of time out on the road checking speeds but there's only so much they can do.

Another Kilniver parent, George Paterson, added: 'We just feel like there's nothing we can do. I live nearby and we're scared to let our kids go out to play because the way you see some people driving is ridiculous.'

And this week it has been revealed that flashing 20mph speed limit signs outside schools across the county have been faulty for up to several months.

jackets by the roadside, to try and slow traffic.

Kilniver Primary School Parent Council chairwoman Lucy Files, who has two children at the school, said: 'When you're walking at the edge of that road and a car or lorry flies past it's absolutely terrifying.'

'It really pains me to say it but locals are speeding just as much as tourists. I can't fault the police, they spend a lot of time out on the road checking speeds but there's only so much they can do.'

Parents at Kilniver, however, claim the lights have not been working properly for months.

Oban and North Lorn councillor Louise Glen Lee has called for a review of all traffic calming measures outside schools.

She said: 'It is vitally important that any measure put in place to slow down traffic outside schools is in full working order. I know

of a few in Oban, Lorn and the Isles that have been faulty or not working properly for some time but I am aware that council staff are working to have them fixed.'

'It is a child's human right to have a safe route to school and we must make sure the council is doing everything possible to make the route safe.'

'But we as a community also have a responsibility to drive cautiously and slowly around our schools.'

The road policing unit from Police Scotland's Dumfries-based L Division was in the area on Saturday and Sunday. The four highest speeds recorded were all on Sunday and within the Arriva and Bridge of Orchy areas. None of the motorists, who are all men, were local to the area. A 45-year-old

Biker clocked at 110mph

MOTORCYCLISTS travelling at up to 110mph in Argyll have been caught by a police unit tasked with tackling high-speed motorists.

The road policing unit from Police Scotland's

Dumfries-based L Division

was in the area on Saturday

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Arriva and Bridge of Orchy

areas. None of the motorists,

who are all men, were local

to the area. A 45-year-old

motorcyclist was clocked travelling at 110mph on the A82 at Rannoch Moor and a further two motorcyclists were recorded travelling at 100mph and 94mph on the Arriva straight.

A 64-year-old car driver

was clocked at 100mph on

the same stretch of road at

Arriva. Alistair Davidson,

Oban Police's outgoing chief

inspector, said: 'Motorcyclists

are going to be a focus of our

road policing from now until

the end of the summer.'



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Dunbeg man jailed for sex offences

TO SHOUTS of abuse from the public gallery, a 64-year-old man was taken from the dock at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday to begin two-and-a-half years in jail for sex crimes.

When Stanley Jeffrey, of 49 Lorn Road, Dunbeg, is eventually released from prison he will be on the sex offenders' register, serve an extended 15 months on licence and be the subject of an order that he must not be in a house with anyone under the age of 16, unless two

adults over the age of 21 are present, one of whom must be a parent or guardian.

Jeffrey was found guilty by a jury, after a week-long trial in February, of three charges of lewd indecent libidinous practices and one charge of indecent assault.

His victims included a young girl and two women and the offences happened at locations in the Lorn area between January 1 2003 and December 6 2010.

In passing sentence, Sheriff Small said: 'I have considered

with care the report, which

makes it plain you are not a well man; not notwithstanding that, because of the nature of these offences and because of the position of extreme trust you were in, a custodial sentence is the only sentence I can impose.'

The sex offenders' register entry will run indefinitely and the sexual offences prevention order which prohibits him from being alone in a dwelling with an under-16 unless supervised will run for five years from his release from prison.

MAKI went out to consultation in October and he said he had received little opposition from the public and elected representatives.

Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan, who is in charge of L Division (Argyll and West Dunbartonshire) within Police Scotland, has also announced eight new constables will be coming to neighbouring Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay (MAKI). Both Argyll areas will now come under the command of one chief inspector, Marlene Baillie. Inspector Alistair Davidson, who had been acting chief inspector in Oban, is moving to a role in CID. Chief Superintendent McEwan's proposal for cutting a chief inspector post and retaining the two inspector posts in OLI and

Campbeltown, said: 'It will be a challenge but it is one I am looking forward to.'

Chief Inspector Baillie, who will split her typical working week between Oban, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown, said: 'It will be a challenge but it is one I am looking forward to.'

More choices available on full menu board

FISH ON BOARD
Please check out our blackboard for today's specials!

116 George Street, Oban, Argyll
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The Oban Fish & Chip Shop
New Season Restaurant Menu

Baked or Fried Local Fish
Sole Fillet £9.00
Hake Fillet (skin-on) £9.00
Baked Halibut Steak with Shellfish Sauce £16.00
Monkfish Scampi with lemon mayo £13.00
Pan-fried Mackerel (seasonal from May)
Herring in Oatmeal (seasonal from May)

FISH TEA SPECIAL £10.00
Thick fillet of haddock or cod served with our own mushy peas or if you prefer garden peas. Our own tartare sauce and fresh cut chips. (Tea/coffee or soft drink, bread and butter all inclusive of price).

Seafood Dishes
Creamy Fish Pie £12.00
Thai Style Fish Cakes £11.00
Isle of Mull King Scallops with pea puree and chive mash £14.00
Seafood Platter £17.00
Spicy Easdale Crab & Avocado Salad £10.00
Haddock/Sole Mornay £11.00
One Kilo of Local Mussels Marinere £12.00
Pan Fried South Shian Salmon £12.00
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From left: Inspector Julie McLeish, Inspector Alistair Davidson, Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan, Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie and Inspector Tom Harper at the handover of area command in Oban.

Police shake-up sees three new officers on beat

MAKI went out to consultation in October and he said he had received little opposition from the public and elected representatives.

Denying the move was a cost-cutting measure, he added: 'This is about the command and control structure of the police here; this is not about taking officers off the streets. I would rather have three more cops on the street and cut down on commanding officers. Marlene will now be looking at extracting road policing officers from groups and turning the clock back to make a bespoke traffic unit.'

Chief Inspector Baillie, who will split her typical working week between Oban, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown, said: 'It will be a challenge but it is one I am looking forward to.'

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Public Meeting



TOMMY SHERIDAN

The Case for a

YES Vote

in September

Chairman Ian Hamilton QC
Thurs 10th April 7.30pm
Corran Halls, Oban

Admission Free



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Piper on the run for charity

ISLE OF SKYE Pipe Band will give a rousing send-off to fellow band member Ally 'K' MacPherson next Friday, April 11, when he sets off from Armadale on an epic 125-mile run round the island for charity.

Pipe Sergeant Ally plans to run to Portree via Sligachan, Dunvegan, Uig and Staffin before finishing - hopefully - in Somerled Square the following evening around 9pm, when the band will pipe him home.

Drum Major Peter MacDonald said: 'It's great to support one of our own guys. He is undertaking a huge venture and we wish him well in raising money for charity.'

'Ally is very determined and we have every confidence he will do it at great speed.'

Ally is running in aid of Cancer Research UK and has raised more than £4,000 so far. To donate go to www.justgiving.com/allykrumsskye.

South Uist Gaelic centre a step closer

SOUTH UIST cultural body Ceolas' plans for a dedicated centre for Gaelic music, language and dance have taken a step forward with the appointment of Dr Rebecca Rennell as development manager.

Dr Rennell, who lives in South Uist and is an archaeology lecturer with the University of the Highlands and Islands, will be based at Lewis Castle College on Benbecula.

She said: 'I am looking forward to working with Ceolas and UHI, Lewis Castle College in developing this exciting project.'

Ceolas currently runs a music and dance summer school featuring tuition in piping, fiddling, singing, dancing and the Gaelic language.

The proposed centre would be a permanent hub for Gaelic culture which could generate £2 million for the local economy and create 50 jobs.

Dr Rennell takes up her post on April 22.

Bingo raises £200

THE LOCHALSH branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland held a bingo session in Balmacara house on March 20 and raised almost £200 for branch funds.



Working together to back Mòd 2015 in Oban are, from left: Graham MacQueen, chairman of MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust; Duncan MacDonald, chairman of Mòd 2015 local organising committee; and Neil Mackay, BID4Oban events manager. 15_t14modshop10

Town charity shop in Royal National Mòd fund pledge

A FUNDING headache for Oban's Royal National Mòd 2015 organisers looks to have been remedied following a commitment from a town-based charity to gift any profit to the Gaelic festival.

MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust believes it can raise around £25,000 for the event through its charity shop in the White Building on the North Pier.

The trust, which raises money for causes throughout Oban, Lorn and the isles, has pledged to hand over this summer's shop profits to the Mòd organising committee.

The partnership has been backed by BID4Oban, which will also market its Love Oban

scheme through the shop. Trust chairman Graham MacQueen explained a successful Mòd would benefit the whole town and that many of his shop's volunteers manned the Mòd Shop in 2008, ahead of the previous national Mòd in Oban in 2009.

Describing the partnership as 'win-win', he added: 'I can't think of a better purpose for this charity's building and volunteers than to support the Mòd coming to Oban in 2015. In terms of preserving culture and tradition it is an extremely important event. It is very important for the town in business terms too.'

'Rather than be in competition for funds, we will be working together in an inclusive approach

because there is a limited pot in monetary terms and in terms of people's goodwill.'

Duncan MacDonald, chairman of the Mòd 2015 local organising committee, said the committed was required to raise £30,500 for the festival, with any remainder being spent on fringe events.

He said: 'This arrangement takes an incredible amount of pressure off us.'

'I feel it is terribly important that An Comunn Gàidhealach an Óbáin becomes less exclusive and more inclusive, developing more of a partnership between the committee and the community.'

'There are those of us in the town who would like to see the

national Mòd in Oban every year.'

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'There are those of us in the town who would like to see the

National park plan divides Mull opinion

By LYNDSEY COLLINS

A PROPOSAL for the Isle of Mull and its surrounding islands to receive national park status is dividing opinion among residents.

Wild Scotland member and advocate for the national park, David Woodhouse, believes it would help to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area.

Despite proposals in the past, there are just two existing national parks in Scotland; Cairngorms and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs.

David Woodhouse believes the exploration of national park status on Mull would bring active conservation management of the land and sea. The tourism business operator thinks the park would prevent deterioration of the landscape and the surrounding environment and that coastal litter would get far more attention from a national park board.

He said: 'It is [the Isle of Mull]

going to be spoiled; not because it's a national park but because it isn't.'

However, a number of concerned community councillors

expressed their opposition at last month's Mull community council meeting and believe there are a number of drawbacks to the proposal.

The two current parks receive

Scottish Government funding in the order of £14m per annum and some fear the status would be too costly and could lead to an increase in bureaucracy.

Vice-chairman of Mull Community Council, Calum MacLachlainn, said: 'It's overburdening of regulation is crippling and very, very expensive.'

Funding

Mike Shilson, chairman of the island community council said: 'For Mull to be a national park, it would have to command majority support, but there would have to be funding to support it.'

'A few years ago, north Harris had a ballot, but there was no funding available for the proposal.'

The official estimate is that it will cost several million pounds to set up, and the administrative running costs are between £5m-£10m, perhaps even more.'

'There are many projects on

Mull that could benefit from this level of funding, without it

being wasted in running costs. 'It would also be a quango, administered by government-nominated outsiders and not necessarily to the wishes of the local population.'

Recent progress in the Cairngorms National Park (CNP) shows 200 more people move into the park than move out each year and 250 affordable houses have been built across the CNP in 10 years.

The number of 18-25-year-olds leaving the park is considerably lower than in other rural areas across Scotland.

John Mayhew, director of the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS) believes national park status would create jobs and improve sustainability of existing industries.

He said: 'I think that Mull and the surrounding islands could cope with more people.'

'It wouldn't bring so many more people that it would damage what's special about it, like its beauty and wildlife.'

'It would protect the landscape, look after the wildlife, bring benefits to local people with bed and breakfasts, cafés, restaurants and other businesses.'

Gun club on target

HARRIS Gun Club has been successfully affiliated to the Scottish Clay Target Association and will now be registered to hold selection shoots for the national team.

The first two down-the-line registered shoots will be held later this year, allowing club members to get official classifications in the discipline.

This news will be welcomed by all clay target shooters across the Western Isles - previously those wishing to register scores with the intention of competing nationally or internationally, were required to travel to shooting grounds on the mainland.



Residents vote overwhelmingly to continue Tarbert supermarket talks

RESIDENTS on Harris have voted overwhelmingly for talks with a supermarket chain on a possible store for Tarbert to proceed.

Community landowners' the North Harris Trust opened preliminary negotiations with the Co-operative Food Group earlier this year.

But worried local traders expressed fears about the impact on their businesses and the trust opted to ballot people before progressing any further.

And at a public count of postal votes in Tarbert Community Centre last Thursday, electors decided by 439 to 180 in favour of the trust 'continuing to discuss a potential site in North Harris with the Co-operative'.

The margin - 71 per cent to 29 per cent - was achieved on a very high turnout of 78.45 per cent. Trust manager Alastair Macleod told *The Oban Times*: 'This just gives the trust a mandate to continue talking. This is at a very early stage and we have not even met face to face with anyone representing the Co-op. The result tells us a majority of the community are happy for us to continue to talk.'

A spokesperson for the Co-operative Food Group said: 'We welcome the outcome of the ballot, and we look forward to continuing our discussions with the North Harris Trust about the possibility of opening a store in Tarbert.'

'As we have stated previously, our discussions with the trust remain at a very early stage, and no decisions have yet been taken.'

The Co-operative has six stores across the Outer Isles - but has no presence on the Isle of Harris.



Tarbert: talks are to continue on a possible Co-op store for the port.

Fighting fund totals £3,600

THE 'YES' campaign on Skye, Raasay and Lochalsh has built up a fighting fund of £3,600 as the battle to sway voters ahead of the independence referendum on September 18 gets under way.

Sales of a calendar with local views, a Burns Supper and a ceilidh contributed to the total, local 'Yes' chairperson Arthur Cormack said.

He added: 'The next few months will see us hosting a number of public meetings and debates as well as engaging with the voters throughout the area.'

A TOTAL of £1m has been made available by Forestry Commission Scotland to ensure the future of three Argyll ports as strategic docks for shipping timber out of the region.

The national authority confirmed it

has allocated one third of its Strategic Timber Transport Fund to maintaining the Timberlink public service.

It sees timber from Argyll forests shipped from Ardriashaig, Campbeltown and Sandbank to Ayrshire mills, lessening the impact of timber transport on Argyll's roads.

Kirsty Robb from Argyll Timber Transport, the regional group which represents the haulage industry, said:

'Timberlink something we have always backed and it complements the rest of the [Strategic Timber Transport] fund, which Argyll has done really well out of.'

'It is a costly way of moving timber, that's why it is subsidised to the tune of £1m,' she added.

The remaining £2m of the Strategic Timber Transport Fund will be dished out to projects that lessen the impact of timber transport on roads and communities.

Scotland's environment minister Paul Wheelhouse said: 'This additional £3m comes at the right time.'

Scotland is forecast to see an increase

Argyll timber dock cash secured

in timber production over the next 20 years - from approximately 6.5m to potentially over 10m green tonnes per annum, which needs to be transported safely to processing facilities and with minimum environmental impact on local communities.'

Since its establishment in 2006, Timberlink, an inland coastal shipping service, has removed around 70,000 timber lorry journeys from rural communities and busy tourist routes between Argyll and Ayrshire.

It is fully supported by the timber industry and has contributed significantly to the local economies of the ports and local communities.

Public gets say on landslide blackspot bypass options

PLANS to bypass a landslide blackspot in Wester Ross were put before the public in Lochcarron Hall and Achmore Hall last week.

Nine options were on show including a bridge across the Strome Narrows and a new road bypassing the village of Lochcarron.

At the meetings, Colin Howell, project design manager for Highland Council gave a slide show and explained the options and he said that he

hoped work could start in 2017, if the money was found. The road option seemed to be the most popular - but it comes with a price tag of around £100 million.

Charlie M MacRae, chairman of Plockton and District Community Council, attended the Achmore presentation.

He said: 'I was in the same hall in 1994, 20 years ago, when there was only three options on show.

The bridge was the preferred option then, costing about £17 million.'

Highland Council planners will use the feedback to inform a report due to go before councillors in August on the preferred route. The council has identified £10 million at present for the project.

The A890 road has been shut on many occasions by rockfalls in recent years, leaving drivers with a 150-mile diversion via Inverness.

Lorn Lines



Earth Hour switch-off at Park

Environmentally-friendly pupils at Park Primary School switched off all the lights in the school on March 28 for one hour in support of WWF's Earth Hour. The children dressed up in bright, shiny clothes and are going to ask their families to switch off the lights for one hour at home to highlight how much energy they use.

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THE COMING of spring was celebrated by Oban SWRI with a flower arranging demonstration by Karen Mackie.

In preparation for the big show on April 19, Karen demonstrated arrangements in a basket, and how to comply with show rules and avoid mishaps.

Karen went on to demonstrate a small arrangement in an egg cup, with tips on how to keep an arrangement in top condition and to impress the judges.

□□□

PRESIDENT Linda MacLeod was pleased to welcome two visitors to the March meeting of Appin SWRI in Port Appin Hall.

The speaker for the evening was Sue Chandney of the Citizens Advice Bureau, Fort William, who was accompanied by Chris Strong, one of the volunteer workers.

After a brief history of the Citizens Advice Bureau, Sue gave members an interesting insight into the work of today's branches.

Volunteers, who make up 80 per cent of the staff, undergo four to six months of training and are there to give help and advice, benefits, debt, housing, relationships and much more.

Jessie MacKenzie gave Sue and Chris a hearty vote of thanks for a most informative evening.

Competition results

Three cheese scones - Gold - Jean Breckenridge, Alison MacCorquodale; Silver - Ellen MacCorquodale, Helen Currie; Red - Chrissie Malone, Margaret Massey, Jessie MacKenzie, Barbara Carmichael, Myra MacDougall.

Hair ornament, fine crochet - Gold - Brenda MacLeod.

Mrs Ross's Competition was won by Barbara Carmichael.

Pupils keep the cash coming

A GROUP of kind-hearted pupils from Oban High School brought their fundraising efforts towards the £4,000 mark this year with their latest event.

The sixth year pupils' fundraising committee collected £292.64 last week from a soup lunch last Friday in the school's assembly hall.

This most recent fundraiser was in aid of Sports Relief and drew in crowds from all years of the school.

Diarmaid clan captain Jenny Fothergill, who helped organise the lunch, said: 'The event was a great success and we raised

a great amount of money for a really worthwhile charity. I've really enjoyed being part of the fundraising committee, we've raised nearly £4,000 pound throughout the year for various charities.'

Last Friday pupils and staff were offered a choice of four soups made by the committee, a roll, a cup of fruit salad and juice for the nominal fee of £2. The committee have been holding various events like cake bakes and lunches all year to raise money for different charities and will continue to do so up until this year's exams.

Ship shape Oban cadets delighted at photo gift

AN OBAN Times photograph of two famous Oban-based ships from yesteryear has been presented to the town's ever-expanding unit of sea cadets.

The picture of Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) ships *NLV Pharos* and *NLV Hesperus* rafted together in Oban was published in *The Oban Times*' Flashback section on March 20 and caught the imaginations of the youngsters, who have now hung the picture in their cadet hall at the Red Cross Centre.

The Oban unit's affiliated ship is the *NLV Pharos* and cadets visit the most modern version - the tenth ship to have the name - on a regular basis. *Hesperus* is also the name for one of the cadets' two divisions, the other being *Fingal*.

The group is seeing a membership boom of late with 23 cadets, a number that has been steadily increasing since the group was reformed by commanding officer Lieutenant Ewan McCuish RNR in 2008.

Lieutenant McCuish said: 'The

NLB has been very supportive of us and the ships in the photograph are very important to this unit, so it was great to see the picture of the two ships together in Oban.

'The photo is of them fully dressed, with flags from mast to mast, so it must have been a special occasion.'

'It is unusual to see both ships dressed and alongside each other in Oban, so it could have been a Royal wedding or birth.'

The unit will take delivery this Saturday of a new training RIB to help with their water-based activities.

As well as drills and learning about seamanship and naval history, the sea cadets take part in weekly activities such as kayaking, rowing, diving, power-boating and windsurfing.

During the first week in June, 12 cadets and three adult helpers will join the offshore training ship, the *TS Jack Petchey*, for week-long patrols around the French coastline and Channel Islands.

The Oban contingent will join the ship in St Malo, Brittany.

Care complaints prompt offer of support

COMPLAINTS highlighted by *The Oban Times* about palliative care at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban have prompted Argyll's patient adviser to offer assistance.

Claudia Albrecht, patient adviser for Argyll and Bute, runs a support service through the area's Citizen's Advice Bureau.

In a letter to *The Oban Times* she said: 'I have noted with interest and concern the recent news stories and related letters that have appeared in relation to palliative care in Argyll. Because of this, I wanted to write to you to let your readers know about a Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) service called the Patient Advice and Support Service (PASS).

'This is an independent service which provides free, accessible and confidential information, advice and support to patients, their carers and families about NHS health-care.'

PASS gives advice, takes feedback on hos-

pital services and explores patients' rights and responsibilities.

Since it was established in 2012, the service has helped more than 3,500 clients.

Ms Albrecht added: 'I would encourage anybody who has a health related issue and needs some help or advice regarding their rights and responsibilities to get in touch.'

People who wish to speak to a PASS adviser can phone 08456 123 808 or visit the CAB website for more details.

Calls for an enquiry into palliative care at the hospital came after NHS Highland apologised for leaving Oban woman Mabel Braibwood 'screaming in agony' for days after medics failed to properly manage painkilling drugs during her battle with pancreatic cancer last year. Scott Clark McGregor, meanwhile, said poor treatment by staff left his father, Peter Clark, 'fighting for his life' during his time at the hospital.

Island joy and council warning after Islay Array plan collapse

THE DECISION by Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) to cease plans for an offshore wind farm development off Islay has been criticised by islanders.

But, coming just months after ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) dropped plans for the Argyll Array, off Tiree, Argyll and Bute Council's deputy leader admitted last week's decision could undermine local authority intentions to exploit the area's renewable energy potential.

SSE had proposed to develop a 690MW wind farm off the coast of Portnahaven, Islay, but last week announced it would not be investing further in the project in the foreseeable future.

The company highlighted two 'hurdles' projects had to overcome: cost and the Levy Control Framework, which aims to control costs to customers from

government energy policies and therefore gives limited support for offshore wind.

Argyll and Bute Council's deputy leader Ellen Morton, lead councillor for infrastructure, said the council would have to re-evaluate its economic development plans in light of the decision.

She said: 'I am concerned about the general pattern of these projects not coming to fruition and I think there is a risk that these decisions could undermine what we are trying to do.'

'Some projects, like Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), are tied into renewables, so it is hard to have confidence in the future of these when things are changing so dramatically and we have no control over these changes.'

But Islay community councillor

and Portnahaven postmaster Alastair Redman has described the news as 'a fantastic victory' for the island.

Mr Redman has been critical of Argyll and Bute Council, which gave SSE permission to erect an anemometer mast next to Orsay lighthouse in preparation for the windfarm, despite heavy opposition from residents on the Rhinns of Islay.

Detrimental

He said: 'Had the renewables wing of SSE been far more willing to listen to the people on Islay and our concerns about the detrimental effect this array would have on a wide range of issues, including our essential fishing and tourism industry, and had they offered more direct and believable local benefit and compensation rather than

just vague assumptions and statements, then maybe this project of theirs would have had more local backing.'

A big question now arises about how this project which has been deemed too costly was ever passed by our local councillors and our local planning department in the first place?'

The SSE announcement was also warmly welcomed by Islay-based energy group Power4Isle but member Stuart Graham said the group remained concerned that SSE's withdrawal had been made in the 'near term'.

He added: 'We are concerned about their definition of 'near term' and what will happen to the lease granted to SSE by the Crown Estate.'

'We will be seeking clarification on both these issues.'

A statement from Argyll and

Bute Council said the local authority would continue to work with local and national partners to deliver the Argyll and Bute Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP).

The council added: 'We will continue to work with key stakeholders including SSE through the Argyll Array offshore wind farm, and our local planning department in the first place?'

The SSE announcement was also warmly welcomed by Islay-based energy group Power4Isle but member Stuart Graham said the group remained concerned that SSE's withdrawal had been made in the 'near term'.

At the end of last year ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) dropped plans to develop the Argyll Array offshore wind farm, saying it presented too much of a technical and environmental challenge.

However, SPR has said the project may be viable to reconsider in the future once offshore technology develops.

ISLAY residents have helped to raise £530,400 through a share offer in a community wind turbine after the deadline for buying shares passed on Monday.

More than 75 per cent of investment has come from islanders and the share offer has raised a large chunk of the £750,000 project cost, which will be supplemented by loans.

Islay Energy Trust, which is behind the development, says the share offer figure vastly exceeds expectations.

It is envisaged the turbine, to be built on Scottish Natural Heritage land at Castlehill, will be producing energy by early November this year.



Children enjoying a quick break from rehearsals before this year's Feis Latharna. 15_t14feis01

Feis Latharna tunes up for 20th anniversary

OBAN'S Feis Latharna celebrates 20 years this Easter, with a record number of young people participating in a week of Gaelic song, traditional music and drama.

The week-long festival, which runs from April 7-11, will see 160 children receive expert tuition from some of Scotland's leading musicians.

As well as tuition in traditional music, dancing, drama, art and shinty, there will be new workshops for more advanced players on group work, sound production and com-

position. The Feis will take place at Oban Primary Campus and will include a family ceilidh on Wednesday and a children's concert at the end of the week.

Following the success of last year's opening Gala Night at Oban's Phoenix Cinema, organisers are running the event again, which will comprise of a concert from the tutors followed by a screening of Restless Natives. Gaelic singer and Scottish step-dancer, Joy Dunlop, will be performing and offering singing tuition throughout the

week. The Connell-born singer said: 'It's particularly nice because I was one of the first people to go to the Feis as a child. I loved it when I was wee, it was great. It's enjoyable and a lovely way for the children to spend their Easter holidays. The teaching part is nice and it's great getting to meet all the lovely wee ones.'

A Gaelic storytelling Bookbug session is being held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon and there will be a cafe open to all from 2-4pm daily.

Newspaper competition deadline fast approaching

THE DEADLINE for a competition that seeks to find the best print or online newspaper produced by high school pupils is fast approaching.

The Oban Times, which as part of Wyvern

Media is sponsoring the best newspaper category, is encouraging schools across the west Highlands and islands to submit entries for the Scottish School Media Awards, on or before April 30. The awards aim to encourage

young people into careers in publishing and the creative industries, and are of particular interest to pupils who have an interest in writing, photography, design and business.

To enter visit impressionscotland.co.uk.



Above: The Oban Sea Cadets have gifted a picture of the N LV Pharos and N LV Hesperus in Oban. 15_t14seacadets01



Right: The photograph of the two N LB ships gifted to the unit. 15_t14pharos01

Sentimental search for charity shop donation

A WOMAN is searching for the owner of a black crystal champagne flute, which holds significant sentimental value, after she mistakenly donated it to Oban's Oxfam charity shop.

Sue Campbell, who lives in Appin with her husband Rev Roderick Campbell, accidentally handed her daughter's John Rocha champagne flute to the charity shop a fortnight ago, when they were clearing out their house.

The couple are moving to Sri Lanka in three weeks' time to work on church projects and are hoping to trace the owner of the glass and reimburse them before they leave.

Manager at Oxfam Oban, Catherine Stjepan, said: 'It happens so often and it's such a shame.'

'If I had known, I would have kept it aside for her.'

'I remember a lady buying it but I don't think she was local.'

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Morvern Lines

'WHAT'S doing in Morvern?' is a question I'm always asked when I meet someone who no longer lives in the parish. My answer, now that we have passed the first day of spring, or the vernal equinox to give its proper name, is 'quite a lot'.

The equinox occurs twice a year, around 20 March and 22 September. The word comes from the Latin meaning 'equal night' because on or around both dates, day and night are approximately the same length as the sun rises exactly in the east and sets exactly in the west.

