

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8090

Thursday 12 April, 2012

www.obantimes.co.uk

77 pence

Final token inside

hotel break giveaway

See page 9 for token 4 along with full details on how to enter this fantastic competition

SPRING PROPERTY REVIEW

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



MacPhee & Partners
Solicitors and Estate Agents

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

Oban Hospice pledge to spend more

THE DIRECTOR of Oban Hospice Ltd has stated an intention to spend more, as it was announced the group's fundraising arm has brought in nearly £400,000.

At the company's annual meeting on Monday, out-going treasurer David Mudie said the hospice, which supports palliative care in Oban, Lorn and the Isles, was on a strong financial footing.

He highlighted the total income received from Friends of Oban Hospice had amounted to £387,360 over five to six years.

Director Dr Mac Armstrong said: "We are committed to spending as much as we have been raising and that is a tremendous thing; we are no longer stuffing money away in the bank."

Body found in Cardingmill Bay

THE BODY of a man was found in Cardingmill