According to folklore a raw egg will stand on its end at the equinox. I know someone who put this trick to the test recently. Twelve eggs were placed on end and eight remained upright for the following three days before gradually falling over!

THE PASSAGE of the seasons is marked by changes in the natural world. Notwithstanding one of the wettest periods in living memory, when four feet of rain fell in Morvern in 100 days either side of Christmas, Mother Nature is still doing her stuff.

Fifteen whooper swans came to Lochan Doire a' Bhraghaid between Kilmalieu and Inversanda; grey wagtails and red shanks have arrived; several brace of blackcock are nibbling the buds on the hawthorn trees in the White Glen; ravens are nest bound; golden and sea eagles are nest building; several stags have cast their antlers although many of their number – probably the highest in years, especially among the 'pensioners' – have died due to the prolonged wet weather.

THERE is a great deal of human activity too. A massive bio-mass boiler house is taking shape on the lawn by the River Rannoch to heat the nearby grade A-listed, 100-roomed, Ardtornish House.

A private road is being made above Ullin and Altachonaich in the White Glen to enable timber to be extracted from a nearby Sitka spruce plantation and to provide access to a new 800 kW run of river hydro electric scheme below Leac a' Phris.

When it is commissioned there will be three hydro schemes on Ardtornish Estate producing a total of 3MW of power.

A hydro scheme is in the process of being constructed on the Salachan River above Fionnary Manse; further schemes are planned for Kinlochtaeaus, Kingairloch, Liddesdale, Lauderdale and Drimmin.

Unfortunately none of these and many others throughout the Highlands, will provide direct power to local communities no matter what the spin doctors say.

MANY houses are going up at the Drimmin end of the parish although few can match the new Studio above Ardtornish Castle for location and design.

The Studio was built on the foundations of Patrick Sellar's 17th century mansion house below the steadings at Old Ardtornish.

It is constructed of local European larch and Douglas fir milled locally on the site of a former Forestry Commission sawmill at Savary, which was at one time operated by evacuees from St Kilda.

The Studio is curvilinear in shape with a seamed metal roof and metal-clad walls. Its opening last weekend was marked by two nights of music, song and feasting on a scale that would not have been out of place in the great hall of nearby Ardtornish Castle 500 years earlier.

MEANWHILE, the new distillery near Drimmin House is taking shape and will no doubt help to secure Morvern's maritime link with Tobermory and Ardnamurchan for some years to come.

This popular route should allow future whisky buffs to take in the distilleries of Oban, Tobermory, Glenborrodale, Fort William and Drimmin in a day.

I don't believe a name has been decided for the Drimmin whisky yet. I have suggested 'Satan's Chloroform' but it has not met with a great deal of enthusiasm!

MORVERN might be considered remote and inaccessible, nevertheless it is about to produce two possible 'firsts' in Lochaber.

Ardtornish Estate has received planning consent to build a massive Archimedean screw turbine that will use water from two other dams to generate 100kW of electricity.

Archimedean screws are like giant corkscrews and more commonly used for lifting water uphill but equally good for generating power from water flowing down them.

ACROSS the hill at Kinlochtaeaus an American 'bump gate' has been installed to provide a barrier to livestock that does not require the driver to get out of his or her vehicle to open and close it.

By contacting the gate with the front of the vehicle and then nudging forward, the gate is pushed open allowing the vehicle to pass. After it passes through, gravity causes it to swing like a pendulum before returning to the closed position.

Iain Thorner iain.thorner@btinternet.com.



The bump gate at Kinlochtaeaus.

Marie Curie Cancer Care raises £948 in Oban

MARIE Curie Cancer Care volunteers in the Oban area raised £948.42 over two days during March, the month of the charity's Great Daffodil Appeal.

They manned the bright yellow stall in Tesco Oban over March 21 and 22.

Fundraiser Lilian Kermode, who lives in Oban, said: 'We were really pleased with the amount raised, considering there were collections for Sport Relief too on the Friday.'

'The thing that pleases people most is that the money collected in the west Highlands stays in the region.'

Hair salon backs Water Aid

AN OBAN hair salon is backing the Water Aid charity by donating a day's work.

Customers visiting The Ark Hairdressing on April 13 can give a minimum donation of £10 for a haircut and blow dry as the salon supports Earth Month.

The salon uses products from Aveda, a company that has chosen Water Aid as its charity for 2014.

All proceeds taken on the day will go to the charity.



Lochside RC Primary School P6/7 pupils and class teacher Carol Tait were Victorians for a day.

20_f14lochside01

IT WAS back to the Victorian era for P6/7 pupils and class teacher Carol Tait at Lochside RC Primary School last Tuesday as they dressed up in period costume for lessons.

The children turned their classroom into a Victorian school room and learned arithmetic – pounds, shillings and pence, of course – copperplate handwriting, reciting times tables, drill and spelling.

Each pupil took on a Victorian name and designed a Victorian version of Monopoly which they played during the afternoon. Head teacher Violet Smith said: 'This has been a real highlight for the children and they have thoroughly enjoyed learning about different aspects of the Victorian era.'

Earlier in their studies, the children visited the Transport Museum and Scotland Street School in Glasgow to find out more about what life was like before cars, TV or electricity.



Les Currie and grandson Jay, flanked by Lochwatch volunteers Iain MacKinnon, left, and Murray Humphries, were among the family members visiting the memorial cairn at Loch Awe last Friday. 15_114lochwatch01

Loch Awe safety group 'humbled' by donation

Family raises £4,000 for volunteers

THE FAMILY of one of the four fishermen who drowned on Loch Awe have marked the fifth anniversary of the tragedy by handing over a cheque for £4,000 to Lochwatch volunteers.

Last Friday marked five years since Craig Currie, William Carty, his brother Steven and Thomas Douglas fell from their boat and drowned in the freezing loch.

Craig's father, Les, brought members of his family to the loch side from Glasgow to visit the memorial cairn built in the victims' memory.

Les also handed over the cheque to Lochwatch volunteers Iain MacKinnon and Murray Humphries, who said they were 'bowled over' by the sum of money raised at two community events in Glasgow. Lochwatch was established in the wake of a fatal accident inquiry into the deaths and the volunteer multi-agency group has spearheaded a major loch safety campaign, including the purchase of lifesaving equipment and a patrol boat.

Mr MacKinnon said last Friday:

'We are very humbled by this donation and the on-going support from the Currie family and their friends.'

'It must have been a difficult day, emotionally, for them.'

'They are doing amazing fundraising work in their own community in Glasgow and I don't know if people here realise how

much they are doing behind the scenes in support of Lochwatch.'

'Gestures like this reaffirm our commitment to making the loch as safe as possible for residents and visitors.'

Lochwatch may use the money for an auxiliary engine for its patrol boat, in case of failure with its main engine, and an on-board generator for electrical equipment.

Les had previously told *The Oban Times* how fundraising had helped the family to cope with the loss of his son and called on people across Argyll to continue supporting Lochwatch's aims.

The latest donation takes the total raised by the Currie family for Lochwatch to nearly £15,000.

Residents' concerns after rubbish dumped at bridge

A LARGE pile of tarmac and rubble has been dumped at the north side of the Connel Bridge over the last two weeks.

At a meeting of Ardchattan Community Council last Thursday, locals said the debris was spread over a distance of around 40 yards and estimated to weigh around two tonnes.

When asked by chairwoman Margaret Adams who was responsible, a number of residents said they had seen a white Ford Transit Tipper dumping the rubble on the site. They said the pile of rubbish comprised of

pavement debris, purple electrical tubing and new tarmac.

Councillor Elaine Robertson said Argyll and Bute Council was not aware of any permission being granted for the site to be used as a dumping ground.

She added: 'It has been reported to the council's roads department and then it will go to BEAR Scotland and we will ask if it has been left there after the work which was done in Connel.'

Street lights have recently been replaced along the A85 in Connel village.

University appoints research professor

DR CONCHÚR Ó GIOLLAGÁIN has been appointed as Gaelic Research Professor at the University of the Highlands and Islands.

He has also been appointed as director of Soillse, the National Research Network for the Maintenance and Revitalisation of Gaelic Language and Culture. Dr Ó Giollagáin was previously a researcher at the National

University of Ireland Galway and has an international reputation in language planning and minority language culture and sociology.

Based at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI on Skye, he will oversee research into areas for the growth of Gaelic, leading a team of four researchers, a lecturer and 10 PhD students based at partner institutions across Scotland.

Five stand in Caol and Mallaig by-election

FIVE candidates have thrown their hat in the ring for the forthcoming Highland Council by-election in Caol and Mallaig ward.

The candidates hoping to become the new councillor are: William Keele MacDonald, Scottish National Party (SNP); Liam Kevin Simmonds, UK Independence Party (UKIP); Ben Thompson, Independent; Susan Wallace, Scottish Christian Party 'Proclaiming Christ's Lordship'; Sandy Watson.

The by-election will be held on Thursday, May 1 with polling stations open from 7am-10pm. The count will take place the following day in Kilmallie Free Church starting at 9.30am.

The vacancy arose after Independent councillor Eddie Hunter stood down on February 27.

Mr Hunter was one of three ward councillors along with Bill Clark (SNP) and Allan Henderson (Independent).

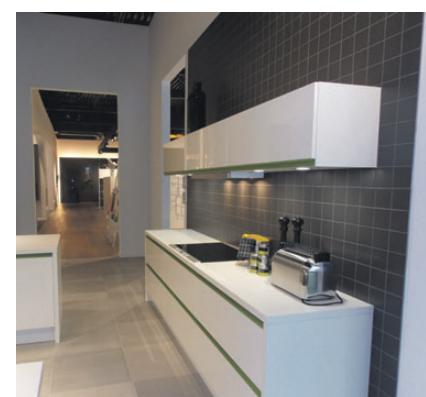
Anyone eligible to vote can apply for either a postal vote or to vote by proxy. The latest time to apply for a postal vote is 5pm on Monday April 14 and the deadline for anyone wishing to apply to vote by proxy is Wednesday April 23.

Advice on postal and proxy voting is available by contacting the Electoral Registration Office on 0800 393783.

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COMMITMENT to quality and to the community it serves have been the hallmarks of Argyll Kitchen Design Studio, which marks a quarter of a century in business this year.

Such is the success of the business over the last 25 years, owners Gus and Fiona Brydon are among the most trusted in the profession and are known for combining dependable service and expert advice with a quality designer product.

This reputation has seen Argyll Kitchen Design Studio work with clients such as Sir Paul McCartney, The Duke of Argyll and the late Frances Shand Kydd.

Gus said: 'I would like to think we have a strong reputation in the area.'

'We pride ourselves on being flexible enough to meet customers' needs but we can also provide advice, through our design packages, to those who don't have a set plan.'

'I've found that over the past 25 years this ethos has served us well. People appreciate that consistency of service and we have built up a great deal of trust within the community.'

Gus set up the business with his wife, Fiona, a native of Oban, after returning to the UK from a two-year tour around the world.

The couple had first met in Edinburgh's John Lewis store, where Fiona was a department manager and Gus was senior kitchen designer for 10 years.

Since moving to the town, the couple have become well-known in the community where they have raised two sons, Fraser, a student at Stirling University, and Gregor, who is in his sixth year at Oban High School. Gus is the architect of the nationally renowned Oban Sea Kayak Race and Fiona is a stalwart of the stage, performing with Spotlight Musical Theatre.

'We have seen lots of changes in Oban over the years,' said Gus, 'but one thing remains: it is a beautiful part of the country and a fantastic place to live, work and raise a family.'

To celebrate its landmark anniversary, Argyll Kitchen Design Studio is offering a special deal on a new fitted kitchen. See advert for more details.



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Significant changes made to social care

PEOPLE eligible for social care are now allowed to choose how that support should be received and spent under the new Social Care and Self-Directed Support (Scotland) Act.

Each person is assigned a personal budget which can be used in many different ways so long as it is used to meet their identified personal outcomes.

It can be used to provide support in the home with things such as washing and dressing or away from home it may be used for support at college, help continuing or finding employment or to enjoy leisure activities.

The choice of provider is also down to the individual - whether it is a voluntary organisation or care agency or by employing personal assistants or a combination of both.

The self-directed support

money can be paid directly to the individual to buy their own support; or the money is held by a service provider and the person says how they want to spend the money with that provider; or the individual selects the support they want and arrangements are made on their behalf; or a combination of all three can be done.

This will involve the individual themselves, their family and friends, and with the guidance of a social worker will look at the options available, including funding.

This is a significant change in the way the council works and in the way that new clients will be supported. There are challenges for everyone but the end result is our motivation to bring about positive outcomes for all.'

Horror film set in Dalavich wins international award

A SHORT werewolf horror film set in Dalavich and using locals as extras has won an international award.

'She-Wolf of the Woods' has picked up Best International Short Film at the RIP Horror Film Festival in Los Angeles.

The film by Stay Curious Productions and Koozlick Media was directed by Adriana Polito, who also wrote and produced the film.

She said: 'A small cast and crew of 13 people worked incredibly hard over four days to help make this film come to life, but the truth is that the investment of time, energy, talent and commitment - from these people and countless other individuals and community groups - actually goes well beyond that time-

frame.'

Professional composer James Grey of Oban's Kinetic Studios was involved in some of the film's original music with a little help from some members of Oban and Lorn's Sequence ladies' choir.

She-Wolf in the Woods follows a forest ranger/she-wolf apprentice as she goes about her day-to-day business of entrapping men with her sexuality, bringing them home for the kill and then burning up all evidence of their existence.

The film was screened at the B-Movie Celebration Film Festival in Chicago in October and has received some praise from reviewers especially for its cinematography, setting and lighting as well as its '70s-inspired music.

West Highland Way on award shortlist

THE WEST Highland Way has been unveiled as one of 10 nominees for Scotland's Best Places 2014.

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park is also on the Royal Town Planning Institute's (RTPI) shortlist.

The competition identifies the top places built, enhanced or protected by planners and the planning system within Scotland since 1914, and is

part of the institute's centenary celebrations. RTPI president Cath Ranson said: 'We'd like everyone to vote for their favourite place from this impressive shortlist.'

Voting is now open at www.rtpi.org.uk/scotlandsbestplaces. The three winning places will be announced in June and will be featured in a centenary edition of RTPI Scotland's journal, *The Scottish Planner*.



Above: They're off! Kayakers strike out in the Loch Shiel Viking Challenge. 20_f14kayak02

Left: TS St Christopher volunteers and sea cadets had a stall and helped with safety cover on the day. 20_f14kayak01



Alastair Wallace and Alan Kimber of the Loch Shiel Viking Challenge organising committee at the race start. Their efforts were rewarded after more than £4,000 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Research. 20_f14kayak03

Kayakers take to Loch Shiel in aid of cancer charity

KAYAKERS from across Scotland struck out from Glenfinnan on Saturday for the inaugural Loch Shiel Viking Challenge in aid of Macmillan Cancer Research.

On what turned out to be a windy day for racing, 19 competitors splashed off from Monument Beach to cheer from spectators to paddle up and down the loch over the 21km course.

Behind the scenes, a huge effort from business sponsors, local companies giving free support and around 60 community volunteers ensured the event ran without a hitch.

Glenfinnan Community Council, Glenug Community Association, sea cadets from TS St Christopher, coastguards and No Fuss Events were among those pitching in to provide everything from marshals to safety cover and race timing.

On Saturday evening, musicians played for me feet at the post-race 'big tent' ceilidh at the Glenfinnan House Hotel, with Shiel Buses laying on return transport for revellers from Salen to Glenfinnan and all points in between.

The family-friendly occasion

also featured craft and trade stalls, demonstrations, watersports and a fish barbecue.

Speaking on behalf of the organising committee, Alastair Wallace said more than £4,000 had been raised from corporate sponsorship, entry fees and the ceilidh, which drew more than 100 people.

Mr Wallace, 65, from Blaich, told *The Oban Times*: 'All the competitors thought it was terrific. It was hard work for them with strong gusty winds down the far end of the loch when they turned around.'

'They found it challenging but were really keen for us to do it again. We will hold a post mortem this week to see if that is a possibility.'

He added: 'It was a fantastic community effort and we would like to thank all the volunteers, sponsors and businesses in Fort William and elsewhere in Lochaber for their incredible support. It was a huge contribution all round.'

First home was Calum Urquhart from Inverness in a time of 2h 13m 47s with Hawick man Kenny Frazer just 18 seconds behind.



WANT TO KNOW HOW TO GET MORE OUT OF LIFE?

Livingitup.org.uk is an exciting new digital service for the over 50s that has been launched in Highland / Argyll & Bute. It's been co-designed by people in your community and continues to be shaped by them, so the information is tailored to you. It will help you find and share information to enable you to stay happier, healthier and safer. And it's full of information on local services, products and social activities to support your health, care, wellbeing and personal interests. There are four ways that Livingitup.org.uk can give you more:

Discover

This area will show you what groups, events and social activities are available right on your doorstep.

Flourish

If you live with a long-term condition, care for someone or you're just trying to lead a healthier lifestyle, it's reassuring to know there are others who can help you. Flourish provides information and advice from trusted sources. It's a place where you can seek and share advice with other people in the same situation as yourself.

So simply share a few details about yourself and you'll soon DISCOVER the opportunities available on your doorstep. Ways to CONNECT with your local community online. Ideas for letting your talents SHINE. In fact, everything you need for your health and wellbeing to FLOURISH.

Shine

If you have time on your hands, skills you'd like to make more of or an urge to learn something new, Shine can provide you with inspiring opportunities available in your area.

Connect

Connect can help you learn new computer skills, let you keep in touch with loved ones living miles away and even help you talk to local groups and organisations without leaving the house.

"VOLUNTEERING MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M GIVING SOMETHING BACK."

Living it Up Community Champion, Alan Murdoch



LIVING IT UP
KNOW HOW TO FEEL GOOD

Tartan Heart Festival sells out in record time

BELLADRUM Tartan Heart Festival has sold out all its weekend and Saturday tickets for the sixth year running in record time, five months ahead of the event taking place.

The family-friendly festival, at Belladrum Estate, Beauly, August 8-9, is now in its 11th year and has a 16,500 capacity, which includes a large number of children under 12 who attend free of charge.

Tom Jones is to headline the Friday while the Saturday night features the popular rock band Razorlight at the top of the bill.

The festival won a VisitScotland Thistle Award in 2009 and is a past winner of the Grassroots Festival Award at the UK Festival Awards, the festival industry's 'oscar's'.

Glencoe trust welcomes American visitors

GLENCOE Heritage Trust (GHT) last week welcomed two visitors from California researching their ancestors.

Lena Kennedy Vergara and her daughter Monica are descended from Angus McDonald of Glencoe - the man who laid the first wreath at the MacDonald massacre monument when it was unveiled in 1935.

GHT trustee Ros MacDonald said: 'The ladies were able to gather a great deal of information at the GHT office, and likewise showed us pictures of their MacDonald ancestors, some still to be identified.'

Mrs Vergara was delighted to receive a family tree going back many generations, which was compiled by Ros's son Alexander in the early 1990s.

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Climbers in kilts make their way up the via ferrata at the launch event.



Andy Turner cuts the ribbon on the new via ferrata at Kinlochleven.

Thrill seekers need head for heights at new Kinlochleven climbing attraction

IT MAY not quite be a stairway to heaven - but for thrill seekers with a head for heights the new via ferrata at Kinlochleven is the next best thing.

Opened by Team GB ice climber Andy Turner, the trail of metal rungs and cable bridges up a vertical cliff face is the first climb of its kind in Scotland.

Mr Turner was joined by fellow climbers - many dressed in kilts - to officially launch the adventure activity on Friday.

The via ferrata - Latin for iron road - stretches upwards for 450 metres at the Grey Mare's tail waterfall, the third highest in Scotland.

The via ferrata will provide novice climbers the opportunity to experience the challenge and exhilaration that climbing can bring.

Plus, experienced climbers

will enjoy the opportunity to access what was previously an unreachable climbing spot. The

Participants brave enough to take on the challenge are permanently attached to a safety cable making it safe as possible yet exhilarating.

Mr Turner said: 'I was delighted to be asked to open such a fantastic addition to the UK's climbing scene.'

Exhilaration

'The via ferrata will provide novice climbers the opportunity to experience the challenge and exhilaration that climbing can bring.'

'It is set to be a great asset for Scottish adventure tourism and we hope it will bring many benefits to the local economy.'

Via ferratas date back to World War One when they were used to help soldiers across the Alps.

view is stunning at the top.' Ben Starkie, director for Via Ferrata Scotland was 'delighted' to get the project off the ground after four years.

He said: 'A massive thanks goes to the local community, our sponsors and funders for the support in making this happen.'

'I am expecting to see around 500 visitors to the attraction in its first summer.'

'It is set to be a great asset for Scottish adventure tourism and we hope it will bring many benefits to the local economy.'

Via ferratas date back to World War One when they were used to help soldiers across the Alps.

Enterprise recognised at awards

OBAN Phoenix Cinema, a Mid Argyll community enterprise company and a Mull stalwart have all been recognised in the annual Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network (ABSEN) awards.

The organisation held its annual conference, awards ceremony and 'Dragon's Den' in Inveraray with 79 delegates attending.

The Social Enterprise Awards recognise excellence and highlight the range of community, environmental, economic and social benefits being delivered across the area.

Oban Phoenix Cinema was awarded New Social Enterprise of the Year for gaining the backing of the community to help purchase the former Highland Theatre in 2011 and, following refurbishment and fund-raising, open it as a community run venture.

Brian Swinbanks of Tobermory Harbour Association was given the Social Enterprise Leader of the Year award for his vision to improve Tobermory Bay which, through his commitment, has led to facilities that are vital to the economy and social fabric of the Mull town. The harbour building alone has six letting offices for small businesses, facilities for visitors and a marine visitor centre which opened in 2013.

Mid Argyll social enterprise Fyne Futures, which operates everything from recycling operations to a car club and home energy efficiency services, picked up Social Enterprise of the Year for its strong commitment to community regeneration and



Ailsa Clark, chairwoman of ABSEN, presents Brian Swinbanks of Tobermory Harbour Association with the Social Enterprise Leader of the Year trophy.

its ability to diversify and grow.

Scotwest Credit Union towards its Business in a Hut idea - to provide office space in a garden shed for fledgling businesses, the rent from which would be used to purchase more sheds for people to use.

Two Campbeltown Grammar students made an excellent pitch for CGS4 Gambia and won £500 sponsored by Firstport for their new business idea to develop sales and marketing of ethical imported goods to raise funds to support the group's on-going work in Gambia.

With £500 sponsored by Inspiralba, Artmap Argyll will promote sales of quality Argyll art to the London market, helping to promote the area and enabling it to reinvest in art workshops for people in Argyll.



Louise Glen-Lee, left, and Campbell Cameron, both of Oban Phoenix Cinema, receive the New Social Enterprise of the Year trophy from Ailsa Clark, chairwoman of ABSEN.

Tiree business centre bought over

TIREE Community Business Ltd (TCB) has bought over The Island Centre, known as the Business Centre, at Crossapol on the island.

It had previously been managed by property specialists Graham and Sibald on behalf of Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

But with the purchase by TCB, all rents will now be retained by the community company for use

on the island. Chairman of TCB Ian Gillies said he was delighted with the outcome: 'I am also extremely grateful to the directors and staff of the Tiree Trust for their willing and generous financial support of £20,000 to assist in the purchase of this building for the community.'

Tiree Trust chairwoman Tish MacKinnon said: 'This is a perfect example of using windfall

fund cash to lever in a far larger sum.'

Mr Gillies added: 'The professional support of our legal advisors, Peterkins Robertson Paul, and the advice and financial assistance given to us by Highlands and Islands Enterprise has also been invaluable, and without which we would have been unable to complete the purchase.'

Ben claims first victim of winter

BEN NEVIS claimed its first victim of the winter on Saturday when a climber fell to his death during an ascent on the mountain's notorious North Face.

The 57-year-old from Glasgow was climbing with a friend when he went over the edge of Ledge Route beside No 5 Gully around 11am.

The man was left hanging on the end of his 60-metre rope and is believed to have suffered fatal injuries when he hit rocks on the vertical cliff during the fall.

Other climbers managed to abseil down to the victim and lowered him to the bottom of the gully.

Rescue 137 from RAF Lossiemouth airlifted 15 Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team mem-

bers to the CIC hut below the accident scene.

Strong winds prevented the helicopter from flying into the gully and the man was sledged down the snowfield on a stretcher.

Lochaber MRT team leader John Stevenson said: 'By the time we got there some other climbers had got him down to the top of the snow slope and we picked him up from there.'

'He was quite far into the corrie and it was too dangerous for the helicopter to come in so we lowered him down all the way to the CIC hut. There did not appear to be any signs of life.'

'His companion was pretty shaken up. As far as we know the man has taken a slip and

gone over the side. Sometimes you get away with it but on this occasion he did not. They were probably only a couple of pitches into the climb. Conditions were good although the snow was a soft and it was very windy.'

He added: 'It was just an unfortunate accident. Our thoughts are, as always, with family and friends at this time.'

There were a lot of people about and with Easter coming up it could be an interesting time - but hopefully not for us.'

'People should take care, have the right kit and know how to use it, watch the weather and enjoy themselves.'

The fatality was the third the team has dealt with since December.

HEALTH and social care, housing and community planning were the topics for discussion at the Convention of the Highlands and Islands (CoHI) in Arran on Monday.

Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth John Swinney MSP chaired the convention, which was held in Arran High School.

The finance secretary was joined by Derek Mackay, minister for local government and planning and Michael

Matheson, minister for public health.

All seven local authorities with

HIGHLAND and island communities were represented at the meeting, along with fellow CoHI members from VisitScotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, The Crofters Commission, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Skills Development Scotland.

The Convention of the Highlands and Islands meets twice a year and focuses

on common rural and island issues, in particular the development of public services and sustainable economic growth across the Highlands and islands.

Contribution

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Swinney said: 'The Highlands and islands make a major contribution to Scotland's economy.'

The Convention of the Highlands and Islands provides an opportunity for government, public sector partners and

agencies to consider future opportunities and the challenges that lie ahead.

'During the meeting we discussed the key issues affecting the Highlands and islands including health and social care integration, community planning, housing and infrastructure.'

He added: 'This is a great opportunity for different communities with very similar issues to work together and I think we've very clearly turned a corner today.'

Arran hosts Convention of Highlands and Islands

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TAYNUILT

YOUNG amateur actors in Taynuilt are being tipped for Hollywood fame after receiving a glowing adjudication from the North Lorn Drama Festival in Appin.

The youngsters of Taynuilt and District Dramatic Society (TADDS) won the youth section at the festival, held between March 20-22, and took the Adjudicator's Award for their production of Treasure Island, Act 1.

Addressing the audience during his summing up on the final night in Appin Village Hall, adjudicator Kevin Boland singled out the Taynuilt performance for praise.

Saying he initially thought the cast was from a drama school, he added: 'These kids looked like they had studied theatre for years. There are a number of potential Hollywood stars in there.'

Producer Carol Thomson

said she was delighted the youngsters had received such acclaim.

'On the night we performed, the adjudicator said he had been 'bowled over' by the standard of acting from Taynuilt,' she said.

'I am delighted for the children because they put in so much effort in very little time.'

'They just enjoy what they are doing and any success is a bonus.'

The children are also assisted by stage managers Vivienne Price and Jana Baird. Jo Landen and David Price help with music and Islay Macnab was costume designer.

Carol added: 'I like working with the children and if they are keen it makes it really worthwhile.'

'It does so much for their confidence and you get to see the difference in them.'

The TADDS youngsters also won the junior section at the Lorn Drama Festival in Oban's Corran Halls last week.



Taynuilt Nursery children had a lot of fun wearing woolly jumpers to help raise money for Sport Relief.

CHILDREN at Taynuilt Nursery joined in the fun of Woolly Jumper Day on March 21 to help raise money for Sport Relief.

Morning and afternoon

children came to nursery sporting their brightly coloured woolly jumpers and enjoyed jumping activities in the school gym hall.

They raised £45 for the cause.



The pupils of Strath of Appin Primary School in The War of the Vegetables.

Strath of Appin pupils enjoy drama festival success

PUPILS from Strath of Appin Primary took two trophies back to the school from the 60th North Lorn Drama Festival.

The school won first prize in the primary section and Linda MacLeod, who works in the school and made the costumes for

the production, The War of the Vegetables, collected the Special Endeavour Award for the costumes.

Dressed as tomatoes, peas and runner beans the pupils were praised for their clear, expressive voices, acting skills and

overall enthusiasm. The home audience was very encouraging and enjoyed many humorous moments in the gardening-themed play.

The pupils were treated to a post-drama festival party to celebrate their hard work.

KINLOCHLEVEN

MORE than 15 organisations took part in the recent 'Spring into Action' event at the Leven Centre in Kinlochleven.

More than 40 people took the chance to find out more about the wide range of activities available locally to help all ages to maintain a healthy physical and mental lifestyle.

Voluntary Action Lochaber, NHS Highland and High Life Highland sponsored the event, which was opened by third sector expert Alasdair Nicholson MBE.

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Classroom climbers

ROY BRIDGE

ROY BRIDGE Primary School pupils embarked on a challenge to walk up and down Ben Nevis without leaving the building. The children spent a day taking turns on step machines aiming to clock up around 9,000 feet, the equivalent of walking up and down the mountain but soon flew past their target, ending the challenge at 25,040 feet, higher than Mount

Shishap in Pakistan. This was part of the school's Sport Relief fundraising and the pupils were sponsored by members of the community for the challenge.

The school has a roll of just

19 pupils and pupils are aiming to beat last year's total of £220.

20_f13roy01

GLENCOE

GLENCOE will renew a trans-Atlantic cultural connection this summer when the Can-Am Pipes and Drums make their return to the village.

The 60-strong American band, which tours Scotland every two years, so enjoyed their welcome at Glencoe in 2012 that it was an automatic choice for the 2014 itinerary.

On July 18, the band will parade along Main Street at 1pm to play at the war memorial and visit the Glencoe Massacre monument.

A march back along the village and a hour-long outdoor performance at Glencoe Heritage Trust will follow.

The Can-Am Pipes and Drums will play at Inverness Highland Games the following day.

Glencoe Heritage Trust trustee Ros MacDonald said: 'It's marvellous that they have decided to come and play for us.'

'They could play anywhere else but they loved Glencoe so much last time that they had to come back again.'

COLONSAY

WITH one month to go, bestselling author Val McDermid has spoken of her excitement ahead of making her debut at the Colonsay Book Festival.

The third annual festival, on April 26 and 27, can boast a stellar line-up of authors; fellow top Scottish crime writer Christopher Brookmyre joins Ms McDermid, acclaimed poet Jackie Kay, author and poet Andrew Greig, travel writer Patrick Richardson, and novelist and playwright Lesley Glaister for the 2014 festival.

The eve of her re-imaging of Northanger Abbey being published as part of the ongoing Austen Project, Ms McDermid said she was looking forward to engaging with the Colonsay Book Festival audiences next month.

She said: 'Counting the days until the Colonsay Book Festival - what could be better than being marooned on a Scottish island with a bunch of writers and readers?'

Dilly Emslie, director of the Colonsay Book Festival, said: 'In one month's time, Val McDermid will be in conversation in front of what I know will be a rapt audience for her inaugural Colonsay Book Festival appearance - we can't wait.'

'The event has been a huge success in its first two years, with many audience members now making an annual 'pilgrimage' to Colonsay to take part in the festival.'

Conceived and produced entirely by the island's residents, the Colonsay Book Festival has carved its own niche in Scotland's busy book festival calendar since launching in 2012.

Many of Scotland's best loved writers and poets have now made the journey by ferry to experience Colonsay's literary celebrations, with audiences flocking from all over the world to join them.

Last year's event featured Ian Rankin, Candia McWilliam, Tom Pow, Sara Sheridan, Mairi Hedderwick, Ron Butlin, Angus

Peter Campbell and Maggie Ferguson. The inaugural Colonsay Book Festival in 2012 saw the island play host to Liz Lochhead, Alexander McCall Smith, James Robertson, Margaret Elphinstone, Kenneth Steven and Sophie Cooke.

Tickets can be purchased from the festival website.

STORNOWAY

A WORKSHOP entitled 'Grow your business with the Harris Tweed brand' in Stornoway Town Hall last Tuesday saw a good attendance of artisan and craft people who use fabric.

Comhairle man Eilean Siar held the event to give island makers the opportunity to consider how the Harris Tweed brand could help them grow their own brands and businesses.

The workshop, funded by the European Social Fund, the comhairle, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Harris Tweed Industry, was delivered by Janice Kirkpatrick, Director of Graven Images in Glasgow.

PLOCKTON

A PENSIONER who spent his schooldays in Plockton has taken to YouTube to recite a poem he learned in the Lochalsh village back in the 1930s.

Colin MacGregor, or 'Cattanach' as he was known locally, gives a rendition of 'MacAllister Dances for the King' - said to be a favourite of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

Cattanach, 84, who now lives in his home town of Nairn, went to Plockton School from 1933 to 1945.

His father Colin MacGregor was the station master at Plockton for 15 years. Cattanach's brother John, 73, from Kinlochleven, said: 'When Cattanach was 60 he had to prepare himself to recite the poem - but now he just recites it whether you want him to or not!'

The clip can be seen under 'Scots Poem Recital'.

**SKYE**

script, sang beautifully and designed and made the scenery.

Back left to right: Murdo MacGillivray, Emma Mariner, David Broughton and Olivia MacDonald.

Front: Ciara Bradshaw (left) and Katy MacGillivray.



Some of the famous football stars and other guests who attended the John Hartson foundation fundraiser at the Carrick on Loch Lomond.

Silly trousers order of the day as football legends unite for cancer charity golf day

CELTIC legends John Hartson, Johan Mjallby and Neil Lennon were joined by Rangers heroes Andy Goram and Bert Konterman, among others, for a charity golf day on Loch Lomond.

A plethora of famous football figures were on hand for the event, as well as ex-Westlife singer Brian McFadden, wearing silly trousers in aid of the John Hartson Foundation for testicular cancer.

Hartson set up the foundation following his 2009 battle with the cancer, which spread to his lungs and brain, leaving him fighting for his life.

Other famous Hoops stars attending on the day were Tommy Boyd, Alan Stubbs, Frank McAvennie and Murdo McLeod, while Ian Wright

was also there. Rangers boss Ally McCoist was there too, along with Ibrox star Derek Johnstone.

BBC Football Focus presenter Dan Walker and former First Minister Lord McConnell were among the other guests, who helped to raise thousands of pounds for the cause.

The golf day, arranged by John Hartson, was followed by a gala dinner in Cameron House.

Speaking afterwards, Brian McFadden, who has pulled on a Celtic top and lined up alongside Hartson during charity matches, said: 'This has been a fantastic day and while it has been a lot of fun, there's a serious message at its heart. Checking yourself for lumps and bumps should be a regular part of the routine for guys or even get your partner to do it. The earlier any worrying symptoms are checked out, the better.'

Ex-Wales international and Strictly Come Dancing favourite Robbie Savage - who has been friends with John for years - was one of the first to pledge support for the day.

He said: 'John and I go way back and, like many others in the world of sport and beyond, I was devastated when

found out about his illness.'

'It's fantastic to see all the work he does raising money to help others and spreading the word about testicular cancer. I'm 'grabbing life by the balls' and I would urge everyone else to do the same.'

Nominate an unsung hero today to win two tickets to a Commonwealth Games event



Nominate today! Do you know an unsung hero who fulfils one or more of the following criteria?

1. Young person, including Team Scotland supporters, and those involved in sport at school, community or club level
2. Those who make sport happen, including volunteers
3. Those who make a contribution to their communities, through volunteering or other means
4. People without the opportunity to experience the games, and those from disadvantaged groups or those with a disability.



HOW TO NOMINATE

If you know someone who deserves this once in a lifetime opportunity then fill in the nomination form provided below or online at www.obantimes.co.uk/legacy and let us know. Please see the nomination criteria in the right hand box. All nominations must be received by midnight, Tuesday 29th April, 2014. Nominations will be shortlisted by a Wyvex Media judging panel, including a Wyvex Media Director, and the winner chosen by an external panel.

Name
Telephone number
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(please submit up to 500 words on a separate sheet and attach this form. Please provide as much information as possible. The more details we have about your nominee the more the panel has to help aid their decision. The judges involved will not be able to research or get in touch for further information.)	
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Send to: The Oban Times, Legacy Ticket Nomination, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.	

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Terms and conditions: Nominees must live in Argyll or the West Highlands. The identified beneficiary of the Commonwealth Games ticket will be gifted a pair of tickets so that they may be accompanied by a loved one, friend or carer. Travel, accommodation and other associated expenses are not included in the prize package. Staff employed by Wyvex Media and relatives of staff are ineligible to be a recipient of a ticket. The names and addresses of the ticket recipient and their companion will be supplied to the Scottish Government and the Glasgow 2014 Organising Committee. Legacy Tickets are a gift and not for resale. It is illegal for tickets to the Commonwealth Games to be sold on. A Legacy Ticket needs to be used by the named ticket beneficiary and their companion. The following Glasgow 2014 terms & conditions set out the rights and obligations in relation to the use of tickets. Please familiarise yourself with these in advance of attending the sporting session/ceremony: <http://www.glasgow2014packages.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Glasgow-2014-Ticketing-Terms-and-Conditions.pdf>. Nominations must be received by midnight, Tuesday 29th April. Nominations will be shortlisted by a Wyvex Media judging panel, including a Wyvex Media Director, and the winner chosen by an external panel.

Man dies in A82 road accident

A MAN died in a road accident on the A82 near Fort William after his car careered down an embankment and crashed into trees at Corrychurachan, around three miles north of the Corran Ferry on Tuesday.

The driver was alone in the car and no other vehicles were involved in the accident, which happened around 11.15pm.

The trunk road was closed for almost six hours and traffic backed up on both sides of the Corran Ferry as drivers sought an alternative route. On the Ardgor side, the tailback stretched five miles north to Treslair.

No official diversions were put in place and those travelling to the Glasgow area had to take the A9 via Perth, adding more than 160 miles to the journey.

A police spokesperson said: 'Emergency services were called to a serious road traffic collision involving a car on the A82, about four miles south of Fort William. The man driving the car received serious injuries and has sadly died as a result of the collision.'

Fire service staff from Fort William used cutting equipment to extricate the body and were at the scene for several hours.

The accident is the latest of several at the location recently. In January a woman and two teenage girls were taken to hospital when their car went down the embankment and overturned.

And in December a Glencoe couple were both injured when their car spun off the road after exiting a bend.

Transport Scotland told *The Oban Times* an investigation on the stretch of road would be carried out.

Drink driver fined and banned

A BALLACHULISH man has been fined £500 and banned from driving for a year for being almost double the legal alcohol limit behind the wheel.

George Knox, of Burnsde Cottage earlier admitted driving on the A82 North Road in Fort William while over the limit on February 21.

Defending solicitor Clare Russell told Fort William Sheriff Court the 44 year-old regretted the incident. Sheriff Richard Davidson told Knox: 'It must have been clear to you that you were unfit to drive.'

West Lochaber residents unite in bid to abolish ferry fares



FC Corran campaigners make their point on the Nether Lochaber slipway. 20_f14ferry03

Community campaigners demand free crossing

MORAG MacKintosh, whose father put on the first ferry in 1934, the year she was born, cut the ribbon on the A825 to launch the campaign on the Nether Lochaber side.

She said: 'I don't want a bridge - it would spoil Ardgor completely. But the fares are totally excessive for a rural community such as ours and an idea would be for a free

crossing.' Campaigner Robert Dunn from Strontian said: 'It must be the most expensive ferry in the world at almost £2 for every 100 metres. If there is a dearer one anywhere else I would like to know about it.'

Councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'We are hoping this will prompt Highland Council to take this matter seriously. At the moment they are ignoring local opinion

and think they can get away with putting up fares year after year.'

'They are not making a real effort to take the issue up with Scottish or British ministers. While a bridge or some form of fixed link may be the answer, in the short term we want them to pay for the running costs of the ferry so it is free.'



Morag MacKintosh cuts the ribbon on the Nether Lochaber slipway to launch the Free Crossing for Corran campaign. 20_f14ferry01

Increase needed says council

HIGHLAND Council says fare increases are needed to plug a £173,000 shortfall between income from fares and the £1.3 million cost of running the service annually.

A spokesperson said: 'This is a ferry which has the second highest carryings of any ferry in Scotland and where the ferry has broken even historically.'

The council is endeavouring to recover the break even position and is consulting widely with the public in

developing a fare strategy.

'The increase for the two year period from April 2012 to April 2014 for a standard single car crossing is 12.8 per cent - a 90p increase.'

Concessionary

'The equivalent increase for a concessionary crossing is 24.8 per cent - a 46p increase.'

The concessionary fare offers

a 70 per cent reduction over the standard fare and is the highest percentage reduction of any concessionary ferry fare in

Scotland and is exceptionally good value.'

'It should be noted, however, that the actual level of increase is less for a concessionary fare than for a standard fare.'

The Council recently asked independent consultants to carry out an socio-economic study of fare levels which is currently out to community consultation.

The community services committee is due to consider a new fares regime at its meeting next month.

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

demand the route be treated the same way Scotland's toll-free bridges.

In driving rain, placard-waving protesters were greeted with toots and thumbs-up from motorists on the ferry slipways on the day prices rose for the third time in a year.

Members of the newly-formed

FC Corran (Free Crossing for Corran) cut a ribbon on the A825 - a fictional underwater road under Loch Linnhe they say would be free if on land.

The Highland Council-owned

service is the second busiest

in Scotland - but FC Corran

reckons the crossing is among

the most expensive in the world.

The latest price rise takes the

standard fare for a car to £7.90

- almost £2 per 100 metres on

the 480-metre journey - while a book of 30 tickets has risen 25

per cent to £70 in 12 months.

Five community councils

- Ardgour, Acharacle, West

Ardnamurchan, Sunart and

Morvern - formed FC Corran to

'Three rises in a year? You may as well put a closed sign up on the peninsulas. It's hard enough living in our communities without making people pay the price of the ferry.'

'We will keep this campaign going and take it to the Scottish Government and the European courts. Article 174 of the Lisbon Treaty states that areas of rural deprivation and geographical remoteness should not be treated unfairly.'

'We think we have possible grounds for legal complaint - almost £16 return on a 500-metre crossing is ridiculous.'

He added: 'The 25 per cent average price rise in ferry fares in the past year is more than our communities and businesses can withstand.'



Sabhal Mor Ostaig students Caitlin Ferguson, 19, from Kilchoan, and 20 year-old Katie MacPhee, from Acharacle, get the message across. 20_f14ferry02

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20 YEARS AGO



MARCH 24 1994



Caol primary pupils on song at station

Fort William railway station was the unusual venue last week for a spot of singing. Caol Primary School added a bit of atmosphere to a cheque presentation by ScotRail at the station. t13twenty02



Mid Argyll Music Festival

Above: More than 3,000 children added up to a record entry for this year's Mid Argyll Music Festival in Lochgilphead last week. The winner of the WR Hunter Trophy for Under 14s Brass, Kenneth Ralston, of Campbeltown, is pictured with his tuba. t13twenty06

Golfers aim for Scots title

Left: Sporting stardom could be just around the corner for golfers Scott Brown and Stewart MacKechnie of Glencruitten Golf Club, Oban, who will be taking part in the Mobil Scottish Boys Golf Championship at Dunbar Golf Club from April 4-9. t13twenty04

Young musicians of the year



Young musicians of the Year, cornet player Philip Cardwell and piper Diane Fraser, exchange instruments after winning their awards. t13twenty05

Easter Bunny hops in to help

Right: Helping Easter Bunny choose the 12 West Highlands and Islands of Argyll Tourist Board members to win one year's free board membership were primary five pupils from Oban's Rockfield School. t13twenty01



Plockton take badminton title

Plockton Badminton Team won the South West Ross Badminton League for the second year running. The unbeatable ladies and gents beat five teams and played eight games to claim the Meldrum Trophy. t13twenty03



The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Drivers must take care near schools

THE NEED to make schools as safe as possible is unquestionable - and that includes the roads that pass by schools.

Local drivers will know where a school is situated. With a clear mind, they will know to be especially aware of their speed and of pedestrians around schools. Visitors to the area have no excuse either, presuming that the warning systems in place, such as the 20mph speed limit signs, are working.

There is usually a combination of factors when there are incidents such as the one on Oban's McCaig Road last week, when a young girl was knocked down.

But if being extra careful when driving removes one of those factors, then it is worth doing.

GLASGOW LETTER

Pipers and pipe music of the Great War

ORGANISED by the Scottish Pipers' Association and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the College of Piping was the venue for an evening of piping with Argyll links to the Great War which went out live on the internet. Speaker for the evening was Colin Campbell from Kilmachan, military historian with particular interest in the 1914-18 war, as well as being a former head teacher and former Member of the Scottish Parliament.

Colin delivered a short explanation of the history of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and throughout the evening provided entertaining anecdotes about the music. First up in both halves of the programme were pipers of the Army, a quartet led by Pipe Major Scott Methven, the last Pipe Major of the regiment, with pipers Alasdair Henderson and Stuart Liddell completing the music programme.

Alasdair, great, great nephew of the legendary piper and composer John MacLellan, played mostly John's tunes and even played on John's pipes. Stuart Liddell, in the second half, ensured the exceptional standard of bagpipe music was maintained.

The pipers' association is to be congratulated on the success of its application to the Lottery Fund so it could proceed with this project which will have five concerts in total.

For those of us not pipers it was enlightening to hear many pipe tunes with which we are familiar put in context and with our thoughts being focussed on the role played by pipers during a war in which more than 500 were killed and many more wounded. It was also an evening of looking back at the commitment and sacrifice of so many from Scotland, where the total killed as a percentage of all males in the age group 15-49 was 10.9 per cent, far in excess of the rest of the UK.

The evening allowed those in attendance to link the tunes with individuals and how families were affected. A perfect example of this would be the tune 'Lt J C Buchan'. He died from wounds the day after becoming isolated from his comrades and was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. He was the last of three brothers to be killed in World War I.

The second concert in the series will be Wednesday July 30 to celebrate the Commonwealth Games and will feature regiments from Glasgow and the Commonwealth. Douglas Murray will be one of the solo pipers and young pipers from the Queen Victoria School will also perform.

Govan Gaelic Choir Concert

LAST year's winners of the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield

had a good attendance at their recent annual concert held in Partick South Church.

Archie Fraser, former Gaelic reader for the choir, occupied the chair and kept the audience fully informed with details about the songs.

Soloists from the choir were Susan Thomson, George Fergusson, Fiona Ross, Ann Buchan, Mairi MacArthur and Calum Angus MacDonald, winner of the 2013 Traditional Gold Medal.

In addition to their winning Mod pieces, the choir sang several items arranged by former conductor for many years Pat Sandeman.

A compilation of Pat's choral arrangements is currently being produced and should be available soon.

The choir had two guest artists, Robyn Stapleton, winner of the BBC Radio Scotland Young Musician of the Year, and Alastair Iain Paterson, a fellow finalist in that competition.

A particular highlight was Robyn's singing of MacCrimmon's Lament, in English, and Alastair proved he was an excellent piper as well as a pianist.

An Comunn

Glasgow

A GOOD attendance is requested at An Leagan, Mansfield Street, Partick, for the annual general meeting of the Glasgow branch of An Comunn at 7pm on Wednesday April 23.

A major part of the evening will be the finalising of details for the Glasgow Mod to be held on Friday June 13 and Saturday June 14.

Reminder

AS INDICATED in last week's Letter, the Erskine night at Clydebank takes place on Friday April 11 in the usual venue.

Chaired by the Rev Fred Booth, the entertainment will be provided by singers Paul MacCallum, Mary MacMillan, Robert Robertson and Beth Street together with accordionist Billy MacPhee, pipers Iain MacPhee and Robert Wood and accompanist Kirsten Grant.

Diary dates

Tuesday April 8: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72a, Waterloo Street, 8pm - Steve Hicks and Lynn Goulnour.

Friday April 11: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Charity Ceilidh for Erskine Hospital, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm - see above.

Saturday April 12:

Scottish Piper's Association Professional Piping Competition, College of Piping, 9.45am.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Islay Inn this weekend will be played by Crooked Reel on Friday and the Keelies on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Scott Harvey on Friday, Gunna Sound on Saturday with Sunday still to be confirmed.

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

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page.

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed.

Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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



Paddle steamer anchored off Iona

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by Bob and Lotta Kirchwehn of Iona and features the paddle steamer Waverley anchored off Iona in 1982. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
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Disabled parking on ferries

Sir,

With reference to Mr Blackadder's final point, letters March 27, it is not just blue badge holders who need the 'disabled' spot on the ferry car deck.

My husband recently had a knee replacement and on discharge from hospital would have been completely unable to get out of the car without the passenger door being fully open or shimmy between closely parked cars to reach the lift.

My husband is not a blue badge holder because his reduced mobility was, thankfully, short-lived.

I am sure Mr Blackadder would have been the first to complain if we had not booked the disabled spot. Imagine the chaos when it was discovered that my husband couldn't get out of a normally situated car.

Every vehicle on the car deck would have had to reverse and be repositioned causing a massive delay to the ferry departure.

The facility for parking cars in wide spaces near the lift may not be perfect, and it is possibly abused by a very few people, but suggesting it should only be available to blue badge holders is not the answer. Belinda Hale, via email.

CalMac staff very helpful

Sir,

A week ago I travelled to Islay for the weekend.

I am disabled but am unable to walk very far.

I explained this to the pier crew at Kennacraig, who notified the men on the boat.

They let me take my car onto the boat, deposited me at the lift, then took my car and parked it.

On the return trip at Port Askaig the car which had driven me to the boat was allowed to do the same, take me onto the boat, drop me and my luggage at the lift and leave.

The crew on both the boats were kind, polite and very helpful. The crew on the piers were equally kind, polite and helpful.

Without their kindness my health and stress levels would

have soared but as such I was relaxed, enjoyed my trip both ways and had a good break.

Agnes MacFadyen, Dunbeg.

Action needed on fuel poverty and climate change

Sir,

The soaring price of energy is affecting everyone, and the hardest hit are the poorest, who cannot afford to turn on the heating.

If we continue to rely on fossil fuels, bills are likely to rise in the long term as coal, oil and gas become more expensive and renewable technology gets cheaper.

Fossil fuels are also driving climate change and polluting people's land, especially in developing countries.

Yet the big UK banks continue to pour billions of pounds into new coal, oil and gas projects around the world, and the government is doing nothing to stop them.

Perhaps this is not surprising: research by the World Development Movement shows that a third of ministers in the coalition government have personal links to either the big fossil fuel companies or the finance companies that bankroll them. We need a government that takes both fuel poverty and climate change seriously, not one that puts the profits of big companies before all else.

Matthew Burgess, Kintra, Isle of Mull.

Display war medals in Oban

Sir,

As a local of 1967 vintage, I was aware for many years that Oban and Lorn played a role in WW II but until reading Neil Owens' book on the subject did not realise how important a role.

I also had no idea there were war graves at Pennyfuir.

I found this shocking that our history was not mentioned during my school days, primary or secondary, and sad that there are war heroes buried here and it's almost a secret.

So it was with disbelief that I read Lieutenant John Henry

Cooper's medals were being auctioned.

This man was a WW I pilot of incredible courage and bravery from Oban who was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry, who was revered by his fellow pilots for his raw courage and death defying low level attacks, who flew in conditions deemed hopeless for flying and who was presented with an inscribed gold fountain pen by the people of Oban on his return.

Why is not more known about this hero - life expectancy in an aircraft in WWI was weeks - and why were these medals auctioned when they should be here on display with this man's history?

I feel a sense of shame to come from a town with such disregard for those that served, both those posted here and those from here.

Michael Nicolson, Combie Street, Oban.

Independence and Royal Mail

Sir,
I'm trying to find out how possible Scottish independence would affect me personally.

How much will my cost of living go up or come down?

Unfortunately there is little factual information available to allow me to find out which way my cost of living will go if the vote for independence is yes.

Alex Salmond has said that he will take Royal Mail into public ownership and that means that myself and every other tax payer in Scotland will have to pay for that by increases in taxes or postal charges.

I have seen estimates that state that the cost of taking Royal Mail into public ownership could be £300 million or £1.25 billion.

What I do know is that the cost of delivering mail to the Highlands and islands is fixed because currently Royal Mail has to deliver to every household in the UK for the same price.

There is no doubt in my mind that this will cease if we vote for independence and there is the possibility that Royal Mail will only deliver parcels and mail to somewhere like Carlisle or Glasgow and any mail services

John MacDonald, Tobermory.

in Scotland will have to fund the delivery of mail from the UK to its final destination.

My own personal feelings are that postal charges are likely to triple and that personal taxation will rise to pay for the Royal Mail acquisition. Also, how much are other carriers going to increase their charges just because we decide to separate from the UK.

We really need both sides of the independence argument to start providing us with verifiable facts and figures so that we can make a balanced decision on which way we wish to vote in September.

Pete Pinnington, Isle of Mull.

Isn't nature wonderful?

Sir,
On March 15, while driving on the west side of Loch Spevie, Isle of Mull, between Baile Ur and Feolin Mor, I saw two large birds taking turns to swoop on something in the loch.

The birds were, of course sea eagles. With the help of binoculars, it became evident that their target was an otter. The mammal was attempting to surface to breathe, but the sustained attack by the birds made this difficult if not impossible and the only reason I could discern the unfortunate creature was an otter, was an occasional flash of its unmistakable tail.

The eagles' assault continued for several minutes before they gave up, and flew to roost on rocks on the shore, close to my position.

I scanned the surface of the loch for approximately 15 minutes after this and, though the loch was calm, did not see the otter surface again and I concluded the birds had succeeded in killing it. Given the huge 'industry' that wildlife watching has become here, it will be surprising if I am the only person who has observed an event like this, and I wonder if anyone else has a similar experience to report.

When I related the above event to a woman who lives on the lochside, her retort was that she hoped the otter was the same one which had recently killed all her domestic fowls!

John MacDonald, Tobermory.

ISLAY LETTER

miles of Islay's roads to raise money for his chosen charity.

Matthew Anderson, accompanied by his dad Colin, will pedal it out over seven days, beginning on April 5, and all sponsorship money will be donated to Mary's Meals.

Mary's Meals is an international movement which provides school meals projects in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education.

It has a high profile in central Africa and particularly so in Malawi and this is a point of particular interest to Matthew and his family.

His mum Fiona has visited Malawi on several occasions and has been greatly impressed by the work carried out by this charity in this region.

Matthew is a regular visitor to these shores and has strong family connections with the Rhinns peninsula. His grandmother was Isabel Anderson, a nursing sister whose roots were in Airigh Sgalladh and Port Charlotte.

If you would like to donate to Matthew's challenge, log into <http://www.wjgiving.com/The-Anderson-Family>.

Island marathon
HISTORY will be made on Islay on April 13 when a group of runners compete in

the first full marathon to take place on the island.</p

Man ordered to carry out unpaid work

A FORT William man has been placed under a supervision order and told to carry out unpaid work in the community after threatening two pub employees and holding a lit cigarette to one of their faces.

William Wallace of 39 Kennedy Road admitted the charge at a previous hearing in Fort William Sheriff Court but sentencing was deferred until Tuesday for a social work report.

The 27-year-old was asked to leave The Crofter on the night of 29 December last year.

Before issuing the 150 hours of unpaid work Sheriff Richard Davidson said: 'It was a completely unacceptable and ugly thing to do. You're supposed to grow out of these things by the age that you have got to.'

Pushing and kicking charge denied

A FORT William man has denied pushing a man and kicking him on the head.

Sean Hutton of 3 Mossfield Apartments, Lochyside, pled not guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday to shouting, swearing and assault in Lismore Road, Kinlochleven, on March 3 last year.

The 22-year-old pled guilty to breaking a car window on the same day.

The case continues to trial on May 2. Sentence was deferred on the admitted charge until then.

Verbal abuse trial date set

A CAOL man will stand trial accused of verbally abusing a store employee and customer after denying the charge at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Martin Lawrie, of 22 Glenpage Street, also denies struggling with two police officers during the same alleged incident in the Co-operative, Caol on December 29 last year.

The 25-year-old will stand trial in Fort William Sheriff Court on April 28.

Record-breaking rainfall in Arisaig

RAINFALL in Arisaig was 158mm - over six inches - the highest recorded for the month this century, reports local amateur meteorologist Ranald Coyme.

Average daily minimum temperature was 4.6C and the maximum 10.6C - both well above the norm.

Coldest night was 1C and the warmest day 20C, both higher than average.

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Gordon Napier, left, with Gary Lewis who will star in his latest short film.

Scottish actor tips Banavie film director for big screen success

A LOCHABER film director is set to go far in the movie business, according to an award-winning Scottish actor.

Gordon Napier from Banavie will shoot a short film on Lewis later this month about a struggling lobsterman played by Gary Lewis, whose film credits include hard-man roles in Billy Elliot and Gangs of New York.

And Lewis, 55, who will play the leading role in Gordon's film 'Tide', says the 30-year-old has the talent, commitment and determination to make his mark.

The pair have already worked together and the new film could herald a long working relationship.

Mr Lewis said: 'The first time I worked with Gordon I saw how committed he is to filmmaking. I liked what he had planned but what I really like about him is he is constantly developing

his ideas and adapting to circumstances.'

'You can have an idea in your head then go on location and it gets turned upside down. Gordon is constantly improving and developing his work and I think that's a very admirable quality.'

Mr Napier, 30, has written and will direct 'Tide' as part of his Masters in film directing at Edinburgh College of Art.

He said: 'From a very young age I was really interested in film but I always thought it would be something I would enjoy from afar rather than make a career out of.'

I started working in sales in Edinburgh then I ended up doing a small charity film in the Mongolian desert.'

'It was when I was there I realised sales really wasn't the career for me, I suddenly felt I was doing something that really

motivated me and I wanted to keep doing it.'

Mr Napier and his crew will be filming on Lewis from April 21-28 and thinks the island is the perfect setting for the movie.

He said: 'I was researching people who make their living from the land and the sea when I came across an article about lobster fishing on Lewis.'

'Then I was talking to someone I know from Lewis and hearing her stories. Now I can't think of anywhere better to shoot, they're so passionate about what they do and the sea is such a big part of their life.'

Mr Napier has big ideas about his film - but as a student funding is tight so he and his crew are appealing for help in exchange for perks such as a download or DVD of the film and products signed by Mr Lewis.

He added: 'The film will go ahead either way but how much

funding we have will really impact the quality. There's so many things I would like to do but there are some costs that are unavoidable like food and accommodation for the crew.'

'Caledonian MacBrayne offered sponsorship so the cast, crew and vehicles get free passage when we go to Lewis for filming. That's made a massive difference but any contribution at all is appreciated.'

A CalMac spokesman said: 'Many visitors have had their first introduction to the area we service, and have been inspired to travel there, by a movie or short film set in the Highlands and Islands. We applaud the filmmakers' decision to feature locations in the Western Isles in this movie and look forward to seeing the final version.'

To find out more about Tide or to donate go to <http://ig.me/at/tide>.

motivated me and I wanted to keep doing it.'

Mr Rybacka, 9 Angus Crescent, was found guilty of dangerous driving on Monday when Fort William Sheriff Court heard she repeatedly drove towards Gregor Rybacki at Viewforth car park on February 5.

Mr Rybacki had to run out of the path of the Audi A6 and hide behind another vehicle before the 35 year-old drove her car at his new partner Edyta Szumok's Volkswagen Passat, stopping around two feet away.

Rybacka denied the charge but after hearing evidence from the victims and an eye witness Sheriff Richard Davidson found her guilty.

He said: 'To aim a motor vehicle at another human being deliberately is dangerous, the consequences of which must be obvious and it is an act which has the potential to cause great injury.'

Mr Rybacki told the court he was 'terrified' during the incident, which broke out after an argument about a personal matter.

He said: 'She pressed on the accelerator and wanted to knock me over. It was forward, back, forward, back then I ran. I was terrified.'

Sentencing was deferred until April 29 for a social work report.

By EMMA CRICHTON
crichton@obaentimes.co.uk



Anna Rybacka: drove car at ex-husband.

he was 'terrified' during the incident, which broke out after an argument about a personal matter.

He said: 'She pressed on the accelerator and wanted to knock me over. It was forward, back, forward, back then I ran. I was terrified.'

Ms Szumok then said: 'She

wanted to run him over, he tried to get away three times and she tried to run him over three times. She accelerated and tried to hit my car, I was terrified.'

George Russell said he saw the Audi being driven at Mr Rybacki from his flat window. He told the court: 'I heard raised voices, that's what made me look out. He started moving away and the car moved as if it was trying to go towards him two or three times. He moved behind a car so it couldn't hit him then the Audi drove towards another car.'

Rybacka took to the stand and claimed the movements had been because she was upset and was trying to drive with the handbrake on.

She said: 'I was scared because he was insulting me before, I tried to drive off, my car jerked because the handbrake was on. After I had to drive forward and turn to be able to reverse and leave the car park. The car moved very quickly and I was very nervous.'

Sentencing was deferred until April 29 for a social work report.

Hairdresser tried to knock down ex-husband

Fort William woman found guilty of dangerous driving

A FORT William hairdresser tried to knock down her ex-husband in a town car park and drove at his girlfriend's car while she was inside.

Anna Rybacka, 9 Angus Crescent, was found guilty of dangerous driving on Monday when Fort William Sheriff Court heard she repeatedly drove towards Gregor Rybacki at Viewforth car park on February 5.

Mr Rybacki had to run out of the path of the Audi A6 and hide behind another vehicle before the 35 year-old drove her car at his new partner Edyta Szumok's Volkswagen Passat, stopping around two feet away.

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Young carer sails away with honour of naming 100-year-old skiff ready to tackle charity row

A NINE-year old carer from Kyle has named the 100 year-old wooden skiff which will carry a team of charity rowers from St Kilda to Skye this summer.

Aaron Morrison suggested the 18-foot boat be called Aurora in a competition run by Row St Kilda to Skye - a challenge to row the 100-year-old vessel from the far-flung Atlantic archipelago 100 miles back to Portree.

And in Portree on Tuesday Aaron looked on proudly as local sign-writer Hughie Davidson painted the new name he chose on the hull.

Aaron is a member of Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers, who along with the RNLI will benefit from the daring attempt.

The Kyle Primary School pupil looks after his father Tommy Morrison, who lost the use of his left leg after a motorway accident.

Aaron - a 'big lad', according to Tommy - attends to his father's needs between 4pm and 6pm after finishing school.

A passionate fan of the night sky, Aaron came up with the boat's name after tracking the aurora borealis - the Northern Lights.

Ceremony

The official naming ceremony for the boat will be carried out on Saturday by local businesswoman Myra Urquhart, whose great-great grandfather Donald Ferguson left St Kilda in

1822 for Pabbay in the Sound of Harris.

Mrs Urquhart, 52, who runs a small shop in Portree, said it was 'quite a surprise' when Row St Kilda to Skye organiser Donnie Nicolson asked her to officially christen the boat.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'It creates a connection with St Kilda which perhaps wasn't there before.'

'I think the challenge is fantastic and pulls the whole community together.'

'The naming ceremony will be a nice occasion and will let folk know what's happening.'

Eight Skymen will take turns at the four oars throughout the non-stop journey, which

is expected to take two days. Three local girls will take turns as coxswain.

The row could be made in May or June when fair weather is most likely.

Once the green light is given, 22 people, including the back-up team, will sail to St Kilda on support vessels the Broadford-registered fishing boat Dunan Star II and Portree cabin cruiser the Aimee-Louise.

The skiff will be lashed to the fishing boat's foredeck on the way out before being lowered into the water off St Kilda for the long row back home.

The boat was restored to former glory by Iain MacLean at Waterloo near Broadford.



Aaron Morrison from Kyle admires sign-writer Hughie Davidson painting on the name he chose for the Row St Kilda to Skye boat.

Doctor issues warning to be on guard against ticks after several people treated for Lyme Disease

A FORT William doctor has warned outdoor enthusiasts and workers to be on their guard against ticks after several people were treated for Lyme Disease.

Dr Jim Douglas, a GP with the Tweeddale Practice, said a number of patients had been prescribed antibiotics for the illness in the past two weeks.

Cases so early in spring are rare and are believed to be linked to a lack of recent hard frosts to deter the insects.

The Oban Times approached the practice after being informed by local sources that three people, believed to be from south Lochaber, had sought medical help after being bitten by ticks.

Dr Douglas was unable to confirm that because of patient confidentiality but said the public could take simple steps to minimise risks while continuing to enjoy outdoor activities.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Local doctors have noticed that ticks have been active a lot earlier this year,

possibly because of the mild winter. It is unusual to see these cases just now - normally it is much later, in May or June.'

'We don't want everybody spooked that there is some terrible problem out there. I don't want mass panic because it's not justified.'

'Lochaber is not any worse than anywhere else in Scotland and I want people to actively enjoy the countryside because that's good for people's health.'

'There are far more benefits from people enjoying the outdoors than not doing so because a few are getting bitten.'

Dr Douglas said wearing long trousers and tucking them into boots could prevent ticks getting onto clothing.

He also advised keeping tick removal tools in first aid kits at home, in hotels or at workplaces because the sooner the insects were plucked from the skin, the better.

He said: 'A tick removal device is essential - if you use tweezers to get tick out all you are doing is spurring

the germ into the bloodstream and that can cause the problems.'

'We also want to make sure that people don't resort to folk remedies such as burning them off with cigarettes or using Vaseline.'

'Everyone should be aware of the risks - much in the same way as with avalanche risks. If people using the countryside for recreation stick to paths rather than venture into the undergrowth, you are unlikely to get a problem.'

Dr Douglas said only 10 per cent of ticks carry the 'bad germ' and just because people have been bitten by a tick did not mean they would get Lyme Disease.

He added: 'If you start developing a rash where the tick was about a week later you then need a course of antibiotics from a GP, which clears it. It is not a panic emergency situation but you should seek advice.'

Lyme Disease is easily eliminated by drugs but if left untreated later symptoms may involve the joints, heart and central nervous system.



Dr Jim Douglas: early appearance of ticks should not stop people enjoying the great outdoors.

Mountain trust beats off strong competition to land path cash

A MOUNTAIN in the Cuillins on Skye has beaten off strong competition from five other short-listed peaks in Asia, Latin America and Europe to land £24,000 for path repairs.

Bla Bheinn came top in an online poll organised by the European Outdoor Conservation Organisation (EOCA).

The charity which manages the mountain, the John Muir Trust, will now launch a £50,000 path restoration project, having already secured match funding.

The money will be used to employ local contractors, purchase materials and work with volunteers.

The high number of visitors to Bla Bheinn

together with high rainfall has caused serious erosion over the years.

Trust footpath manager Chris Goodman said: 'This is great news.'

'We were up against tough international competition from mountain projects in the Himalayas, Spain

Spring A-Z

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Accent Players, from Campbeltown, were overall runners up at the festival but much of the acclaim was reserved for Elise Glendinning, second from left, who unexpectedly took the stage at the 11th hour. 15_t14drama02



The Lochgilphead Drama Club Team 'M' were placed third overall. 15_t14drama03

Drama festival winners dedicate success to club's founding member



Winners Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club 'M' members, from left, Wave-Marie Baldwin, Michael Wall, Mike Rowell and Pauline Cameron, celebrate with The Robin Banks Trophy. 15_t14drama05



The prizewinners from this year's Lorn Drama Festival with chairman David Price, front, third from left, and adjudicator Alasdair Hawthorn, front, third from right. 15_t14drama01

IN THE year Lorn Drama Festival was renamed to honour stalwart Robin Banks, it was fitting that the club he helped to form nearly 60 years ago should win the top prize.

At last week's Robin Banks Memorial Lorn Drama Festival in Oban's Corran Halls, Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club 'M' took first place with That's Mine. This is Yours and dedicated their win to Mr Banks, who died on February 2 this year.

A committed supporter of the festival, Mr Banks had attended a committee meeting the day before his death.

Festival chairman David

Price said: 'I will always remember him coming to that meeting on a Saturday, looking frail but determined to help out and then getting the phone call the next day to say he had passed away.'

'I think that was a snapshot of the man, determined to help out to the last. He was extraordinary.'

In winning the top prize - The Robin Banks Trophy - Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club 'M' dedicated their success to his memory. Producer Mike Rowell said: 'It is very special to win it this year, as Robin was a founding member of this club and a driving force

behind the festival. 'We had been thinking of how the club could commemorate him - this is a good way of doing it.'

Over three nights of drama, 11 contrasting productions were performed and the various prizes rewarded those who had 'taken risks and pushed the boundaries,' according to Mr Price.

A popular winner of A Moment in Theatre was Elise Glendinning, a prompter with Accent Players, Campbeltown, who stepped in to play the character of Kate in Blood Ties after Catriona Lang called off at the 11th hour because of illness.

After just an hour of

rehearsal with producer Kenny Johnson and with script in hand, Elise took the stage and delivered a performance that the adjudicator said was so impressive that the presence of a script was insignificant.

Accent Players producer Kenny Johnson, who also lifted The Chalmers of Oban Quaich for second place overall, said: 'We were always going to go on stage. The show must go on.'

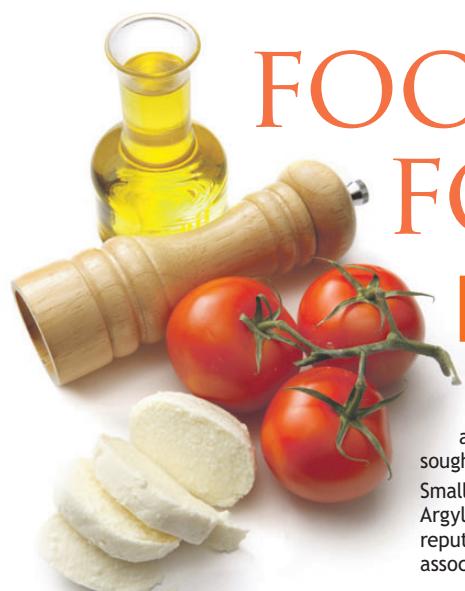
Winning The Oban Times Salver for third place overall and The Dan Cleland Trophy for Dramatic Production was Lochgilphead Drama Club Team 'M' with Who

is Millbank Milly?.

A Moment in Comedy was won by Rae Green, who played the vicar in Dalmally and Lochawe Drama Club's Gosforth's Fete, and the Glenorchy production also won the J R Smith Trophy for Highest Marks for Stage Set.

The Stage Management Cup went to Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club 'B'.

The youth section was won by the highly-acclaimed Taynuilt and District Drama Society and runners up were Appin Youth Team, who were also given the Adjudicator's Award for their hard-hitting production, To Sleep, Perchance.



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what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

Thursday – April 3

7.30pm, Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club, Argyllshire Gathering Hall.

SATURDAY – APRIL 5

12.00pm, Gun Club Open Shoot, Fasniaclach.

7.30pm, We'll Walk This Road Together Concert, Corran Halls.

SUNDAY – APRIL 6

10.30am, Feis Latharna Service, Oban Parish Church.

3.00pm, Bin Men, Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern.

MONDAY – APRIL 7

6.30pm, Feis Latharna Gala Night, Oban Phoenix Cinema

WEDNESDAY – APRIL 9

7.00pm, Family Ceilidh Dance, Argyllshire Gathering Hall.

8.00pm, Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club, Argyll Hotel, Inveraray.

FRIDAY – APRIL 11

2.00pm, Feis Participants Concert, Oban Primary Campus.

Advertising here is FREESimply email details of your event to
whatson@obantimes.co.uk.**Plockton hall events well attended**

ACCLAIMED Scottish bluegrass/folk group Southern Tenant Folk Union, which has starred on Irish TV channel RTE's The Late, Late Show, performed at Plockton Hall last Wednesday.

The following evening the Plockton Amateur Dramatic Society presented two plays - 'A cut in the Rates' by Alan Ayckbourn and 'Two' by Jim Cartwright,

at a concert in the hall.

The play 'Two' is going forward to the Scottish Community Drama Association Highland divisional final at Nairn on April 5.

Meanwhile, local arts group Lochan presented the sex comedy 'Wendy Hoosie' by Johnny McKnight in Achmore hall on March 25. The hall was full to capacity for the controversial play.

Argyll hotel deal sparks hopes of tourism revival



Stephen Leckie, left, and John Jennet, who have taken over the operation and management of the Caledonian Hotel in Oban, as well as the Glencoe Hotel and Leisure Centre and Ballachulish Hotel, both in Ballachulish. 15_t13hotels2

A DEAL to take over the Caledonian Hotel in Oban and the Glencoe Hotel and Leisure Centre and Ballachulish Hotel, both in Ballachulish, is set to deliver a boost to the whole west Highlands.

The managing director of the Crieff Hydro, John Jennett, and chief executive, Stephen Leckie, agreed a deal last month with Colin Johnston, owner of the hotels, to take over their operation and management.

The dynamic duo visited the Oban hotel last week, where they outlined their plans to transform their recent acquisitions into key operators in the local tourism market.

Both John and Stephen admit the hotels have seen better days, something they put down to them having been 'run by accountants' instead of hoteliers.

However, they say they are more than capable of returning them to their former glory and hope to do just that under their stewardship.

Stephen said: 'They have been run by a cost cutting, controlling accountant, and I don't believe you can run a positive business that way. The hotels are now being run by enterprising, enthusiastic and energetic people who want to offer the best possible experience and really improve these hotels.'

'It's about food and the customer experience and offering people a great product.'

While there are more ambitious plans for the future, initial changes at the hotels will focus mainly on staffing, food and drink.

For John, the deal to take over the Caledonian Hotel is something of a return,

having been key to it being upgraded from a two to a four star hotel in 2003, when he was managing director of the Freedom of the Glen hotel group.

The company sold the hotel in 2006 and it has changed operators several times since, with little effort to upgrade the premises.

John said: 'One of the things the Caledonian Hotel hasn't lost is its unique location in Oban, but it has been heavily underinvested in for a number of years. In many ways, it's quite sad and heartbreaking to come back and see that.'

'However, I do view it, as well as the Ballachulish and Glencoe hotels, as fantastic assets.'

'We're not saying we're going to invest 'X' million of pounds over a number of years.'

Track record

'It's easy to throw around figures and say what you're going to do. Getting hotels to run successfully in today's environment is tough, but we do have a track record where we managed to grow despite the recession.'

'That doesn't mean it hasn't been difficult, but I suppose we feel the end of the recession is the right time to be looking at these types of projects.'

'Yes, you could say it's very rapid expansion but when opportunities like this arise you have to take them.'

A key part of the strategy for the hotels is to highlight and use the assets of the hotels' surrounding areas, rather than simply allow customers to find them for themselves.

'The things these hotels have to their strength is their locations,' said John. 'There are attractions in the area and that's part of what we see ourselves doing here. What the Crieff Hydro is well known for is the activities it has on-site.'

The difference between there and here is the attractions people can point to in the area. It's imperative we show these off and link in with them.

'It's too easy just to let people find them themselves. One of my biggest fears is that someone goes away from here and says, "it's nice, but we'll try something else next time".'

'I live here and I know how much there is to do here and I feel we almost have to showcase what people can do and show not only is it a great one-time holiday but it's a great return destination.'

That would mean offering activities straight from the hotel, with the management keen to link up with local businesses.

'It's not just good for us, it's good for the whole area and the wider tourist picture.'

The company is keen to work with local tourism co-operatives and initiatives, such as the Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA) and Argyll and the Isles Tourism - as well as the Scottish Tourism Alliance, of which Stephen is the chairman.

'A few years ago people were worrying about what the tourism board was doing. Now people have realised they are masters of their own destiny. That's reflected here in the OLTA and the Oban Business Improvement District (BID).'

Stephen added: 'It's a new beginning for the hotels and we're determined to make them vibrant and successful as possible.'

Great craic at Harris ceilidh in Fort hotel

THE RECENT Harris Ceilidh in Fort William's West End Hotel hit the high notes as around 150 people enjoyed a wonderful night of Gaelic craic, music and song.

The event, organised by former Meur Lochabar chairman Charlie Mac-

Coll, followed the equally successful Skye Ceilidh at the same venue a few weeks previously.

Mr MacColl set up the ceilidhs to celebrate the strong cultural ties between Lochaber and the islands, and to give friends and relations

scattered across Scotland a chance to meet up and enjoy a traditional Gaelic evening.

Fantastic

Mr MacColl said: 'It was a fantastic night. There were people from all over, from Harris, the East coast, Glasgow, Inverness

as well as Lochaber.

'The ceilidhs are still strong here and the bond between us and Harris and Skye is also very strong.'

'These ceilidhs keep the Gaelic community going and people are so amazed that we are still able to draw such a crowd.'

Singers on the night included Rebecca and Emma MacLeod from the Sir E Scott School in Tarbert.

Music was provided on the night by Robert and Allan Nairn.

Fear an taigh was Robbie Shaw.



Oban High School ski trip enjoys fantastic conditions

PUPILS from Oban High School recently enjoyed a ski trip to the Italian Dolomites in Val Di Fiemme and planning for

next year's trip is already underway.

The S1-S5 pupils had the chance to prepare their ski legs in the run up to the trip

with visits to Glencoe with help from staff at Kilbowie Outdoor Centre.

The group arrived in Val Di Fiemme on March

9 and were greeted with excellent ski conditions, clear blue skies and fresh snow.

Students also participated

in slalom races and a host of different evening activities including a quiz night, disco and presentation evening.



S1-S5 pupils having a blast on their ski trip to the Italian Dolomites.



Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra, led by Helen Jordan, performed The Creation by Haydn at St John's Cathedral on March 22, under the baton of conductor Norman Nicholson. Soloists for the performance were former Taynuilt man Simon Hannigan, tenor Fraser Simpson and soprano Cliona Cassidy. 07_t13bach02

Commonwealth Games baton bearers announced

HUNDREDS of remarkable people across the Highlands and islands have been selected as baton bearers for the Glasgow 2014 Queen's Baton Relay ahead of this summer's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Linda Anderson-Kerr who lives in Soroba, Oban, will be one of the baton bearers at this year's games and said she was 'overcome' when she found out she was selected.

Linda was nominated for her work with Distance Highland Befrienders, which supports people who live in remote and rural areas, and who experience mental health issues or have dementia.

She said: 'My volunteering work is about community inclusiveness and trying to stop isolation, and so, on some level, it's parallel to what the Queen's Baton is all about.'

'To be chosen is just amazing; it's a bit of history I'm getting to be a wee part of.'

Another successful baton bearer is Betty MacLachlan, who has taught at Spean Bridge Primary School for many years and has been an excellent teacher to all those who have passed through her care.

Betty is best known for going above and beyond the call of duty, and devoting her own time to extra tuition for the children.'

Convenor of The Highland Council, Councillor Jimmy Gray said: 'I want to congratulate all the selected baton bearers for their determination, courage and selflessness in different walks of life, and their commitment to helping others.'

Fantastic turnout for final winter season piping recital

THE WORLD-renowned Fred Morrison was the guest player at the final Netherlorn Piping Society recital of the winter season.

Held on March 19, it was, without doubt, the best attended piping recital that the Netherlorn Piping Society has experienced.

Despite the unpleasant weather that evening, people came out in large numbers and the committee were hard pressed putting

out additional chairs to accommodate them.

The evening began with a large number of chanter players from the local schools who are tutored by Angus MacColl.

The youngsters played well and, as always, the audience much appreciated the ability shown by such young children. Clearly the future looks good for piping in this area.

Recitals will resume again in October.



Carrie MacKinnon as Annie the orphan: a remarkable stage presence in the leading role. 20_f14annie01

Bright future for Lochaber Showstoppers after 'Annie' success

NOW INTO their 21st year, Lochaber Showstoppers are still going strong and, judging by the large number of talented and enthusiastic youngsters in this production, the future looks bright for the next 21 years and beyond.

Playing to packed houses all week, 'Annie' was a huge success. Imaginative and pleasing sets, designed by Donnie Munro and Juliet Evans, expert lighting and efficient sound engineering all contributed hugely, and the respective crews were a great credit to stage manager Alison Boyle.

The show calls for a large number of scene changes, all of which were effortlessly handled to provide a colourful spectacle, greatly enhanced by superb costume design. The New York City scene and the quirky 'toothpaste ad' radio studio were superb.

Showstoppers have always been blessed with wonderful orchestras and 'Annie' maintained that tradition. From the overture to the finale the music was deservedly applauded and acclaimed by the

enthusiastic audience. With a cast of around 50, including a very well-behaved dog, space does not allow the individual mention which they all richly deserve.

The chorus work was outstanding throughout the show, with a particular salute to the infectious enthusiasm of the wonderful 'orphans' and the superb 'servants' chorus, particularly when they came together for the 'New Deal for Christmas' number.

Clare Brewer, Juliet Evans, Dominic Dobson, Katryn Muir and Keith Falconer - plus his family - all performed with aplomb in various, sometimes several, parts.

I liked Fergus Munro as Drake the Butler and it is always great to see Sheena Coull in any part. Deirdre Beck performed really well in the demanding role of Grace Farrell, and Stephen Carruthers was a totally believable and suitably smarmy 'Rooster', ably abetted by Samantha Wilson as his wife.

Many congratulations to Kim Ferguson who made a wonderful job of Miss Hannigan and was on top form from start to finish.

Eric McKenzie deserves top marks for calling on all his vast experience and return a terrific performance as Warbucks, totally sympathetic and with much dialogue and some difficult numbers to contend with.

I totally fell for Carrie MacKinnon in the title role of 'Annie'. She has remarkable stage presence for one so young, and she acted and sang with a confidence well beyond her age or experience. If Warbucks hadn't finally adopted her, I would have done it myself!

Well done Carrie, and although I didn't see her, my spies tell me that congratulations are also due to Annabel Brayshaw who played Annie in alternate performances.

All in all, not only a terrific show but a great evening of entertainment and a huge credit to Susan Munro, who undertook the enormous task of being not only director, but also musical director. Thank you Susan for sending so many Lochaber people home happy.

Nicola



Laura Robertson of Lochaber Pipe Band won the Miss MacRae Conchra Cup for Youngest Competitor. 20_f14pipes01

Lochaber's young pipers impress at annual competition

LOCHABER Piping Society's annual juvenile piping competition hit the high notes on Saturday when the West Highlands'

most talented young pipers competed for honours at Lochaber High School hostel. Society secretary Morag

Melville said chanter entries were down on last year but piping entries were around the same, with the standard 'exceptionally high'.



Some of the trophy winners from Lochaber Piping Society's annual juvenile piping competition on Saturday. Back, left to right, Rona Nicolson, Cameron Sharp, Martin MacKinnon, Connor Kellett. Front, left to right, Laura Robertson, Wallace Dempster, Jamie-Lee Laverty. 20_f14pipes02

Results:

Chanter - march 10 and under (confined to Lochaber and district) A MacDougall Cup - Archie Clark, Spean Bridge; March 11-13 (confined to Lochaber and district) Lord Durlerton Cup - Joe Lennon, Spean Bridge; March, under-14 (open) Carmichael Quaich - Archie Clark, Spean Bridge. Bagpipes - under-16 novice march (confined to Lochaber and district) the Jim Grace Trophy - Ben Fulford, Erracht; Slow air, (confined to Lochaber and district) Alastair MacKellar Memorial Quaich - Ben Fulford; March, (confined to Lochaber and district) West Highland Junior Piping Trophy - Rona Nicolson, Lochaber Pipe Band; 16 and under slow air (open) Allan MacPherson Memorial Trophy - Connor Kellett, Kyle; Under-15 march, (open) Cameron of Lochiel Challenge Cup - Angus Finlay MacPhee, Inverness; Strathspey and reel (open) Robertson Memorial Cup - Angus Finlay MacPhee, MacKinnon, Lochaber Pipe Band; Novice, March (confined to Lochaber and district) Jim Pryce Memorial Cup - Jamie-Lee Laverty, Lochaber Pipe Band.

Piobaireachd, under-15 (open) Lochaber District Council Cup - Rona Nicolson; Bradley Gilanders Challenge Cup - Michael Steel, Plockton Music School; Strathspey and reel (open) Highland Homespun Co. Challenge Cup - Michael Steel; Piobaireachd, 18 and under (open) Wiggins Teape Ltd Challenge Cup - Cameron Sharp, Plockton Music School; Piobaireachd (ground) (open), Ceol Mor Cup - Wallace Dempster, Lochaber Pipe Band; Jig Under-15 (open) Fort William Railway Social Club Challenge Cup - Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge; Jig 18 and under (open) Eileen A Fraoch Cup - Michael Steel; Piobaireachd (open) 18 and under, Pipe major Donald MacLeod Memorial Trophy - Finlay Cameron.

Drumming - 15 and under, March on the snare drum (confined to Lochaber and district) Donald 'Cleon' MacLeod Memorial Cup - Martin MacKinnon, Lochaber Pipe Band. Other trophies: Youngest Competitor; The Miss MacRae Conchra Cup - Laura Robertson, Lochaber Pipe Band; Lochaber boy or girl with the highest points in events 1, 2, 2a, the Hugh MacPhee Memorial Quaich - Archie Clark; Lochaber boy or girl with the highest points in events 3a and 3b, The Buchanan Shield - Jordan Currie; Lochaber girl with highest points in open competition, Fort William Town Council Cup - Rona Nicolson; Lochaber girl with highest points in open competition, The John MacLellan Trophy - Finlay Cameron; Lochaber competitor with highest points in open piobaireachd 18 and under, the Evan MacRae Trophy - Ally Weir; Lochaber competitor with highest points in open jig, the Roddie MacDonald Memorial Trophy - Finlay Cameron.

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Piano teacher Kenn Harrower and 10 of his Oban pupils performed a concert called Piano Fun in Oban Parish Church and raised £180 to be donated equally between the church and Oban Music Society. The first pupil to play was Abby Docherty, above. 15_t14piano01

Muppets: Most Wanted	Thurs 3rd	18.00
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	Fri 4th	18.30 3D
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• Muppets: Most Wanted (U)	America attempts to uncover the growing machination while fending off hired hit men. When the entire scheme is discovered, Captain America and the Black Widow must recruit the aid of the Falcon and soon encounter an unanticipated and powerful adversary - the Winter Soldier.
• Starred Up (18)	In Starred Up, Jack O'Connell gives a star-making performance as 19-year-old Eric Love, a violent and troubled teenager making the difficult transition from a young offenders' institute to adult prison. He seems to be destined for a life behind bars, but the prison's unconventional therapist (Rufus Sewell) is determined to help Eric find a way through, assisted by one of the prison's longest serving inmates - Neville (Ben Mendelsohn) - who just happens to be Eric's father.
• 12 Years A Slave (15)	12 Years a Slave is based on an incredible true story of one man's fight for survival and freedom. In the pre-Civil War United States, Solomon Northup (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a free black man upstated New York, is abducted and sold into slavery. Facing cruelty (personified by a malevolent slave owner, portrayed by Michael Fassbender), as well as unexpected kindnesses, Solomon
• Captain America: The Winter Soldier (12A)	Two years after the events of The Avengers, Steve Rogers resides peacefully in Washington, D.C., struggling to adapt to contemporary society. However, after a S.H.I.E.L.D. comrade is assailed, Steve becomes entangled in a mystery that may endanger the globe. Together with Natasha Romanoff, Captain

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Fasnakloich Gun Club OPEN SHOOT	Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club Argyll Hotel, Inveraray Wednesday 9th April at 8.00pm Guest Artists From Oban Hector MacFadyen Trio Supporting players most welcome
Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern Bin Men	Sunday 6th April 3pm for 5+ and families 01852 500746 cvh.artsevents@gmail.com www.craignvhall.org.uk

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Open Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday 11am-4pm
Open 7 days from April 1st 2014.
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Specialising in Islay Single Malts
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To advertise in next week's Island Hopping - Outer Hebrides feature please call Eilidh on 01631 568000

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Tel: 01496 850202 Email: info@lochindaalhotel.co.uk

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Located in the idyllic village of Bridgend, the three star Bridgend Hotel offers the perfect base to explore the island, sample great Island Hospitality or taste seasonal local produce at its best! Each of our eleven ensuite bedrooms is individually decorated to a high standard to ensure your comfort and relaxation.

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Bar Menu in Katie's Bar 6.00-9.00pm

Bridgend Hotel,
Isle of Islay, PA44 7PB
+44 (0) 1496 810212
info@bridgend-hotel.com
www.bridgend-hotel.com

and Hopping

R GUIDE TO THE INNER HEBRIDES



lonacampsites
CNOC-ORAN - Isle of Iona - PA76 6SP

Open from Easter until the end of October
We have tents and camping equipment to hire, but you will need to book these before arrival.

Contact us on 07747721275
or email: info@ionacampsites.co.uk
www.ionacampsites.co.uk

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See our website for more details. storm-pods.co.uk



Surnaig, Lagavulin, Isle of Islay, PA42 7DX
Tel / Fax: 01496 300 129



THINK of the Inner Hebridean islands and what springs to mind?
Sandy beaches?
Undisturbed natural environments? Whisky?

Well, this special group of islands has those in abundance - but lots more to offer too.

The Hebrides has some of the most picturesque hotels, guesthouses, B and Bs and campsites in the country and there are always accommodation options, regardless of your budget.

On Islay, you can take

your pick of quality accommodation but the island has an almost year-round tourism trade, so make sure you book well in advance.

The Lochindaal Hotel in Port Charlotte specialises in seafood and is known for its warm welcome, while the more modern Islay Hotel in Port Ellen is situated on the south coast and

by the newly developed marina. The Bridgend Hotel, meanwhile, is the ideal base from which to explore the island. Stormpods at Lagavulin have tapped into the growing 'glamping' market by offering all the mod-cons associated with 21st century accommodation with a modern-day camping experience within units designed to withstand even a Hebridean storm.

Highland Cottage, in Tobermory on Mull, is typical of a small island hotel with a big reputation for hospitality.

If your budget won't stretch to a hotel there are a number of campsites on these islands, such as Iona Campsite, which can offer car and bike

tents and equipment. Services in rural parts of these islands, such as Portnahaven Stores and Post Office, are essential outposts so be sure to stock up in these shops when you visit.

Once your accommodation is booked, how do you get to your destination? Long established ferry routes from the Argyll mainland are well used but more and more visitors are looking skywards to get themselves to the Hebrides. Hebridean Air Services flies to four Argyll islands from Oban Airport.

And if you travel by plane, you'll need transport once you get there. Companies like MacLennan Motors on Tiree offer car and bike

hire for island trips.

There is lots to see and do once you are there.

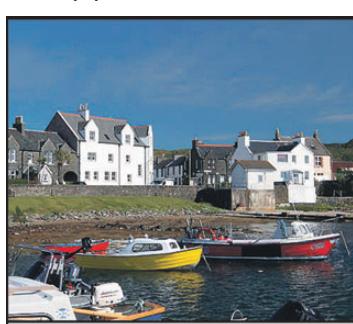
Lochaline Dive Centre, for example, has recently received funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise to offer scenic boat trips, snorkel safaris and basking shark trips as part of its adventure tours around the Sound of Mull.

But it is not just the sights and the sounds of the islands that attract people to the Hebrides - the food and the drink do too. The Isle of Islay is synonymous with whisky - it makes some of the best in the world - and island businesses are rightly proud of that. Those in the know should visit Islay Whisky Auctions Ltd to see what

bargains they can pick up and Islay-based company Whisky for Girls does what it says on the tin, helping those of the fairer sex on their way.

And to sample some fine island baking look no further than Liosbeag Cafe on Lismore, which is a must visit on any trip to the island. Ma's Marmalade, based in Bridgend Square, Islay is quickly making a name for itself throughout the west coast.

If you want to know more about the Hebridean islands before you visit, contact Hebridean Books to see what literature is on offer and, who knows, the latest Tobermory Cat storybook may just inspire your next trip to Mull.



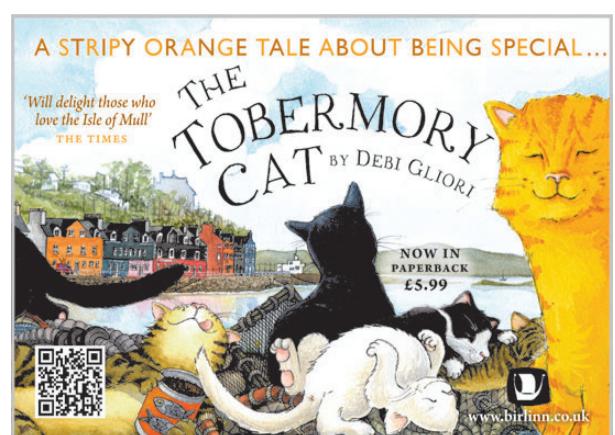
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I want to make whisky and the industry more accessible to people. To make people aware of whisky & people, whisky & music, whisky & books, whisky & relationships, whisky & politics, whisky & landscape, whisky & myth.....whisky & many, many, many other things!

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west coast recruitment

SENIOR ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Excellent Basic (OTE) + Car + BUPA + Enhanced pension etc

Based in Oban and reporting to the Sales Director, you will be responsible for day-to-day management of the sales team. Ideally you will have relevant experience, flexibility,

motivation, confidence and the ability get the best from a team. A senior position with a reputable and established local company. Travel throughout Argyll required.

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Please apply with full CV and covering letter to Alison Arden,
Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB
or email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE BASED IN OBAN

£ Excellent Basic + £ Bonus + Private Health Care + Pension + Good Holidays

Based in our Oban office the successful applicant will be part of a small team selling advertising and features for our well established, award winning publications.

You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships. The successful applicant will benefit from on-going training, first

class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort.

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Please apply by email
with full C.V. and covering letter
to: ali@obantimes.co.uk

QUALIFIED REPORTER CAMPBELTOWN

£ Excellent Basic + £ Bonus + Private Health Care + Pension + Good Holidays

We want to hear from you if you have:
> The appropriate experience and qualification in journalism
> Shorthand
> Ambition and enthusiasm

> Talent, self motivation and commitment
> A full current driving licence
> Knowledge of the West Coast an advantage

Financial assistance for accommodation where relevant may be available for the first three months.
We offer a good, competitive salary + private health care + enhanced pension + life assurance + excellent benefits and great working conditions.

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and contact details
to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

Argyllshire
advertiser

Campbeltown
courier

FULL TIME/PART TIME ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Salary + group personal pension plan + life and medical insurance

A vacancy currently exists in our Oban office for a full time/part time Administrative Assistant.

The successful applicant will be required to assist our very busy sales department and also work closely with our Sales Director.

Excellent communication skills, computer literacy, enthusiasm, proficiency in spelling and grammar are all essential

attributes for this position.
In addition to salary, we offer group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance

please email your CV and a letter of application to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

FULL TIME/PART TIME ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

A vacancy currently exists in our Oban office for a full time/part time Adminstrative Assistant.

The successful applicant will be required to assist our very busy sales department and also work closely with our Sales Director.

Excellent communication skills, computer literacy, enthusiasm, proficiency in spelling and grammar are all essential attributes for this position.

In addition to salary, we offer group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance

If you feel the above is you, please email your CV and a letter of application to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

**Iain Woodrow
Electrical Contractor
requires an electrician for domestic and commercial work**

Must hold 17th Edition, ECS and SJIB grade card. This would be a permanent position based on Islay.

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Candidates require:
Customer service experience, IT proficiency, knowledge of Scotland, excellent communication skills, sales/cash handling experience
To apply e-mail CV to gillian.mackay@visitscotland.com
Closing date: 18th April 2014

George McNaughton & Son (Plant Hire) Ltd
CIVIL ENGINEER

We are a family run business based in Lochgilphead, Argyll carrying out general civil engineering works, specialising in earthworks, drainage, concrete works, tarmacadam and renewables. We are looking to recruit a highly motivated Civil Engineer with at least 3 years experience.

Qualifications are desired but would be secondary to experience and flexibility in approach since the duties would include Health and Safety, setting out (Trimble), simple estimating and supervision of works on site. It is essential that the candidate has the ability to communicate effectively with both clients and workforce alike. The candidate should be computer literate, able and willing to work on his/her own initiative

Tel: 01546 602389 E-mail: gmngarry@gmail.com

Do you have a passion for selling? Are you a self confessed foodie? Do you want an exciting roll to bring home the bacon? Then read on as this could be the job for you...

Business Manager - Fort William / Oban Area

Competitive salary plus company car, employee discount, pension and 20 days' holiday

Come and be part of our winning Fieldsales team at Forteith Foodservice. In this fast-paced role, no two days are the same. Our ultimate goal is to keep the customer at the heart of everything we do and to do this you need to be good at building strong relationships with customers by really understanding their needs and looking for solutions to keep them happy.

Working for us, you'll not be just a number; you'll be part of an inspiring team where your views count. You'll be responsible for developing sales and profit in your area, by creating opportunities to sell more to our current customers and give them ultimate customer service, while at the same time identifying and converting prospect customers.

What do you need to be successful at Forteith Foodservice?

You'll need to have the passion to demonstrate excellent selling skills, with an ambition to regularly exceed sales targets. You'll need to be a strong communicator with a flexible approach to working either on your own or as part of a team, sharing skills and knowledge.

We'll be looking for you to challenge the norm and look for different ways of doing things to really make a difference to our customers and help us stand out from the crowd.

In return we'll provide you with the opportunity to get passionate about food, work in an exciting market with a great team and enjoy a range of rewards!

And lastly you need to be prepared to do a lot of driving! Sometimes in excess of 18,000 miles per annum! Occasional overnight stays away from home will be required too.

To apply, please email your CV to elizabethjennett@3663.co.uk or send it to Elizabeth Jennett, Field Sales Manager, Bidvest 3663, Junction 2 Industrial Estate, Newbridge EH28 8LF.

Bidvest
3663

NORTH ARGYLL HOUSE

Care Home For The Elderly

Bealach an Righ, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG

Tel. 01631 562168 Fax. 01631 570623

We are recruiting for a senior care officer, Full time post. Fixed term contract for 1 year. Good pay and conditions. Suitable candidates require to have qualifications and experience in care of the elderly. In the absence of Manager / Deputy, the Senior Care Officer will assume responsibility for the day-to-day management of the home. Minimum SVQ level 3 in Health and Social Care or nursing qualification. For an application form and job description contact manager Morag A Telfer. Closing now extended to 18th April 2014.

BREEDON
AGGREGATES

HGV Drivers

We are currently looking for HGV drivers based at our locations in Inveraray and Fort William.

Experience of delivering concrete, coated asphalt and aggregates would be preferred but not essential as training will be given to the right candidate.

The successful candidate must have a proactive attitude toward health and safety as well as being focussed on the needs of our customers.

We offer competitive terms and other benefits associated with a progressive employer.

If you wish to be considered for this position, please apply via e-mail to rosemary.morrison@breedonaggregates.com or in writing to Rosemary Morrison at: Breedon Aggregates, Dunbeg Region Office, Dunbeg, OBAN, Argyll, PA37 1PX.

Northern Lighthouse Board

THE NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSE BOARD Engine Room Technician

For service onboard their Lighthouse Tenders on a fixed manning rota – 28 days duty followed by 28 days leave.

The Northern Lighthouse Board – www.nlb.org.uk is the General Lighthouse Authority for Scotland and the Isle of Man, responsible in law for the provision and control of a network of marine aids to navigation – lighthouses, buoys, beacons and a precision satellite-based navigation service.

The Engine Room Technician assists the Engineer Officers with the operation of ships machinery in a safe, efficient and environmentally friendly manner. The Engine Room Technician will be required to carry out maintenance and repairs on ships machinery.

Applications are invited from those who have the following:

- An STCW95 Engineering Watch Rating certificate
- Mechanical engineering background & experience.
- Valid STCW95 basic training courses.
- Knowledge & experience of ship's engineering and safety systems.
- Recent relevant sea-going experience in a similar position
- Valid unrestricted MCA Medical Certificate (ENG 1).

Flexibility and good interpersonal skills are essential, as is the ability to communicate at all levels.

The current pay band for an Engine Room Technician is £27,852 per year rising to £30,084 per year depending on performance. Benefits package includes generous career average occupational pension scheme

For further details and an application form please e-mail jobs@nlb.org.uk or telephone Paul Keane, HR Advisor on 0131 473 3123. Closing date is Friday 18th April 2014

Northern Lighthouse Board, 84 George Street, EDINBURGH EH2 3DA

The Northern Lighthouse Board is an equal opportunities employer and positively encourages applications from suitably qualified and eligible people regardless of sex, race and disability



ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

BASED IN OBAN

£ Excellent Basic + £ Bonus + Private Health Care + Pension + Good Holidays

Based in our Oban office the successful applicant will be part of a small team selling advertising and features for our well established, award winning publications.

You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships. The successful applicant will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort.

Please apply by email with full C.V.
and covering letter to: ali@obantimes.co.uk

campbeltown courier

Incorporating Argyllshire Advertiser

QUALIFIED REPORTER CAMPBELTOWN

We want to hear from you if you have:

- > The appropriate experience and qualification in journalism
- > Shorthand
- > Ambition and enthusiasm
- > Talent, self motivation and commitment
- > A full current driving licence
- > Knowledge of the West Coast an advantage

Financial assistance for accommodation where relevant may be available for the first three months.

We offer a good, competitive salary + private health care + enhanced pension + life assurance + excellent benefits and great working conditions.

Please apply by email with full C.V. and contact details to:
ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

Argyll Resources Group

Mobile Crane Operator/ HGV Driver
All candidates should have previous experience of working on Mobile Cranes, have relevant licenses / certificates / references and be willing to work overtime. Other duties will include general HGV driving
Pay rate is negotiable depending on experience.

HGV Driver
All candidates should have previous experience, have relevant licenses / certificates and be willing to work overtime
Competitive salary is on offer.
Driving duties will include general haulage, Aggregates, Concrete, Skips.

HGV Mechanic/ Plant Fitter
Experienced HGV Mechanic/ Plant Fitter required for our workshop team. You will be responsible for the full service, repair and maintenance of HGVs / Heavy Vehicles including MOT preparation. A HGV License would be desirable but not essential.
If you are interested in any of the above please forward an up to date CV to Graham Greenlees, Argyll Resources Group, Torran Gorm Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 0PL Email: graham.greenlees@argyllresources.co.uk Tel Ph 01631 566370

Oban Times RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

thekilberryinn
Experienced part time Chef required
Must be enthusiastic and capable.
Flexible hours
Own transport essential
Please contact David on 01880 770223
Or email us at relax@kilberryinn.com
Kilberry, Argyll, PA29 6YD

Nursery Practitioner required for a well established Oban Nursery
This is an excellent opportunity for a highly motivated and experienced childcare professional to develop their role in an established and exciting nursery.
We offer a competitive salary and holiday allowance, welcome applications from all sectors of the community and are an equal opportunity employer.
We are also looking to employ a Nursery Apprentice
Contact Ann or Fiona on 01631 567491 or manager.firststeps@yahoo.co.uk and we look forward to welcoming you as part of our happy team.

All applicants subject to a Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 check

forteith
We are looking to recruit the following:
LGV Class C Driver
This will be a permanent, full time position.
Please contact Helen MacInnes on 01631 569100

Bell Ingram
COUPLE REQUIRED
Knowledgeable and keen GARDENER required with experience of vegetable and fruit growing, care of shrubs, borders and hedges. Experience in maintenance of garden machinery, buildings and boats an advantage. Also part time HOUSEKEEPER and assistance with holiday cottages.
Spacious 3 bedroom house with sea views provided.

Application forms available from Caroline Isaac on caroline.isaac@bellingeram.co.uk

SENIOR ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Excellent Basic (OTE) + Car + BUPA + Enhanced pension

Based in Oban and reporting to the Sales Director, you will be responsible for day-to-day management of the sales team. Ideally you will have relevant experience, flexibility, motivation, confidence and the ability to get the best from a team. A senior position with a reputable and established local company. Travel throughout Argyll required.

Please apply with full CV and covering letter to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

The Oban Times campbeltown courier argyllshire advertiser THE ARRAN BANNER

public notices

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argoyle-bute.gov.uk

NOTICE OF ELECTION
One Councillor is to be elected for the Oban South & the Isles Ward of Argyll and Bute Council.

Name of Ward	Number of Councillors to be elected
Oban South & the Isles	1

Nomination forms can be obtained from The Election Office, Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday after the date of this notice, but not later than 4.00 pm on Wednesday 16 April 2014.

Completed nomination papers MUST be delivered to the Election Office at the above address by 4.00pm on Wednesday 16 April 2014.

If the election is contested, the poll will take place between the hours of 7.00am and 10.00pm on Thursday, 22 May 2014.

Postal or Proxy Voting

Applications to cancel or alter existing postal and proxy votes, or to change from postal to proxy voting MUST reach the Electoral Registration Officer, Kilbrannan House, Bolgarn Street, Campbeltown PA28 6HZ by 5.00pm on Wednesday 5 May 2014.

New applications to vote by post MUST reach the Electoral Registration Officer at the above address by 5.00pm on Wednesday 7 May 2014.

New applications to vote by proxy MUST reach the Electoral Registration Officer at the above address by 5.00pm on Wednesday 14 May 2014.

If as the result of a disability an elector becomes incapacitated or if you cannot attend the polling station because of work reasons after 5.00pm on Wednesday 14 May 2014 an application to vote by proxy MUST reach the Electoral Registration Officer at the above address by 5.00pm on the day of the poll.

For advice on postal or proxy voting contact the Electoral Registration Office 0800 980 0470.

Sally Loudon, Returning Officer, Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead PA31 8RT
31 March 2014
Tel: 01546 603264
Fax: 01546 606874
E-mail: elections@argoyle-bute.gov.uk
Web: www.argoyle-bute.gov.uk/elections

Notes

1. Nomination Packs : Nomination packs may also be downloaded from www.argoyle-bute.gov.uk/elections or obtained (but not lodged) at Municipal Building, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AW.
2. Electoral Register : The deadline for applications to be included in the Register of Electors to be used at the election is Tuesday 6 May 2014.
3. Issue and Delivery of Postal Ballot Papers : Postal ballot papers will be delivered during the week beginning 5 May 2014. Please consider this when deciding whether to vote in person, by post or by proxy. In the event of any delay in the receipt of a postal ballot paper please note that the earliest date an application can be made for the replacement of a lost postal ballot paper is Friday 16 May 2014.

For advice about registering to vote or applying for a postal or proxy vote contact the Electoral Registration Office on 0800 980 0470. For all other enquiries about the election contact the election office on 01546 603264 or e-mail elections@argoyle-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

marine scotland
Regional Fishing Industry Assembly – South West
Friday 11 April 2014 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Mercure Hotel, 201 Ingram Street, Glasgow, G1 1DQ

The Scottish Government is committed to continued engagement with fishermen and others involved in the seafood industry; to listen, share ideas and respond to the issues facing the industry locally and nationally.

Following on from last year's successful Quayside Conversations events, Marine Scotland is holding one of seven Regional Fishing Industry Assemblies in Glasgow on Friday 11 April 2014.

As well as reporting on the actions we have taken to address the key points raised during last year's events, we would like to hear about the issues affecting people day-to-day, and for your views on four issues that will have a major influence on the future prosperity of the Scottish seafood sector:

- The Common Fisheries Policy and implementation of the landing obligation
- Access to quota for active fishermen
- Encouraging new entrants into the industry
- Fishing and the shared marine environment

All of those connected with the local fishing and onshore seafood sector, as well as Local Authorities and non-governmental organisations, are invited to attend. This is your opportunity to put your views on local or national issues directly to Marine Scotland staff and help shape future government policy.

For more information, please send an email to rfa2014@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; or contact Ross Cumming on 0131 244 6214.

CHARLES AND BARBARA TYRE TRUST SCHEME 1979
In implementation of the objects of the above Trust, the Governing Body may, in each financial year, award grants to assist applicants –
(a) to obtain a qualification additional to a qualification of a University or other institute of higher education already obtained.
(b) to train in a trade or profession other than in which they are at present trained.
(c) to undertake a course provided by the Open University for which they have registered.
(d) to undertake training in leadership and initiative.
(e) to benefit from recreative holidays in cases of physical or mental disability.
In accordance with the wishes of the donors, the Governing Body shall:-
(a) satisfy themselves that the applicant is a Protestant, has completed school education, but is not, at the time of award, more than 25 years of age, and is ordinarily resident within the area of the former County of Argyll.
(b) Associate the names of Charles and Barbara Tyre with each award made under the scheme.

Further details and an application form may be obtained online at www.charlesandbarbaratytretrust.org.uk. Completed applications must be received no later than 31 May 2014, and applications received after the closing date will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances. Please note application forms will be accepted before examination results are received.

Clerk to the Governors, Charles and Barbara Tyre Trust, Loch Awe House, Barmore Road, Tarbert, PA29 6TW Tel: 01880 820 277 Fax: 01880 820 722

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 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://www.hightland.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
14/01078/MSC	Land 40M NE of 3 Crossroads, Spean Bridge	Erection of new house

Time period for comments is 14 days.
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: epanning@highland.gov.uk

LOCAL TOURIST MAPS
REGULARLY RESTOCKED THROUGHOUT THE SEASON
The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

IF NOT IN STOCK - ASK!

Available from most retailers and tourist outlets

FREE

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Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING
These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4NW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argoyle-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/02720/PP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land East of Laggan Croft Port Ramsay Isle of Lismore Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Lismore
14/00475/PP	Erection of anemometer mast (80.4 metres high)	Land South East of Blaighour Farmhouse East Lochaweside Dalmally Argyll and Bute PA33 1BW	Sub Post Office Dalmally
14/00494/PP	Erection of Truck MOT Station building	Land South of Unit 1 Lochavullin Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4PL	Oban Area Office
14/00525/PP	Construction of run-of-river hydro electric scheme	Creagan Farm Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4BQ	Sub Post Office Ledaig
14/00547/PP	Erection of 25 dwellings (comprising of 10 houses and 15 flats) (Phase 2)	Land North West of Dunstaffnage Mains Farm Dunbeg Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dunbeg
14/00661/PP	Condition of Variation 2 (encapsulate restriction) to permit holiday letting and reduction in height of 10 metres - relative to planning permission reference 08/01398/DET (retrospective)	Dundonald North Connell Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
14/00680/PP	Erection of 2 dwellinghouses, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North East of Cull Na Sithe Hotel Kilchenan Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
14/00737/PP	Re-application of Part 3 (part removal of wall) of Amendment to planning permission 11/02212/PP - Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of new access (amended design relative to planning permission 10/01564/PP)	Land Adjacent to Talla Lan Isle of Colc Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/00722/LIB	Replacement roof covering from asbestos cement sheeting to coated aluminium	Warehouse 3 Oban Distillery 41 Stafford Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5NH	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 -17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardriagh PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argoyle-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/00705/PP	Erection of extension to form creche	Community Centre Mansfield Place Port Ellen Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7BZ	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
14/00795/PP	Renewal of Planning Permission 09/00139/DET - Erection of dwelling house and installation of sewage treatment plant.	Land South West of British Telecom Telephone Exchange Upper Kilmachan Isle of Colonsay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/00511/LIB	Replace (within existing house) single glazed timber windows with timber sash and case double glazed windows, replace external door to hall. Amend position of windows within new extension, re-location of window to out-house and removal of false chimney as subject of previous listed building consent	Ardvane House Guinart Isle Of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Bridgend
14/00720/PP	Change of use from bike hire/craft shop to hot and cold food take away - retrospective.	The Munchie Box Bowmore Post Office Main Street Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7JH	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>. The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD. 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.

AREA COMMITTEE MEETING
A Meeting of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee will be held in the Corran Halls, Oban At 11.00am - Wednesday 9th April 2014
Members of the public are welcome to attend and a public question time will take place during the meeting. Questions can be asked on the day or can be submitted in advance to the Area Governance Manager, 22 Hill Street, Dunoon PA22 7AP. Telephone: 01369 707134.
The agenda for the meeting will be available to view from Wednesday 2nd April at the Service Point, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW and at www.argoyle-bute.gov.uk.
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director - Customer Services

GOOD VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE
BREEDON AGGREGATES of Ettrickstone Quarry Kinlochrie Monifieth Angus DD5 3RB is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To add an operating consent to keep 6 general vehicles and 2 trailers and to add a further 2 Comer Industrial Estate Fort William PH33 6TL. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, may object to the application. Applications should be submitted to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Traffic Area Hilcrest House 386 Harehills Lane Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice sent to the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office. T40657

R HIRE LTD
On 17 March 2014, a petition was presented to Fort William Sheriff Court by the Advocate General for Scotland for and on behalf of the Commissioners for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs craving the Court inter alia to order that R Hire Ltd, Bernera, Onich, PH33 6SE (registered office) be wound up by the Court and to appoint a liquidator. All parties claiming an interest must lodge Answers with Fort William Sheriff Court, High Street, Fort William within 8 days of intimation, service and advertisement.

J NOONAN, Officer of Revenue & Customs, HM Revenue & Customs, Debt Management & Banking, Enforcement & Insolvency, 20 Haymarket Yards, Edinburgh for Petitioner.
Reference: 1064689 NAS

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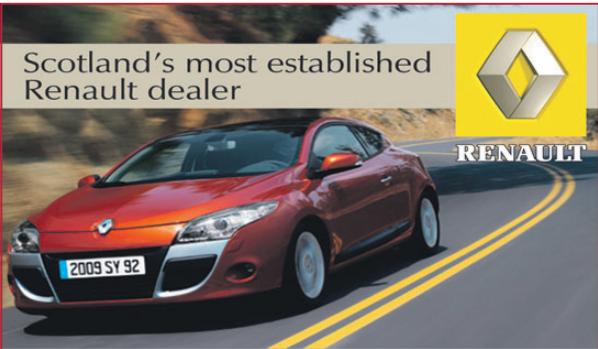
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Servicing your air-con will also help your car smell better. If it smells stale when you turn the heating on, it could well be a sign that mould is building up in your condenser.

Flies will soon be out in force so be sure to refill your washer fluid. Habitually washing the windscreens and headlamps when you stop for fuel is also important, as windscreens wipers won't get rid of all the fly debris.

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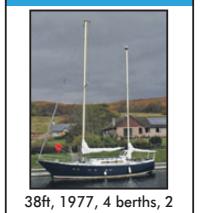


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PERSONAL NOTICES

Golden Wedding

To our parents and grandparents, Calum & Mary MacFarlane. Congratulations on your Golden Wedding Anniversary, 4th April 2014. Have a fantastic day!

All our love

Brian & Elaine, Colin & Catriona, Robyn, Calum, James, Alice and Alistair.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank Mr Tayyem and team and all staff of Ward A, Lorn and Islands Hospital for the care and attention given to me during my recent operation. Also family, friends and neighbours for the flowers and cards I received.

Kind regards, Jessie Scott

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Michael and Sophie got engaged on 1st January

Both families are delighted to announce the recent engagement of Michael and Sophie. Congratulations from all family and friends.

(sample ad - not to scale)

Annie Birthday: 25th January

Look who's all grown up!
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Bob and Lesley are delighted to announce the safe arrival of baby Pauline, a little sister for Susie and Gillian.

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Average farming income in Scotland falls by 34 per cent

THE AVERAGE incomes of Scottish farm businesses fell by 34 per cent to £30,000 in the 2012 accounting year, compared to the previous 12 months.

The latest figures, released by Scotland's chief statistician, examine a number of financial indicators for the 2012 crop year, which suffered from poor growing and harvesting conditions.

The report shows that increased input costs combined with a fall in value of both crop and livestock production and a decrease in the value of grants and subsidies was responsible for the decline in profits.

The value of feed used on Scottish farms drove the increased costs, rising by an average of £6,000, or 19 per cent, to £37,000.

The fall in output value was due to an average £4,000 drop in both the value of crop production other than cereals and potatoes, and in the value of sheep.

Because of unfavourable exchange rates the average value of single farm payments fell by around £2,000 to £38,000 in 2012.

Converting the income estimates to hourly income for unpaid labour - such as farm owners, family members and business partners - shows that the income generated from 43 per cent of businesses wouldn't have made enough to meet the minimum agricultural wage.

This includes the one in five farm

businesses that made a loss, up from one in 10 in 2011.

The figures suggest that some farm businesses rely on other sources of income than from farming alone, including: contracting work; hosting mobile phone masts; provision for tourism and recreation; and financial support from grants and subsidies.

Excluding support from grants and subsidies, the average farm made a loss of £16,000 in 2012.

Incomes fell across all farming sectors with the exception of general cropping businesses which saw a 10 per cent rise in profits from £52,000 in 2011 to £55,000 in 2012.

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Market report

CALEDONIAN Marts sold 511 native bred store cattle at its Spring Show and Sale in Stirling on March 31, which was supported and sponsored by Wm Morrison Supermarket.

The judging was in the hands of Malcolm Kidd, Yewtree, Cheshire.

Aberdeen Angus Bullocks - 92 sold averaged 229p per kilo selling to 263p per kilo for two 235kgs from N Bowser, Argaty, Doune and to £1,120 gross twice for a 535kg from A Taylor, High Crubsdale, Campbeltown and a 560kg from N Bowser.

Aberdeen Angus Heifers - 58 averaged 212p per kg selling to 232p for four 280kgs from N Bowser and to £920 gross for six at 465kgs from Messrs Logan, Gainhill, Fenwick.

Shorthorn Bullocks - 86 averaged 223p per kg selling to 262p per kg for two at 160kgs from G Bannerham, Old Manse, Balmaha and to £1,200 gross for two at 610kgs from D & M Simpson, Langles, Biggar.

Shorthorn Heifers - 36 averaged 188p per kg selling to 211p per kg for one at 330kgs from W & I McGregor, Chesterhall Parks, Wiston, Biggar and to £760 for one at 400kgs from D G Watson, Ardencross, Campbeltown.

Luing Bullocks - 65 averaged 223p per kg selling to 236p per kg for six at 330kgs from J Lawrie (Tillyrie) Ltd, Milnathort and to £1,040 for one at 510kgs from R McNee Ltd, Woodend, Armadeal.

Luing Heifers - 28 averaged 193p per kg selling to 211p per kg for one at 415kgs from R McNee Ltd and to £1,060 for one at 540kgs from C C McArthur & Co, Nunnerie, Elvanfoot.

Highland Bullocks - 90 averaged 166p per kilo selling to 196p per kg for three at 320kgs from Glasgow City Council, Pollock Park and to £1,150 for three from I McKay,

Torloisk, Isle of Mull.

Highland Heifers - 48 averaged 123p per kilo selling to 184p per kilo for two at 380kgs from A & H Kirkpatrick, Strathmore, Glengarnock and to £700 for the same animals.

Other leading prices per head: Shorthorn Bullocks - £1140 Moyrasland; Betty Galloway Bullocks - £1090 Burnfoot; Beef Shorthorn Bullocks - £1,090 Langtees; Highland Bullocks - £1,080 Torloisk;

Aberdeen Angus - £1,080 Portend; Shorthorn Bullocks - £1,080 High Crubsdale.

Leading prices, per Kilo:

Whitebred Shorthorn Bullocks - 262p Old Manse

Aberdeen Angus Bullocks - 250p Ifferdale, 248p Argaty

Beef Shorthorn Bullocks - 238p Wester Drumlochy and Brewsterwell

Luing Bullocks - 236p Tillyrie

Aberdeen Angus Bullocks - 236p Middlepart

Black Polled Bullocks - 234p Low Peninver

Luing Bullocks - 234p Balneathill and Nunnerie

Per head: Beef Shorthorn Heifers - £1100 Moyrasland

Herford Heifers - £900 Gainhill

Luing Heifers - £835 Woodend

Aberdeen Angus Heifers - £820 Muirton

Beef Shorthorn Heifers - £760 Ardencross

Aberdeen Angus Heifers - £750 Middlepart, £710 Argaty

Per Kilo: Aberdeen Angus Heifers - 227p Middlepart

Blue Grey Heifers - 220p Beachmenach

Black Polled Heifers - 215p Argaty

Beef Shorthorn Heifers - 213p Portend and Chesterhall Parks

Simmental Heifers - 210p Kilchamaig.

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Morris finally ploughs his way to Lorn victory



Sisters Kirsty, left, and Isla MacCormick hold the old ploughing match trophy that has survived for more than 80 years.

16_t14girlsplough01

Right: Clydesdale horses were kept at Oban Mart for the first time.

From left: Benny Duncan with Davy and Isobel Duncan with Star, from the Balmoral Clydesdales, Fife, and Michael Mayberry with Poacher and Neil MacPhail with Tommy, from the Skernish Clydesdales, Glenbarr.

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Saints gain all three points with second half fightback

Scottish Amateur League
Premier Division
**Alba Thistle 4
Oban Saints 5**

SAINTS travelled to Seedhill Sports Centre in Paisley to take on Alba Thistle in a Premier Division league match and the Oban side had to stage a remarkable second half fight back to win an exciting encounter by the odd goal in nine - yes nine!

Saints were without several first team regulars for this fixture because of work commitments, injury and suspension.

The playing surface at Seedhill was certainly not the best, being very bumpy and the grass was long in places, but both teams should take some credit for trying to play football on a difficult pitch.

The game got off to a whirlwind start with two goals in the first five minutes, the first for the home side when Saints failed to clear a corner and Adam Kerr was on hand to knock the ball home.

This lead lasted only 60 seconds as the visitors drew level when the Alba defence failed to cope with a long clearance from Daniel Cassells and the ball fell kindly to Ross Maitland who cleverly lobbed Alba net minder Grant Carnachan to make the score 1-1.

It was the home side who were dictating play in the early stages of the game and had Saints pinned back and they took the lead in the 17th minute - again from a corner that wasn't dealt

with by the Saints defence.

The ball fell to Marc Cooper who fired a shot goalwards and although Ross Maitland made a brave attempt to clear the ball off the line referee Andrew Seymour was in an excellent position and deemed the ball had crossed the line and the goal was given - with little protest from the Saints' players.



Donnie Campbell

Allan MacKay stepped up and drilled the ball home.

The second half was going to be the Lewis Cameron show as the youngster teased and tormented the Alba defence for the whole of the second half with some excellent play.

The visitors drew level in the 62nd minute when Allan MacKay volleyed home after some good work from Mattie Rippin, Myles McAuley and Lewis Cameron.

Saints were in control of the game now and took the lead for the first time in the match in the 66th minute when Allan MacKay made progress up the right before crossing a great ball into the box for Donnie Campbell to force the ball home.

The visitors were flooding forward at every opportunity and Thistle have keeper Grant Carnachan to thank for three excellent saves from Donnie Campbell, Allan MacKay and Lewis Cameron.

Donnie Campbell increased the visitors' lead with an attempted cross from 35 yards that completely deceived the goalkeeper with the ball looping over his head and into the net to make the score 3-1 to the home side.

The Oban side were shell-shocked at this scoreline but after a constructive half time team talk they came storming back in the second half and pulled a goal back in the 51st minute when they were awarded a penalty for a hand ball offence in the box.

With the interval approaching Saints lost another bad goal when they failed to get to grips with a corner allowing Owen Fletcher to head home unchallenged to make the half time score 3-1 to the home side.

Allan MacKay should have killed the game off when he was clean through but he shot into the side netting with the goal at his mercy.

With nothing to lose Alba pushed forward and they pulled a goal back through Alan McFadyen which made the last couple of minutes a bit tense on the Saints' touchline, but the team managed to hold out and gain a valuable three points.

Manager Iain Jackson was a relieved man after the game.

He said: 'We gave away three poor goals in the first half which I was not happy about and we will be working on solving these problems at training.'

'Credit to the boys though they rolled their sleeves up and our fitness showed in the second half. We played some good football in the second period and we ran our worthy winners in the end.'

Saints are on their travels again this Saturday when they take on Castlemilk at Castlemilk High School with a 2pm kick-off.



Oban Saints 2003s recently played Partick Thistle in an invitation match at Petershill Park, home of Petershill Junior Football Club.

The Oban boys acquitted themselves well against their SPL opponents. Our photo shows the team along with coaches Gary MacIvor and Ross Barclay.

'Summer' season opens at Tobermory

GOLF

THE SUN shone on Tobermory Golf Club for what seemed like the first time in months, as the 'summer' season's curtain raiser was played for the Jim Laverty Trophy in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

Open to ladies and juniors, along with a senior male team-mate, the trophy was won on March 23 by youngster William MacCrone, along with his partner Mike Campbell.

Scores and results: 1 Mike Campbell and William MacCrone, 68; 2 Lewis Brown and Richard Inglis, 69; 3 Murdo MacLennan and John Weir, 73.5.

The competition was followed by the winter prizegiving: winter fours champions - Graham Davidson and Mike Campbell; winter medal final winner - John Weir; winter eclectic comp winner - Graham Davidson; individual winter medal winners - Donald Brown, Nigel Shannon, Alasdair MacLeod, Richard Inglis and Ewan MacCrone.



William MacCrone and Mike Campbell receive their trophy from club captain Ewan MacCrone.

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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.

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Determination written all over Jamie MacMillan's face as he drives for the line during last Saturday's game between Oban Lorne and Cumbernauld. Photo: Stephen Lawson

Convincing win for Green Machine

RBS West Division 2
**Oban Lorne 52
Cumbernauld 3**

OBAN Lorne keep up the pressure on first placed Garnock with a thumping 52-3 win over Cumbernauld at Glencruitten on Saturday.

The Green Machine boasted a strong squad of 22 players but player-coach Corrie Louw was still absent from the starting line-up.

As has been typical this season, Lorne made a strong start and went ahead after 10 minutes of play.

Some good work from the forwards at a driving maul eventually allowed Crawford Brown space on the right hand side to dive over the line.

The Men in Green were dominating as the game went on but were being undone by some poor decision making in midfield with an overlap over the defence.

Crawford Brown continued his try scoring form by scoring his second shortly before the break. The successful conversion from Finlay Carmichael gave a half time score of 12-3.

With only two minutes to go the Oban Lorne crowd roared the team on for more tries. The vocal support was rewarded with a score from David MacLennan and a last gasp score from Callum MacLachlan, who rounded off the scoring with his hat trick.

Bulky winger

Callum MacLachlan scored his second of the afternoon with 10 minutes to go. The bulky winger could not be matched by the defending backline as he put the game out of Cumbernauld's reach at 38-3.

With only two minutes to go the Oban Lorne crowd roared the team on for more tries. The vocal support was rewarded with a score from David MacLennan and a last gasp score from Callum MacLachlan, who rounded off the scoring with his hat trick.

Louw wanted better from his team in the second half as he knew that Oban had not yet played well in the game.

The South African's words clearly paid off as Lorne completely dominated the second half of the game, scoring a further six tries.

Second half substitute Callum MacLachlan scored with a powerful run from 30 metres out, beating several away defenders in the process, then Andy MacDowell scored a quick double after 50 minutes, the first from a pile-up on the try line and the second as a result of some great passing through the backline to touch down wide.

With Garnock's game against Lomond being called off, Oban Lorne now sit three points behind their championship rivals.

This weekend Oban Lorne travel to Castle Douglas to take on Stewartry, one of only two teams to have defeated Oban in the league.

The Green Machine have improved vastly since that result and boast the best defensive record in the league. A bonus point win in the remaining four games will see Oban win the league.

Oban Lorne 2nd XV took on Islay at Glencruitten on Saturday prior to the 1st XV game.

The 12-a-side game was played out for a 32-12 win for Oban featuring some of the clubs veterans alongside some inexperienced first team players.

It is hoped that this can be the start of a new relationship between the two Argyll clubs and Oban hope to return the fixture before the end of the season.

Etive Vikings win Taynuilt Dalriada

HOSTS Etive Vikings, from Taynuilt, continued their dominance of the Dalriada rugby tournament by winning both age groups.

Mini rugby players from Oban, Mid Argyll, Mull, Lochaber and Taynuilt attended the tournament last Sunday and the hosts ran out as winners at both the P4/5 and P6/7 age groups.

The festival is the second event of 2014 for mini rugby players in the area after the success of the Mid Argyll Dalriada two weeks ago.

The Taynuilt tournament was also the first major rugby event to make use of Taynuilt's fantastic new sports pavilion.

The next event takes place at Lochaber RFC on the weekend May 3 and 4.

Etive Vikings player Louie MacFarlane sidesteps his Mull opponent. His team went on to win the P4/5 tournament.



Liam wins Colonsay Winter League

GOLF

THE TEENAGE greenkeeper at Isle of Colonsay Golf Club has won the club's Winter League after 14 weekly outings in all types of weather.

Liam McNeill, a former pupil of Oban High School, beat competition from his older opponents to finish 10 points clear of the field, having won an impressive seven out of the fourteen outings.

The 17-year-old was born and bred on the island and his family has farmed at Machrins for several generations.

His late grandparents, Alasdair and Eleanor McNeill, were regular Sunday afternoon golfers and Liam's father, Seumas, is also a force to be reckoned with on the links.

His game has improved a lot since last year and his enthusiasm for golf knows no bounds.

Buoyed by his success, Liam is now looking forward to the Colonsay Golf Open, which will take place on Saturday, June 23 on Islay's links at The Machrie.

Colonsay Golf Club Winter League points: 1 L McNeill 31; 2 D Binnie 21; 3 D Bell 16.5; 4 S Weatherstone 15.5.



The top four in this season's Colonsay Golf Club Winter League, from left: Davie Bell, David Binnie, Liam McNeill and Scott Weatherstone.

First place for young Dalmally cyclist

CYCLING

EIGHT-year-old cyclist, Owen Moran, who rides with North Argyll Cycle Club, came first place in a competitive under-10 race last weekend.

The Crit on the Campus, held in the grounds of Stirling University, is the second competitive race that Owen Moran of St Conans Road, Dalmally, has participated in.

For the first few laps, the Dalmally Primary School pupil sat with a group of riders from Edinburgh whilst a cyclist from Stirling broke clear, but Owen showed nerves of steel and waited for three laps before deciding to go in chase of the leader.

Proud dad and cycling coach, Stuart Moran said: 'He did brilliantly. He caught the leader and the two of them worked together for a lap until receiving the one lap to go bell.'



A delighted Owen celebrating his first place victory.

'I could not see what was happening as they disappeared into the Stirling University campus course but a few minutes later, Owen appeared from the technical chicanes onto the home straight incline ahead of the others, and powered up to finish well clear of the chasers.'

Two weeks ago, Owen came third place in his first competitive race at Ingliston Showground and was the youngest to compete in the under-10 category.

Chairman for North Argyll Cycle Club, Nick Charlton said: 'Owen's Crit on the Campus win is a real feather in his cap. If he works at it he will go from strength to strength. The club have talked with British Cycling about forming a youth training squad and if more well motivated young riders emerge we'll move forward with this with funds potentially available from Oban Sportive.'

The young hopeful's next race is the Wallace Warriors Critérium on April 19 in Stirling.



Sutherland and Balliemore Cup matches this weekend

Orion Group Premiership

GLENUROHART are hoping to give a good challenge to last year's Orion Premiership champions Newtonmore at home this weekend.

Coch Billy MacLean said: 'It's definitely going to be difficult, Newtonmore are really strong and they haven't lost a game this season. We've been playing well and we always like to give a good game at the Drum so hopefully that's what we'll do. If we have a full squad I definitely think we'll give a good game and that's what it's all about.'

James MacPherson will be out on injury for at least six weeks after he tore his hamstring while scoring the only goal against Skye in extra time on Saturday.

MacLean added: 'It wasn't the most exciting game then we scored during extra time. Poor James tore his hamstring doing it but we finally got the goal. He had to stretch to score and ended up having to be carried off the pitch straight after.'

Last year's Orion Group Premiership champions NEWTONMORE will be hoping to continue their winning streak when they take on Glenurquhart on Saturday.

The team have yet to lose a game and won't want that to change as they travel to Blairbeg this weekend.

This comes after Newtonmore defeated Strathglass 3-0 at home last week in the first round of the MacTavish Cup.

KINGUSSIE will take on Kyles Athletic on Saturday in the Orion Group Premiership.

Coch Russell Jones is hoping for a home win but is expecting a tough game.

He said: 'It will be difficult, Kyles have been in the top teams over the last few years but we've played really well so far this season so it'll be interesting to see how we've come. It'll be a real test for us but we always want to win our home games so we're hoping for the best.'

Kingussie could be without wing back Robbie MacKeathan as he went over his ankle during the MacTavish cup game against Fort William.

Jones said: 'We're hoping he'll be okay for the weekend but I'll need to see nearer the time. Apart from that we were pleased with the win. It wasn't an easy game but we're delighted to be in the next round.'

KYLES ATHLETIC need to get a result at in-form Kingussie this Saturday if they are to kick-start their league campaign.

Typically an attacking team that defences across the country feared, Kyles have notched just one goal from three league games so far.

When they take to the pitch at The Dell this Saturday it will be three weeks since the Tighmabruach men have swung a caman in anger and they will be desperate to perform well.

INVERARAY'S goal drought continued last Saturday as they

fell to their third straight defeat in as many games this season.

The Royal Burgh have struggled for confidence and form in front of goal, a problem not helped by their pre-season schedule falling victim to the weather.

A 4-0 defeat at Kinlochshiel last Saturday will do nothing to help their cause.

There are small consolations, however, for the Argyll team. All three defeats this season have been away from the Winterton and two of them were against last season's champions and runners up.

A home game against Lochaber this weekend may be Inveraray's best chance at putting points on the board and a goal on the scoring charts.

LOCHABER will be looking for a chance to improve after a disappointing 3-1 defeat from Beuly in the MacTavish cup on Saturday.

The team have only played twice this season and coach Robert Johnstone thinks lack of practise has affected performance.

He said: 'We really haven't had enough match play. No disrespect to Beuly, they played really well and got the win they deserved but we were really rusty.'

This weekend Lochaber will travel to Inveraray and Johnstone hopes a full squad and being able to play last week will help.

He said: 'This will be another difficult game but we're hopeful. Now that we've had that game hopefully we will improve again and start a good run. A lot of teams are struggling with match fitness because of the poor pre-season but hopefully we'll start getting better.'

Orion Group Premiership leaders LOVAT will seek to preserve their 100 per cent record by accounting for Kinlochshiel at Balgate Park.

The Kiltarlity men went on a scoring spree last week in the MacTavish Cup when they knocked in 11 goals without reply against Boleskine.

But 'Shiel will be dangerous opponents after thumping Inveraray 4-0 in the league to notch their first win of the season - a fact of which Lovat coach Allan MacRae is acutely aware.

He said: 'It is always a good game against Kinlochshiel and always very competitive. They got a good result on Saturday at home and their tails will be up but we are prepared for what they will throw at us and we know what to expect.'

They are working well in attack and we will have to be as tight as we can.'

'But we are scoring goals which spreads confidence throughout the team and our defence is very solid. We are just taking each game on its merits and not looking too far ahead. Momentum is good and I have always said getting a good start was vital.'

He added: 'Kilmallie have a bigger squad than last season which makes for good competition for places and means everybody has got to go

SHINTY

out there and play well to stay in the team.'

KINLOCHSHIEL take on Orion Group Premiership leaders Lovat at Kiltarlity buoyed by their 4-0 win over Inveraray at Kirkton.

Gordy MacDonald did not play against Aray and remains a doubt for Saturday with a troublesome knee injury.

However, John Don MacKenzie, who is now working in Glasgow, may be available as coach Colin Fraser looks to build on last weekend's result, which ended a run of three straight defeats.

In fairness, 'Shiel have been playing well and could have taken league points against both Kingussie and Newtonmore - now Fraser is keen to keep momentum going.

He said: 'It was an important win - playing at home made a big difference.'

'We have not been playing badly all season but everything seemed to work out for us on Saturday.'

I'm sure it will be a very hard game against Lovat, but getting our first win got a monkey off our backs. We are not frightened of them and will show them the respect they are due.'

On our day we are more than a match for any team. There will be more pressure on Lovat than there will be on us.'

NATIONAL DIVISION

FORT WILLIAM return to National Division One duty against Beuly after taking Kingussie to extra time in the MacTavish Cup on Saturday.

After a low-key first half the game burst into life when Arran MacPhee opened the scoring on 66 minutes only for Louis Munro to level minutes later.

Kings had the better of things in the extra 30 minutes and scored a deserved winner through Thomas Borthwick but Fort coach Adi Robertson was delighted with this team's showing in what was their first competitive match of the season.

He said: 'If we had just held on to our lead for a little longer I think we might have been alright. I thought both our young wing backs, Jamie Cruickshank and Lewis Smith, did very well.'

The Fort will be missing Neil Robertson, Liam MacIntyre and Duncan Rodger for the Beuly game but itinerant musician Gary Innes could return to play a fine tune at full forward.

Adi said: 'Beuly attack Lochaber in the cup on Saturday so obviously they are no mugs and it will be a tough, tough game.'

But we won't worry about anybody else and should hopefully put a team on the park capable of winning most games.

That will come as the season goes on and we get more match fitness.'

OBAN CAMANACHD manager Gussie Campbell has described this Saturday's visit of Kilmallie in the Marine Harvest National Division as a 'massive game' for both clubs.

Both teams have made winning starts to the season away from home, although Kilmallie have played just one game to Oban's three.

And ahead of Camanachd's first home tie of the season, Campbell said it was the most important game so far.

'At home we need to try and stamp our authority on games,' he said. 'People need to come here and know they'll be in for a good start.'

'Our away record is good but this is just the start of our home campaign, so we need to make our mark.'

Campbell admits Kilmallie will be the sternest test yet of his maturing side.

He added: 'Kilmallie have a great forwardline, they all seem to be able to score. Their movement up front is very good and we need to be wary of that.'

Campbell has a full first team squad to pick from following Ian 'Gussie' Campbell's return from injury.

BALLIEMORE CUP

GLENMARRY are set to play

Aberdour at home on Saturday in the first round of the Balliemore cup.

The teams have never met before so coach Ewen Cameron has no idea what to expect.

KILMALLIE face National Division leaders Oban Camanachd at Mossfield Park in a fixture



Newtonmore's Steven MacDonald and Mike Stokes from Strathglass fight for the ball during the RBS MacTavish Cup tie held at the Eilan last Saturday. Newtonmore won 3-0. Photo: Donald Cameron

that will be a valuable early pointer on the teams' credentials as possible title contenders.

Watertight pitches have meant the Caol men have only played one league game so far while Oban have won all three, giving them the edge in terms of match preparation.

Kilmallie had to work hard to overcome unfancied Inverness 4-2 at Canal Parks on Saturday and will need a sharper performance to return north with the points.

Chairman Hugh MacIntyre said: 'Oban are playing well but last week we were three players short so we are hoping to have a full squad this week.'

'They are getting good results so we have to take our chances and our boys will have to be on their toes.'

He added: 'It's important to get a result and we have to keep winning.'

Kilmallie will be boosted by the return of forwards Michael Rodger and Martin Munro, together with defender Iain Robertson.

BUTE'S uncertainty off the field has started to affect results on it after the first team lost to Oban Celtic, a team a division below them, in the Celtic Cup and the second team was unable to field a side last weekend.

To make things worse, the senior side has been docked two points for failing to fulfil a fixture against Fort William on March 15 and face a player exodus just weeks into the season.

Bute are scheduled to host Glenorchy in the Marine Harvest National Division this Saturday.

GLENMORY travel to take on a struggling Bute as they return to action in the Marine Harvest National Division.

But the Dalmally men say the islanders, who were last week knocked out of the AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup by Oban Celtic, should never be underestimated on their own turf.

Coach John Smith said: 'Celtic can be a good team, so I am not going to read too much into that result last week.'

'Bute also tend to travel with a weaker team but are a different prospect at home where they are always hard to beat.'

The Dalmally men had what looked to be an easy day at the office last week when they went 2-0 up within 15 minutes of their Celtic Cup tie at Strachur: Findlay Ross put his body on the line to clear down a clearance by the Strachur goalkeeper and the ball ricocheted off the forward and into the net and minutes later Duncan Smith added a second.

However, the Cowal men had what looked to be an easy day at the office last week when they went 2-0 up within 15 minutes of their Celtic Cup tie at Strachur: Findlay Ross put his body on the line to clear down a clearance by the Strachur goalkeeper and the ball ricocheted off the forward and into the net and minutes later Duncan Smith added a second.

Glenorchy's second team host Inverness in the second round of the Balliemore cup.

The teams have never met before so coach Ewen Cameron has no idea what to expect.

BALLIEMORE CUP

GLENMARRY are set to play

Aberdour at home on Saturday in the first round of the Balliemore cup.

The teams have never met before so coach Ewen Cameron has no idea what to expect.

KILMALLIE face National Division leaders Oban Camanachd at Mossfield Park in a fixture

Hat-trick hero Liam MacDonald fends off Craig Nicolson to keep possession in Kilmallie's 4-2 MacTavish Cup win against Inverness.



Hat-trick hero Liam MacDonald fends off Craig Nicolson to keep possession in Kilmallie's 4-2 MacTavish Cup win against Inverness.



Fixtures

Saturday 5 April

Orion Group Premiership

Glenurquhart v Newtonmore
Deek Cameron - 12pm
Kingussie Kyles Athletic
Innes Wood
Inveraray v Lochaber
Billy Wotherspoon - 3pm
Lovat v Kinlochshiel
John Angus Gillies - 3pm

Marine Harvest National Division

Beauly v Fort William
Daniel MacRae
Bute v Glenorchy
David Mitchell
Glasgow MA v Caberfeidh
Colin MacDonald
Oban Camanachd v Kilmallie
Ted McDonald - 3pm

The Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup

Newtonmore v Kingussie
Calum Girvan - 12 pm
Inveraray v The Scots
John MacGregor - 12pm
Lovat v Lewis
Robert Morrison - 12pm
Glenorchy v Inverness
Euan Pearson - 1pm
Tayforth v Kyles Athletic
Ewen MacDonald
Caberfeidh v Beauly
John Matheson
Lochside Rovers v Lochaber
Ronnie Campbell - 12pm
Lochroom v Aberdour
Martin MacLean
Strathspey v Strathglass
Andy MacLean - 1.30pm
Ballachulish v Kinlochshiel
Graham Cameron
Oban Celtic v Kilmallie
Robert Baxter
Glenurquhart v Glasgow MA
John Wood - 3pm

Balliemore Cup

Lochcarron v Aberdeen Uni
Archie Ritchie
Glengarry v Aberdour
Ron Kennedy
Taynuilt v Boleskine
Lachie Wood
Skye v Strachur
Ewan MacRae
Kilmory v Inverness
David Stafford
(Throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated)

Women's Camanachd Association

Fixtures Sunday 6 April
Marine Harvest National Division 2
Dunadd v Oban
Strathglass v Ardnamurchan
Lovat v Cowal & Bute

Results

Saturday 29 March

RBS MacTavish Cup

1st Round
Kilmallie 4 - 2 Inverness
Skye Caman 0 - 1 Glenurquhart
(after extra time)
Lochaber 1 - 3 Beauly
Lovat 11- 0 Boleskine
Lochcarron 0 - 5 Caberfeidh
Fort William 1 - 2 Kingussie
(after extra time)
Newtonmore 3 - 0 Strathglass

AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup 1st Round

Kilmory 4 - 1 Ballachulish
Oban Celtic 2 - 1 Bute
Strachur 1 - 3 Glenorchy
Taynuilt 3 - 2 Aberdour

Orion Group Premiership

Kinlochshiel 4 - 0 Inveraray

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Lochside Rovers 1 - 1 Kyles

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Records broken at Sports Hall Athletics final

Newly repaired hall at Atlantis sees 128 young athletes fight it out for the trophies

ATHLETICS

THE CLIMAX to Argyll's indoor athletics season, the Argyll final of Sports Hall Athletics, was held in the newly repaired main hall in Atlantis Leisure, Oban, which saw four new records set.

There was an entry of 128 young athletes at the event, the first to be held in the main hall since the floor was replaced following flooding earlier this year.

The final was the last in a series of five area competitions over the winter months promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club and sponsored by a Communities 2014 Lottery Grant.

The top performance of the day was provided by Molly Reade from Tobermory, who not only won the under-13 contest but she added a full 15cm to her own Argyll age record in the high jump. Molly had set a new record of 1.40metres in the Mull competition in February and it was expected she would improve the record again but the difference was exceptional.

Molly won four events to finish ahead of Erin Downie from



Prizewinners in all age groups at this year's Argyll Final of Sports Hall Athletics, joined by Councillor Roddy McCuish. 16_t14athletics02

16

Murphy from Castlehill School won three events, taking the title ahead of Erin Green and Linzi Shields, both from Dalintober.

Both Erin and Linzi's mothers competed in the under-9s back in 1994 with Erin's mum, Laura, was the first under-9 Argyll champion. Linzi's mum, Leanne, won many Argyll titles at different age groups.

Kirsten Blair from Lochgilphead Primary was the under-9 champion, winning the two-lap race, long jump and high jump clearing 1.05metres. Runner-up Anna Gemmill from Carradale

won the javelin and four-lap race. The girls' under-11 title also came to Mid Argyll with

Jilly Lefebvre from Glassary winning ahead of Martha Payne from Lochgilphead.

Jilly won the four-lap, speed bounce and high jump clearing 1.22metres indicating once again the springy qualities of the new floor. Martha won the two-lap and the javelin with a throw of 16.50metres, which is a new Argyll age record, exceeding the old mark by 25cm.

Isla MacKinnon from Campbeltown won the under-15s contest ahead of another Campbeltown Grammar girl Jenny Semple.

Isla won the speed bounce, long jump and shot putt with Jenny winning in the two-lap

and triple jump. Ben Coates, for Taynuilt with Louie winning the under-9 contest and Daniel the under-11 champion. Louie won four events and was close to the age record in both the two-lap and four-lap races. Louie

also won the javelin and high jump, equaling the age record once again in the latter event. Daniel won four events to finish two points ahead of Alfie Smith from Tayvallich, who won the high jump with a new personal best of 1.40metres. George Pagan, Rockfield primary was under-7 champion with Jacques Coates, Park, runner-up.

Lochgilphead Primary won the girls' schools trophy and Taynuilt Primary won the boys' trophy.

Oban Councillor Roddy McCuish was an interested and impressed spectator and kindly agreed to present the trophies at the end of a long day.

The organisers thanked the competitors and their parents for supporting the competitions this year, which saw a 50 per cent increase in entries from last year.

Scottish Amateur Football League results and fixtures

FOOTBALL

LAST Saturday's results:

Premier Division - Alba Thistle 4, Oban Saints 5; Premier Division One - Rolls Royce East Kilbride v Campbeltown Pupils postponed; Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star 8, Port Glasgow United 3; Port Glasgow 2, Dunoon Athletic 3; Coronation Cup, quarter final - Port Glasgow OBU 1, Tarbert 3.

This Saturday's fixtures:

Premier Division - Castlemlie v Oban Saints; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils v Shawlands; Dunoon v Rutherglen; Premier Division Two - Goldenhill v Dunoon Athletic; Lochgilphead Red Star v Easthall Star. Division 1A - Tarbert v Shawlands 'B'.

Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results:

Clydebank 9, Under 13s 4. On target for Saints were Cameron Hill, Connor Frame (2) and Scot Mossman. Under 14s 2, Kilpatrick 0. Scoring for Saints was Lewis Buchanan with a double; Antonine 8, Under 15s 0; Milngavie 5, Under 17s 3. Saints goalscorers were Innes MacColl, Rhys Cook and Alan Buchanan.

Next week's fixtures:

Helensburgh v Under 13s; Under 14s no game; Under 15s v Milngavie; Under 17s no game.

Glencruitten

GOLF

THE golf season started on Saturday at Glencruitten Golf Club with the Captain's Scramble.

The event was well supported and the winning team was John MacDonald, Lee Askew, Stephen Davidson and Stephen Lockhart with a score of 54 - 4.5 = 49.5.

In second place were David Devine, Kenny Devine, Rab Blair and John Plunkett with a score of 54 - 3.9 = 50.1.

In third place were Sonny Galbraith, John MacCallum and Steven O'Rourke with a score of 57 - 6.3 = 50.7.

The first round of the MacKay Cup is on Saturday with the second round on Sunday. The Captain's Prize will also be played for Sunday.

Taynuilt

LADIES: Two clubs and a putter (9 holes) played Tuesday 25 March - Jill Stewart 12 pts (11); 2 Marleen MacInnes 11 pts (17); 3 Lesley Dawson 10 pts (12).

GENTS: Captain v Vice Captain played Sunday 23 March - Captain 5, Vice Captain 1.

ARC Shield (Stableford) played Sunday 30 March: 1 Robert MacLarty 34 Pts (13); 2 Jim Carmichael 32 pts (09); 3 Mark Grant 31 pts (17).

Islay

RESULT of the Laphroaig Trophy played 30 March - 1 C Stroud 29 pts; 2 D Livingstone 29 pts; 3 J Docherty 28 pts. Ciss 74.

Members wanted

SHOOTING

LORN Clay Target Club is challenging novices to take up the sport by welcoming new faces to its opening day of the season next week.

The club, based at North Connel, will begin the 2014 season on Thursday, April 10 at 7pm.

Practice sessions are held twice a month, and there are competitions with cash prizes taking place most weekends throughout Argyll, the first home fixture being on April 19.

For more information visit the club website on lornclaytarget.com.

Win for Athletic

FOOTBALL

OBAN Athleti travelled to take on Helensburgh in a West of Scotland League match last Saturday and returned home with a 3-1 win under their belts thanks to goals from Kris Gillies, Dean Smith and Lance McCuish.

This Saturday Athletic are away to Antonine.



Oban Saints 2002s pictured with coaches Kenny Campbell, Brian Forgrieve and Peter Bain.

Three out of three for Saints Youths

LAST Saturday Oban Saints 2002s travelled to East King Street Parks in Helensburgh to take part in their first ever games of 11-a-side football as part of the Dumbarton Football Development League. This festival gives the teams the opportunity to prepare themselves for the transition from seven-a-side to 11-a-side as part of the SFA's player pathway.

The team won all three games against strong opposition and learned a great deal from the experience.

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Results Oban Saints 8, Dumbarton United Blacks 2; Oban Saints 2, Dumbarton United Yellows 1; Oban Saints 4, Drumchapel United 0.

Coach Brian Forgrieve commented that all of the coaches were very proud of the team and were very impressed at the quality and teamwork on show throughout the day and were all looking forward to watching the group progress together with Oban Saints over the next few years.

Great conditions for first race of the season for Oban sailors

ELEVEN hardy sailors braved the cold waters of the Sound of Kerrera on March 23 for the first day of the Oban Sailing Club Icicle Dinghy Racing Series.

It was a sensational afternoon of dinghy sailing with blue sky, glittering sea, shining snowy hills, and a keen sailing breeze.

Both races in the fast handicap were won by Steven Forteith and Chris Owen in Steven's RS400 Funky Gibbon. Andrew Chapman in ZZAAP took second place in both races.

Tierney Carter in Top Cat was third followed by John Forbes in Payback.

In the slow handicap Jamie Peden, in one of the new Oban Sailing Club Laser Picos, took first place in both races. Sandy Keys in Banana Split came in second in the first race with Paul Bueching coming in second in the second race.

Club members were delighted to see one of last year's beginner dinghy sailors Duncan Turner

out in a club Topper. There were a good smattering of capsizes - Paul Bueching won that contest.

But Tierney Carter managed to take the finishing line gracefully upside down in the first race.

John Forbes, Sandy Keys and Andrew Chapman all took a dip or two as well. Thomas Smith and Matthew Strachan rigged the Stramash 29er with the help of Stramash sailing instructor Andy Hooton and finally took to the water as the last race finished.

Strong easterly winds made for some exciting sailing for the more experienced Oban Sailing Club dinghy sailors as the erratic gusts hit the bay last weekend.

Seven sailors in four dinghies took to the water.

A capsise before the race started resulted in Steven Forteith and Chris Owen retiring - a water temperature of eight degrees Celsius is pretty chilly

SAILING

without a drysuit or wetsuit.

Andrew and Jamie Chapman in one of the Oban High School RS Fevas retired shortly after the start of the race following a series of capsizes but Thomas Smith and Matthew Strachan again in a high school Feva managed to complete the two laps of the course reasonably upright and take first place in the slow handicap.

Chris Dowd in a full rig laser also completed the first race to come first in the fast handicap.

The second race saw Andrew Chapman back on the water in a Laser Radial.

He took first in the fast handicaps, follow by Chris Dowd. Thomas Smith and Matthew Strachan again came first in the slow handicap class.

If you are interested in joining Oban Sailing Club, visit our website obansailingclub.org for further details.

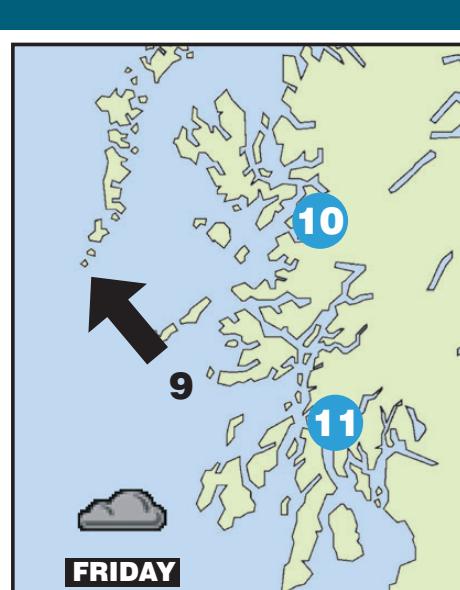
Weather

Thursday Light rain
Winds moderate east south easterly
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C

Friday Cloudy
Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C

Weekend Outlook Light rain
Winds moderate easterly
Temperatures 7°C to 10°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 3, 2014

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 01.58	0.4	14.09
Fri 02.36	0.9	14.47
Sat 03.15	1.3	15.31
Sun 04.01	1.6	16.20
Mon 04.57	1.8	17.18
Tues 06.10	2.0	18.25
Wed 00.51	2.8	14.34

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardriishaig	-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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Man dies in A82 road accident

A MAN died in a road accident on the A82 near Fort William after his car careered down an embankment and crashed into trees at Corrychurachan, around three miles north of the Corran Ferry on Tuesday.

The driver was alone in the car and no other vehicles were involved in the accident, which happened around 1.15pm.

The trunk road was closed for almost six hours and traffic backed up on both sides of the Corran Ferry as drivers sought an alternative route. On the Ardour side, the tailback stretched five miles north to Treslaid.

No official diversions were put in place and those travelling to the Glasgow area had to take the A9 via Perth, adding more than 160 miles to the journey.

A police spokesperson said: 'Emergency services were called to a serious road traffic collision involving a car on the A82, about four miles south of Fort William. The man driving the car received serious injuries and has sadly died as a result of the collision.'

Fire service staff from Fort William used cutting equipment to extricate the body and were at the scene for several hours.

The accident is the latest of several at the location recently. In January a woman and two teenage girls were taken to hospital when their car went down the embankment and overturned.

And in December a Glencoe couple were both injured when their car spun off the road after exiting a bend.

Transport Scotland told *The Oban Times* an investigation on the stretch of road would be carried out.

Drink driver fined and banned

A BALLACHULISH man has been fined £500 and banned from driving for a year for being almost double the legal alcohol limit behind the wheel.

George Knox, of Burnsides Cottage earlier admitted driving on the A82 North Road in Fort William while over the limit on February 21.

Defending solicitor Clare Russell told Fort William Sheriff Court the 44-year-old regretted the incident. Sheriff Richard Davidson told Knox: 'It must have been clear to you that you were unfit to drive.'

West Lochaber residents unite in bid to abolish ferry fares



FC Corran campaigners make their point on the Nether Lochaber slipway. 20_f14ferry03

Community campaigners demand free crossing

MORAG MacKintosh, whose father put on the first ferry in 1934, the year she was born, cut the ribbon on 'A825' to launch the campaign on the Nether Lochaber side.

She said: 'I don't want a bridge - it would spoil Ardour completely. But the fares are totally excessive for a rural community such as ours and an idea would be for a free

crossing.' Campaigner Robert Dunn from Strontian said: 'It must be the most expensive ferry in the world at almost £2 for every 100 metres. If there is a dearer one anywhere else I would like to know about it.'

Councillor Andrew Baxter said: We are hoping this will prompt Highland Council to take this matter seriously. At the moment they are ignoring local opinion

WEST Lochaber communities served by the Corran Ferry joined forces on Tuesday morning to launch a united campaign to abolish fares on the crossing.

In driving rain, placard-waving protesters were greeted with toots and thumbs-up from motorists on the ferry slipways on the day prices rose for the third time in a year.

Members of the newly-formed FC Corran (Free Crossing for Corran) cut a ribbon on the A825 - a fictional underwater road between Loch Linnhe and the Corran Ferry.

'This is the first time in my 20 years on the community council that all five community councils have been united on something - and that speaks volumes.'

The latest price rise takes the standard fare for a car to £7.90 - almost £2 per 100 metres on the 480-metre journey - while a book of 30 tickets has risen 25 per cent to £70 in 12 months.

Five community councils - Ardour, Achuarach, West Ardnamurchan, Sunart and Morvern - formed FC Corran to

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

demand the route be treated the same way Scotland's toll-free bridges.

West Ardnamurchan chairperson Rosie Curtis told *The Oban Times* on the Nether Lochaber slipway: 'We have to make Highland Council wake up and smell the coffee.'

'Three rises in a year? You may as well put a closed sign up on the peninsulas. It's hard enough living in our communities without making people pay the price of the ferry.'

'This is the first time in my 20 years on the community council that all five community councils have been united on something - and that speaks volumes.'

'Hopefully this is the start of free crossings and an investigation into a bridge or a tunnel in the longer term.'

'People are not going to be able to keep running their businesses if prices keep going up. Nobody pays to go across to Skye over the bridge. Enough is enough - the

gloves are off.' The campaign has won huge support already with almost 1,200 'likes' on the FC Corran Facebook page since the launch.

FC Corran interim convener, Ardgour Community Council chairman Tony Boyd, told *The Oban Times*: 'This is a great turnout considering the weather. We want to make a protest against these continual rises in fares. All the bridge crossings in Scotland are free - why should ours not be the same?'

'We will keep this campaign going and take it to the Scottish Government and the European courts. Article 174 of the Lisbon Treaty states that areas of rural deprivation and geographical remoteness should not be treated unfairly.'

'We think we have possible grounds for legal complaint - almost £16 return on a 500-metre crossing is ridiculous.'

He added: 'The 25 per cent average price rise in ferry fares in the past year is more than our communities and businesses can withstand.'



Sabhal Mor Ostaig students Caitlin Ferguson, 19, from Kilchoan, and 20 year-old Katie MacPhee, from Acharacle, get the message across. 20_f14ferry02

Increase needed says council

HIGHLAND Council says fare increases are needed to plug a £173,000 shortfall between income from fares and the £1.3 million cost of running the service annually.

A spokesperson said: 'This is a ferry which has the second highest carryings of any ferry in Scotland and where the ferry has broken even historically.'

The council is endeavouring to recover the break even position and is consulting widely with the public in

developing a fare strategy. 'The increase for the two year period from April 2012 to April 2014 for a standard single car crossing is 12.8 per cent - a 90 per cent increase.'

Concessionary

'The equivalent increase for a concessionary crossing is 24.8 per cent - a 46p increase.'

The concessionary fare offers a 70 per cent reduction over the standard fare and is the highest percentage reduction of any concessionary ferry fare in

Scotland and is exceptionally good value.'

'It should be noted, however, that the actual level of increase is less for a concessionary fare than for a standard fare. The Council recently asked independent consultants to carry out an socio-economic study of fare levels which is currently out to community consultation.'

The community services committee is due to consider a new fares regime at its meeting next month.

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Spean teacher Betty's games baton delight

A SPEAN Bridge primary school teacher and sports instructor is among hundreds of people picked to carry the Queen's Commonwealth Games Baton through the Highlands this summer.

Betty MacLachlan, 60, has coached children in many sports in her 40-year teaching career, which began at Caol Primary School in 1974. After four years at Caol, Betty spent 22 years at Kilmonivag Primary until it was replaced by the current Spean Bridge Primary School, where she has taught ever since.

Betty said: 'It was a long time ago when the teachers said some of the parents wanted to nominate me. I thought that was very kind of them but thought nothing more about it, but I am delighted.'

Betty will carry the baton a short distance before passing it on to the next bearer in Scotland-wide community celebrations along the route.

On Saturday July 12 the relay will be at



Betty MacLachlan was the pupils' choice to be a baton bearer.

Inverness Castle to start the journey south with visits to Drumnadrochit, Fort Augustus, Spean Bridge and Fort William. The final event will be in Lochaber Leisure Centre before the hand-over of the baton to Argyll. Betty said: 'I think the reason I was nominated was because I was always

doing after school sports clubs.' She added: 'The kids said they will give me a push if I get stuck - but I'm fit enough to do 200 metres.'

Six-time Olympic biathlete Mike Dixon, originally from Ardgour, will also carry the baton. See baton bearers chosen, page 15.

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Man ordered to carry out unpaid work

A FORT William man has been placed under a supervision order and told to carry out unpaid work in the community after threatening two pub employees and holding a lit cigarette to one of their faces.

William Wallace of 39 Kennedy Road admitted the charge at a previous hearing in Fort William Sheriff Court but sentencing was deferred until Tuesday for a social work report.

The 27-year-old was asked to leave The Crofter on the night of 29 December last year.

Before issuing the 150 hours of unpaid work Sheriff Richard Davidson said: 'It was a completely unacceptable and ugly thing to do. You're supposed to grow out of these things by the age that you have got to.'

Pushing and kicking charge denied

A FORT William man has denied pushing a man and kicking him on the head.

Sean Hutton of 3 Mossfield Apartments, Lochcylive, pled not guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday to shouting, swearing and assault in Lismore Road, Kinlochleven, on March 3 last year.

The 22-year-old pled guilty to breaking a car window on the same day.

The case continues to trial on May 2. Sentence was deferred on the admitted charge until then.

Verbal abuse trial date set

A CAOL man will stand trial accused of verbally abusing a store employee and customer after denying the charge at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Martin Lawrie, of 22 Glenpane Street, also denies struggling with two police officers during the same alleged incident in the Co-operative, Caol on December 29 last year.

The 25-year-old will stand trial in Fort William Sheriff Court on April 28.

Record-breaking rainfall in Arisaig

RAINFALL in Arisaig was 158mm - over six inches - the highest recorded for the month this century, reports local amateur meteorologist Ranald Coyme.

Average daily minimum temperature was 4.6C and the maximum 10.6C - both well above the norm.

Coldest night was 1C and the warmest day 20C, both higher than average.

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Gordon Napier, left, with Gary Lewis who will star in his latest short film.

Scottish actor tips Banavie film director for big screen success

A LOCHABER film director is set to go far in the movie business, according to an award-winning Scottish actor.

Gordon Napier from Banavie will shoot a short film on Lewis later this month about a struggling lobsterman played by Gary Lewis, whose film credits include hard-man roles in Billy Elliot and Gangs of New York.

And Lewis, 55, who will play the leading role in Gordon's film 'Tide', says the 30-year-old has the talent, commitment and determination to make his mark.

The pair have already worked together and the new film could herald a long working relationship.

Mr Lewis said: 'The first time I worked with Gordon I saw how committed he is to filmmaking. I liked what he had planned but what I really like about him is he is constantly developing

his ideas and adapting to circumstances.'

You can have an idea in your head then go on location and it gets turned upside down. Gordon is constantly improving and developing his work and I think that's a very admirable quality.'

Mr Napier, 30, has written and will direct 'Tide' as part of his Masters in film directing at Edinburgh College of Art.

He said: 'From a very young age I was really interested in film but I always thought it would be something I would enjoy from afar rather than make a career out of.'

I started working in sales in Edinburgh then I ended up doing a small charity film in the Mongolian desert.'

'It was when I was there I realised sales really wasn't the career for me, I suddenly felt I was doing something that really

motivated me and I wanted to keep doing it.'

Mr Napier and his crew will be filming on Lewis from April 21-28 and thinks the island is the perfect setting for the movie.

He said: 'I was researching people who make their living from the land and the sea when I came across an article about lobster fishing on Lewis.'

'Then I was talking to someone I know from Lewis and hearing her stories. Now I can't think of anywhere better to shoot, they're so passionate about what they do and the sea is such a big part of their life.'

Mr Napier has big ideas about his film - but as a student funding is tight so he and his crew are appealing for help in exchange for perks such as a download or DVD of the film and products signed by Mr Lewis.

He added: 'The film will go ahead either way but how much

funding we have will really impact the quality. There's so many things I would like to do but there are some costs that are unavoidable like food and accommodation for the crew.'

'Caledonian MacBrayne offered sponsorship so the cast, crew and vehicles get free passage when we go to Lewis for filming. That's made a massive difference but any contribution at all is appreciated.'

A CalMac spokesman said: 'Many visitors have had their first introduction to the area we service, and have been inspired to travel there, by a movie or short film set in the Highlands and Islands. We applaud the filmmakers' decision to feature locations in the Western Isles in this movie and look forward to seeing the final version.'

To find out more about Tide or to donate go to <http://ig.me/tide>.

He said: 'To aim a motor vehicle at another human being deliberately is dangerous, the consequences of which must be obvious and it is an act which has the potential to cause great injury.'

Mr Rybacki told the court

he was 'terrified' during the incident, which broke out after an argument about a personal matter.

He said: 'She pressed on the accelerator and wanted to knock me over. It was forward, back, forward, back then I ran. I was terrified.'

Ms Szumok then said: 'She

wanted to run him over, he tried to get away three times and she tried to run him over three times. She accelerated and tried to hit my car, I was terrified.'

George Russell said he saw the Audi being driven at Mr Rybacki from his flat window. He told the court: 'I heard raised voices, that's what made me look out. He started moving away and the car moved as if it was trying to go towards him two or three times. He moved behind a car so it couldn't hit him then the Audi drove towards another car.'

Rybacki took to the stand and claimed the movements had been because she was upset and was trying to drive with the handbrake on.

She said: 'I was scared because he was insulting me before, I tried to drive off, my car jerked because the handbrake was on. After I had to drive forward and turn to be able to reverse and leave the car park. The car moved very quickly and I was very nervous.'

Sentencing was deferred until April 29 for a social work report.

Hairdresser tried to knock down ex-husband

Fort William woman found guilty of dangerous driving

A FORT William hairdresser tried to knock down her ex-husband in a town car park and drove at his girlfriend's car while she was inside.

Anna Rybacki, of 9 Angus Crescent, was found guilty of dangerous driving on Monday when Fort William Sheriff Court heard she repeatedly drove towards Gregor Rybacki at Viewforth car park on February 5.

Mr Rybacki had to run out of the path of the Audi A6 and hide behind another vehicle before the 35 year-old drove her car at his new partner Edyta Szumok's Volkswagen Passat, stopping around two feet away.

Rybacki denied the charge but after hearing evidence from the victims and an eye witness Sheriff Richard Davidson found her guilty.

He said: 'To aim a motor vehicle at another human being deliberately is dangerous, the consequences of which must be obvious and it is an act which has the potential to cause great injury.'

Mr Rybacki told the court

he was 'terrified' during the incident, which broke out after an argument about a personal matter.

He said: 'She pressed on the accelerator and wanted to knock me over. It was forward, back, forward, back then I ran. I was terrified.'

Ms Szumok then said: 'She

is expected to take two days. Three local girls will take turns as coxswain.

The row could be made in May or June when fair weather is most likely.

Once the green light is given, 22 people, including the back-up team, will sail to St Kilda on support vessels the Broadford-registered fishing boat Dunan Star II and Portree cabin cruiser the Aimee-Louise.

The skiff will be lashed to the fishing boat's foredeck on the way out before being lowered into the water off St Kilda for the long row back home.

The boat was restored to its former glory by Iain MacLean at Waterloo near Broadford.



Aaron Morrison from Kyle admires sign-writer Hughie Davidson painting on the name he chose for the Row St Kilda to Skye boat.

Doctor issues warning to be on guard against ticks after several people treated for Lyme Disease

A FORT William doctor has warned outdoor enthusiasts and workers to be on their guard against ticks after several people were treated for Lyme Disease.

Dr Jim Douglas, a GP with the Tweeddale Practice, said a number of patients had been prescribed antibiotics for the illness in the past two weeks.

Cases so early in spring are rare and are believed to be linked to a lack of recent hard frosts to deter the insects.

The Oban Times approached the practice after being informed by local sources that three people, believed to be from south Lochaber, had sought medical help after being bitten by ticks.

Dr Douglas was unable to confirm that because of patient confidentiality but said the public could take simple steps to minimise risks while continuing to enjoy outdoor activities.

He told The Oban Times: 'Local doctors have noticed that ticks have been active a lot earlier this year,

possibly because of the mild winter. It is unusual to see these cases just now - normally it is much later, in May or June.'

'We don't want everybody spooked that there is some terrible problem out there. I don't want mass panic because it's not justified.'

'Lochaber is not any worse than anywhere else in Scotland and I want people to actively enjoy the countryside because that's good for people's health.'

'There are far more benefits from people enjoying the outdoors than not doing so because a few are getting bitten.'

Dr Douglas said wearing long trousers and tucking them into boots could prevent ticks getting onto clothing.

He also advised keeping tick removal tools in first aid kits at home, in hotels or at workplaces because the sooner the insects were plucked from the skin, the better.

He said: 'A tick removal device is essential - if you use tweezers to get tick out all you are doing is spurring

the germ into the bloodstream and that can cause the problems.'

'We also want to make sure that people don't resort to folk remedies such as burning them off with cigarettes or using Vaseline.'

'Everyone should be aware of the risks - much in the same way as with avalanche risks. If people use the countryside for recreation stick to paths rather than venture into the undergrowth, you are unlikely to get a problem.'

Dr Douglas said only 10 per cent of ticks carry 'the bad germ' and just because people have been bitten by a tick did not mean they would get Lyme Disease.

He added: 'If you start developing a rash where the tick was about a week later you then need a course of antibiotics from a GP, which clears it. It is not a panic emergency situation but you should seek advice.'

Lyme Disease is easily eliminated by drugs but if left untreated later symptoms may involve the joints, heart and central nervous system.



Dr Jim Douglas: early appearance of ticks should not stop people enjoying the great outdoors.

Trio deny debit card theft

THREE women from Fort William have denied stealing a debit card and using it to withdraw money from an cash machine numerous times.

Rhianydd Strang of 9 Argyll Terrace, and Janice Duncan and Hayley Duncan of 2 Iona Court, are accused of stealing a Bank of Scotland debit card and PIN number and using them to withdraw cash from the ATM at Spar, Grange Road, Fort William, on seven occasions between December 5, 2012 and January 7, 2013.

Details

Janice Duncan and her daughter Hayley are also accused of fraudulently using a man's personal details to buy goods online worth over £2,000 between January 27 2012 and 27 March 2012. The pair also deny attempting to place an online order worth £3,543 on January 28, 2012.

The three pled not guilty to all charges. A further hearing will be heard in Fort William Sheriff Court on April 29.

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Mountain trust beats off strong competition to land path cash

A MOUNTAIN in the Cuillins on Skye has beaten off strong competition from five other short-listed peaks in Asia, Latin America and Europe to land £24,000 for path repairs.

Bla Bheinn came top in an online poll organised by the European Outdoor Conservation Organisation (EOCA).

The charity which manages the mountain, the John Muir Trust, will now launch a £50,000 path restoration project, having already secured match funding.

The money will be used to employ local contractors, purchase materials and work with volunteers.

The high number of visitors to Bla Bheinn

together with high rainfall has caused serious erosion over the years.

Trust footpath manager Chris Goodman said: 'This is great news.'

'We were up against tough international competition from mountain projects in the Himalayas, Spain, Patagonia and the Lake District and took 30 per cent of the online votes.'

'This windfall means we can swiftly start work on repairing the scar that has opened up on the hillside.'

He added: 'We'd like thank all those who voted for us, and Berghaus for nominating this project.'

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Rise in number of under-age drinkers

MORE 15-year-olds in Argyll and Bute are drinking alcohol when compared with figures from 2006, with the average of those having their first drink at just 12.

A report by the Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) from 2010 shows a general rise in underage drinking among teenagers.

However, statistics for those smoking and taking drugs had fallen.

In the survey, backed by the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland, 45 per cent of 15-year-olds surveyed said they had drunk alcohol in the week prior to the survey.

Although there has been no significant change in the number of 13-year-olds drinking alcohol, the percentage of both age groups who have ever had an alcoholic drink is higher than the national average.

Oban South and the Isles Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'The figures speak for themselves. The fact the average age of those who took their first alcoholic drink is 12 must set alarm bells ringing for every parent in Argyll and Bute.'

'I maintain that minimum pricing on alcohol is by no means the silver bullet to this issue but is at least a step in the right direction.'

Drug raid

TWO FISH farm workers have been reported to the procurator fiscal for growing cannabis plants in their home in Oban.

The house was raided by police officers on Sunday and the plants were discovered in a cupboard within the house.

Dog owners warned over sheep worrying

A WARNING has been issued by the National Farmer's Union Scotland (NFUS) following a number of attacks on livestock by dogs throughout the country, including an incident at a farm in Appin last Thursday.

Sheep worrying is a growing concern for farmers who fear their sheep becoming distressed, hurt or killed by dogs during the crucial lambing season.

The NFUS and Police Scotland are reminding dog owners to keep dogs under control at this time of year.



No country for old men at ploughing match

Young tractor enthusiasts, from left, Kai MacKenzie, Alexander Macdonald and Donnie MacCorquodale, look like seasoned veterans at last weekend's Lorn Vintage Ploughing Match as they examine one of the classic models on show. Although the majority of those taking part in the ploughing were of a more 'mature' nature, these youngsters proved there is a need to keep the traditional ploughing match alive. Photograph by Bob McCulloch.

Reunion hopes of jailed seaman's girlfriend

THE GIRLFRIEND of jailed seaman Billy Irving is confident she will be able to greet him outside of a prison cell this weekend after he was granted bail.

Yvonne MacHugh hopes to fly out to India's Puzhal Prison in Chennai today (Thursday), where Billy has been locked up since October last year.

The 33-year-old Connel man, who has now been away from

home for 10 months, is among the 35-strong crew of an anti-piracy ship being held on weapons charges.

Last Wednesday an Indian court granted bail to all but one of the six arrested British crew members but until now the ship's company, the US-based Advant-Fort, had been unable to find the required number of Indian nationals to give surety on the

crew's release from prison.

Yvonne said on Tuesday: 'I'm packing my bags just now in the hope I can catch a flight soon. It will just be great to see him again because it's killing me being away from him.'

'We have heard so many things about when they can be released and I just hope to God this time it is for real.'

Billy, a former soldier, was

working on the MV Seaman Board Ohio to protect commercial shipping in the Indian Ocean when he and other crew members were arrested.

Alan Reid, MP for Argyll and Bute, went to Downing Street

last month with Yvonne and relatives of the other British men imprisoned to hand in a petition with more than 140,000 signatures.

Dunbeg man jailed for sex offences

TO SHOUTS of abuse from the public gallery, a 64-year-old man was taken from the dock at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday to begin two-and-a-half years in jail for sex crimes.

When Stanley Jeffrey, of 49 Lorn Road, Dunbeg, is eventually released from prison he will be on the sex offenders' register, serve an extended 15 months on licence and the offences happened at locations in the Lorn area between January 1 2003 and December 6 2010.

The young girl, Sheriff Small

added, 'spoke of crying herself to sleep at night and not being able to have a social life; she spoke of her life going down hill.'

Prison

Stephen Macleod, Jeffrey's defence agent, said his client 'was under no illusion' that he was facing prison and he pointed to the report on Jeffrey showing his likelihood of re-offending to be low or moderate.

In passing sentence, Sheriff Small said: 'I have considered with care the report, which

makes it plain you are not a well man; not notwithstanding that, because of the nature of these offences and because of the position of extreme trust you were in, a custodial sentence is the only sentence I can impose.'

The sex offenders' register entry will run indefinitely and the sexual offences prevention order which prohibits him from being alone in a dwelling with an under-16 unless supervised will run for five years from his release from prison.

Parents' plea to drivers to slow down near schools

Pupil knocked down near campus

DESPERATE parents are urging public authorities to do more to protect children near schools after a young girl was knocked down on Oban's McCraig Road.

The seven-year-old girl suffered minor injuries when she was hit by a car close to Oban Primary Campus last Friday as the schools were emptying at 3.45pm.

Parents at Oban Primary

Campus have been handing out leaflets warning motorists to take care around the school grounds and Oban Police Inspector Julie McLeish has

warned enforcement action will be taken against drivers parking irresponsibly at the campus.

Meanwhile, exasperated

parents of children at Kilniver Primary School have described the A816 as 'terrifying' and have considered drastic measures,

including using hairdryers as pretend speed guns and leaving dummies with high-visibility

jackets by the roadside, to try

and slow traffic.

Oban community police officer, PC Jeremy Moore, told Oban Community Council on Monday: 'It seems the primary school signs are out of sync; I've seen the Barcaldine ones go off in the middle of the night. You get driver complacency if they see them on all the time.'

An Argyll and Bute council spokeswoman said the 20mph speed limit signs at Kilniver had been working until two weeks ago when a fault developed and that a new control pillar was scheduled to be installed during May.

Parents at Kilniver, however, claim the lights have not been working properly for months.

Oban and North Lorn councillor Louise Glen Lee has called for a review of all traffic calming measures outside schools.

She said: 'It is vitally important that any measure put in place to slow down traffic outside schools is in full working order. I know of a few in Oban, Lorn and the Isles that have been faulty or not working properly for some time but I am aware that council staff are working to have them fixed.'

'It is a child's human right to have a safe route to school and we must make sure the council is doing everything possible to make the route safe.'

'But we as a community also have a responsibility to drive cautiously and slowly around our schools.'

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Caol primary pupils on song at station

Fort William railway station was the unusual venue last week for a spot of singing. Caol Primary School added a bit of atmosphere to a cheque presentation by ScotRail at the station. t13twenty02



Mid Argyll Music Festival

Above: More than 3,000 children added up to a record entry for this year's Mid Argyll Music Festival in Lochgilphead last week. The winner of the WR Hunter Trophy for Under 14s Brass, Kenneth Ralston, of Campbeltown, is pictured with his tuba. t13twenty06

Golfers aim for Scots title

Left: Sporting stardom could be just around the corner for golfers Scott Brown and Stewart MacKenzie of Glencruitten Golf Club, Oban, who will be taking part in the Mobil Scottish Boys Golf Championship at Dunbar Golf Club from April 4-9. t13twenty04



Young musicians of the year

Young musicians of the Year, cornet player Philip Cardwell and piper Diane Fraser, exchange instruments after winning their awards. t13twenty05

Easter Bunny hops in to help

Right: Helping Easter Bunny choose the 12 West Highlands and Islands of Argyll Tourist Board members to win one year's free board membership were primary five pupils from Oban's Rockfield School. t13twenty01



Plockton take badminton title

Plockton Badminton Team won the South West Ross Badminton League for the second year running. The unbeatable ladies and gents beat five teams and played eight games to claim the Meldrum Trophy. t13twenty03



Lorn Lines



Earth Hour switch-off at Park

Environmentally-friendly pupils at Park Primary School switched off all the lights in the school on March 28 for one hour in support of WWF's Earth Hour. The children dressed up in bright, shiny clothes and are going to ask their families to switch off the lights for one hour at home to highlight how much energy they use.

□□□

THE COMING of spring was celebrated by Oban SWRI with a flower arranging demonstration by Karen Mackie.

In preparation for the big show on April 19, Karen demonstrated arrangements in a basket, and how to comply with show rules and avoid mishaps.

Karen went on to demonstrate a small arrangement in an egg cup, with tips on how to keep an arrangement in top condition and to impress the judges.

□□□

PRESIDENT Linda MacLeod was pleased to welcome two visitors to the March meeting of Appin SWRI in Port Appin Hall.

The speaker for the evening was Sue Chandney of the Citizens Advice Bureau, Fort William, who was accompanied by Chris Strong, one of the volunteer workers.

After a brief history of the Citizens Advice Bureau, Sue gave members an interesting insight into the work of today's branches.

Volunteers, who make up 80 per cent of the staff, undergo four to six months of training and are there to give help and advice, benefits, debt, housing, relationships and much more.

Jessie MacKenzie gave Sue and Chris a hearty vote of thanks for a most informative evening.

Competition results

Three cheese scones - Gold - Jean Breckenridge, Alison MacCorquodale; Silver - Ellen MacCorquodale, Helen Currie; Red - Chrissie Malone, Margaret Massey, Jessie MacKenzie, Barbara Carmichael, Myra MacDougall.

Hair ornament, fine crochet - Gold - Brenda MacLeod.

Mrs Ross's Competition was won by Barbara Carmichael.

Pupils keep the cash coming

A GROUP of kind-hearted pupils from Oban High School brought their fundraising efforts towards the £4,000 mark this year with their latest event.

The sixth year pupils' fundraising committee collected £292.64 last week from a soup lunch last Friday in the school's assembly hall.

This most recent fundraiser was in aid of Sports Relief and drew in crowds from all years of the school.

Diarmaid clan captain Jenny Fothergill, who helped organise the lunch, said: 'The event was a great success and we raised

a great amount of money for a really worthwhile charity. I've really enjoyed being part of the fundraising committee, we've raised nearly £4,000 pound throughout the year for various charities.'

Last Friday pupils and staff were offered a choice of four soups made by the committee, a roll, a cup of fruit salad and juice for the nominal fee of £2.

The committee have been holding various events like cake bakes and lunches all year to raise money for different charities and will continue to do so up until this year's exams.

Ship shape Oban cadets delighted at photo gift

AN OBAN Times photograph of two famous Oban-based ships from yesteryear has been presented to the town's ever-expanding unit of sea cadets.

The picture of Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) ships *NLV Pharos* and *NLV Hesperus* rafted together in Oban was published in *The Oban Times*' Flashback section on March 20 and caught the imaginations of the youngsters, who have now hung the picture in their cadet hall at the Red Cross Centre.

The Oban unit's affiliated ship is the *NLV Pharos* and cadets visit the most modern version - the tenth ship to have the name - on a regular basis. *Hesperus* is also the name for one of the cadets' two divisions, the other being *Fingal*.

The group is seeing a membership boom of late with 23 cadets, a number that has been steadily increasing since the group was reformed by commanding officer Lieutenant Ewan McCuish RNR in 2008.

Lieutenant McCuish said: 'The

NLB has been very supportive of us and the ships in the photograph are very important to this unit, so it was great to see the picture of the two ships together in Oban.

The photo is of them fully dressed, with flags from mast to mast, so it must have been a special occasion.

It is unusual to see both ships dressed and alongside each other in Oban, so it could have been a Royal wedding or birth?

The unit will take delivery this Saturday of a new training RIB to help with their water-based activities.

As well as drills and learning about seamanship and naval history, the sea cadets take part in weekly activities such as kayaking, rowing, diving, power-boating and windsurfing.

During the first week in June, 12 cadets and three adult helpers will join the offshore training ship, the *TS Jack Petchey*, for week-long patrols around the French coastline and Channel Islands.

The Oban contingent will join the ship in St Malo, Brittany.

Care complaints prompt offer of support

COMPLAINTS highlighted by *The Oban Times* about palliative care at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban have prompted Argyll's patient adviser to offer assistance.

Claudia Albrecht, patient adviser for Argyll and Bute, runs a support service through the area's Citizen's Advice Bureau.

In a letter to *The Oban Times* she said: 'I have noted with interest and concern the recent news stories and related letters that have appeared in relation to palliative care in Argyll. Because of this, I wanted to write to you to let your readers know about a Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) service called the Patient Advice and Support Service (PASS).

'This is an independent service which provides free, accessible and confidential information, advice and support to patients, their carers and families about NHS health-care.'

PASS gives advice, takes feedback on hos-

pital services and explores patients' rights and responsibilities.

Since it was established in 2012, the service has helped more than 3,500 clients.

Ms Albrecht added: 'I would encourage anybody who has a health related issue and needs some help or advice regarding their rights and responsibilities to get in touch.'

People who wish to speak to a PASS adviser can phone 08456 123 808 or visit the CAB website for more details.

Calls for an enquiry into palliative care at the hospital came after NHS Highland apologised for leaving Oban woman Mabel Braibwood 'screaming in agony' for days after medics failed to properly manage painkilling drugs during her battle with pancreatic cancer last year. Scott Clark McGregor, meanwhile, said poor treatment by staff left his father, Peter Clark, 'fighting for his life' during his time at the hospital.

Island joy and council warning after Islay Array plan collapse

THE DECISION by Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) to cease plans for an offshore wind farm development off Islay has been criticised by islanders.

But, coming just months after ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) dropped plans for the Argyll Array, off Tiree, Argyll and Bute Council's deputy leader admitted last week's decision could undermine local authority intentions to exploit the area's renewable energy potential.

SSE had proposed to develop a 690MW wind farm off the coast of Portnahaven, Islay, but last week announced it would not be investing further in the project in the foreseeable future.

The company highlighted two 'hurdles' projects had to overcome: cost and the Levy Control Framework, which aims to control costs to customers from

government energy policies and therefore gives limited support for offshore wind.

Argyll and Bute Council's deputy leader Ellen Morton, lead councillor for infrastructure, said the council would have to re-evaluate its economic development plans in light of the decision.

She said: 'I am concerned about the general pattern of these projects not coming to fruition and I think there is a risk that these decisions could undermine what we are trying to do.'

'Some projects, like Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), are tied into renewables, so it is hard to have confidence in the future of these when things are changing so dramatically and we have no control over these changes.'

But Islay community councillor

and Portnahaven postmaster Alastair Redman has described the news as 'a fantastic victory' for the island.

Mr Redman has been critical of Argyll and Bute Council, which gave SSE permission to erect an anemometer mast next to Orsay lighthouse in preparation for the windfarm, despite heavy opposition from residents on the Rhinns of Islay.

Detrimental

He said: 'Had the renewables wing of SSE been far more willing to listen to the people on Islay and our concerns about the detrimental effect this array would have on a wide range of issues, including our essential fishing and tourism industry, and had they have offered more direct and believable local benefits and compensation rather than

just vague assumptions and statements, then maybe this project of theirs would have had more local backing.'

A big question now arises about how this project which has been deemed too costly was ever passed by our local councillors and our local planning department in the first place?'

The SSE announcement was also warmly welcomed by Islay-based energy group Power4Isle but member Stuart Graham said the group remained concerned that SSE's withdrawal had been made in the 'near term'.

He added: 'We are concerned about their definition of 'near term' and what will happen to the lease granted to SSE by the Crown Estate.'

'We will be seeking clarification on both these issues.'

A statement from Argyll and

Bute Council said the local authority would continue to work with local and national partners to deliver the Argyll and Bute Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP).

The council added: 'We will continue to work with key stakeholders including SSE through the Argyll Array offshore wind farm, saying it presented too much of a technical and environmental challenge.'

However, SPR has said the project may be viable to reconsider in the future once offshore technology develops.'

ISLAY residents have helped to raise £530,400 through a share offer in a community wind turbine after the deadline for buying shares passed on Monday.

More than 75 per cent of investment has come from islanders and the share offer has raised a large chunk of the £750,000 project cost, which will be supplemented by loans.

Islay Energy Trust, which is behind the development, says the share offer figure vastly exceeds expectations.

It is envisaged the turbine, to be built on Scottish Natural Heritage land at Castlehill, will be producing energy by early November this year.



Children enjoying a quick break from rehearsals before this year's Feis Latharna. 15_t14feis01

Feis Latharna tunes up for 20th anniversary

OBAN'S Feis Latharna celebrates 20 years this Easter, with a record number of young people participating in a week of Gaelic song, traditional music and drama.

The week-long festival, which runs from April 7-11, will see 160 children receive expert tuition from some of Scotland's leading musicians.

As well as tuition in traditional music, dancing, drama, art and shinty, there will be new workshops for more advanced players on group work, sound production and com-

position. The Feis will take place at Oban Primary Campus and will include a family ceilidh on Wednesday and a children's concert at the end of the week.

Following the success of last year's opening Gala Night at Oban's Phoenix Cinema, organisers are running the event again, which will comprise of a concert from the tutors followed by a screening of Restless Natives. Gaelic singer and Scottish step-dancer, Joy Dunlop, will be performing and offering singing tuition throughout the

week. The Connell-born singer said: 'It's particularly nice because I was one of the first people to go to the Feis as a child. I loved it when I was wee, it was great. It's enjoyable and a lovely way for the children to spend their Easter holidays. The teaching part is nice and it's great getting to meet all the lovely wee ones.'

A Gaelic storytelling Bookbug session is being held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon and there will be a cafe open to all from 2-4pm daily.

Newspaper competition deadline fast approaching

THE DEADLINE for a competition that seeks to find the best print or online newspaper produced by high school pupils is fast approaching.

The Oban Times, which as part of Wyvern

Media is sponsoring the best newspaper category, is encouraging schools across the west Highlands and islands to submit entries for the Scottish School Media Awards, on or before April 30. The awards aim to encourage

young people into careers in publishing and the creative industries, and are of particular interest to pupils who have an interest in writing, photography, design and business.

To enter visit impressionscotland.co.uk.



Above: The Oban Sea Cadets have gifted a picture of the N LV Pharos and N LV Hesperus in Oban. 15_t14pharos01



Right: The photograph of the two N LB ships gifted to the unit. 15_t14pharos01

Sentimental search for charity shop donation

A WOMAN is searching for the owner of a black crystal champagne flute, which holds significant sentimental value, after she mistakenly donated it to Oban's Oxfam charity shop.

Sue Campbell, who lives in Appin with her husband Rev Roderick Campbell, accidentally handed her daughter's John Rocha champagne flute to the charity shop a fortnight ago, when they were clearing out their house.

The couple are moving to Sri Lanka in three weeks' time to work on church projects and are hoping to trace the owner of the glass and reimburse them before they leave.

Manager at Oxfam Oban, Catherine Sjean, said: 'It happens so often and it's such a shame.'

'If I had known, I would have kept it aside for her.'

'I remember a lady buying it but I don't think she was local.'

Volunteer of the Year 2014

The Age of Integration

Your chance to find out about Health, Social Care,

Volunteering & Future Plans

Volunteer of the Year and Voluntary /Community Group Award

Young Volunteer, Social Enterprise Volunteer

Regional Timebank Heroes and

Health Volunteer Categories too!

Nominations are now OPEN – an opportunity to put forward members of your community who should be recognized for all the voluntary work they do and the impact they have on our towns and villages.

Council Chambers Kilmory

Friday 13th June 2014

10.30am – 2.30pm

Tickets from Argyll Voluntary Action on 01631 564839

(kathleen@argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk)

www.argyllcommunities.org argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk

Nomination forms now available in AVA offices or online!

Deadline: Friday 18th April 2014

Argyll Voluntary Action, 21 High Street Oban PA34 4BG

Charity No: SC029947 Company No: SC277345

The Scottish Government logo

The National Lottery logo

The Robertson Trust logo

youngstart logo

NHS Highland logo

Forestry Commission Scotland Coimisean na Coilleachadh Alba

Niche Marketing Log Sales

Lochaber and West Argyll Forest District

Injury-hit
Lochaber
lose to
Garioch

RUGBY

Lochaber 13 – 34 Garioch
AN INJURY-plagued Lochaber side failed to take anything from second-placed Garioch in a tight affair at Black Parks.

The home side were missing several first-team regulars due to injuries, which resulted in three veterans being drafted in to bulk up the squad.

With the wind at their backs in the first half, Lochaber took the initiative and kept Garioch camped inside their own half.

Jonathan McCook landed a good penalty followed by a try from Robin Morgan after a good break.

However, Garioch were still getting chances and after some poor defending levelled the scores at 10-10. As half time approached, McCook sneaked the home team back into the lead with a well struck penalty from just inside the half.

The game was lost for Lochaber within the first quarter of the second half. Poor defence resulted in Garioch running in four further tries which put the contest out of reach for Lochaber.

However, there was still some impressive attacking intent from the home side, and they were unlucky to reduce the deficit as the game closed out.

Lochaber have a week off before they face the long journey to Shetland to play their final match of the season.

Goon squad still top of the table

INDOOR FOOTBALL

GOON SQUAD maintained their three-point lead in the Ali Young indoor football league title race with a 5-3 victory over The Janis B Team at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Title rivals Lochaber Leisure had their work cut out against third-placed AFC Distillery but eventually prevailed 3-2 to keep up the pressure at the top.

Portochay had a 3-0 walkover win to stay fourth while Caol United are up to fifth courtesy of a 7-4 win over HWEnergy.

Caol Cosmos joined the Janis B Team on 35 points with a 3-0 defeat of Ballachulish while With Ourselves earned a 3-0 win against Kentallen.

Texas Scramble at Fort William GC

GOLF

FORT WILLIAM Golf Club will hold a three-person Texas Scramble qualifying competition on Saturday for the Scottish Hydro National Scramble regional qualifier at Pitlochry on May 4.

A versus par handicap qualifier for men and women is scheduled for Sunday.

Fort find themselves four points adrift at foot of the table

'If I could have made seven or eight substitutions at half time I would have - nobody got even half pass marks'

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

FOOTBALL

MISFIRING Fort William must somehow find a way to regroup for the visit of high-flying Fraserburgh on Saturday after last weekend's morale-sapping defeat to Strathspey Thistle.

Now four points adrift at the foot of the Highland League, The Fort will need a Lazarus-style comeback to avoid ending the season in bottom spot once again.

Sufficient games remain for that to happen although something close to a miracle will be needed against The Broch for Danny Conlon's men to add to their points tally.

That defeat at Fraserburgh was one on the worst performances of the season so I would hope to even that out on Saturday.'

The Fort could be without Duncan Campbell and Willie Gemmell through work commitments, Michael Gillespie is receiving physio for a knee injury and Matt Murphy is a big doubt after suffering a horror

tackle against Strathspey which saw Maley sent off.

That dismissal counted for little as lacklustre Fort were already two goals down through a Fraser double - and insult was added to injury when Howard made it three just before the break.

Conlon said his task now was to pick his team up and concentrate on the task in hand.

Work in progress

He told The Oban Times: 'The team is a work in progress and it all depends on how we react after Saturday's disappointment.'

'I am not resigning myself to staying where we are just now and there are still a lot of games to play with one or two I feel we can pick up points from.'

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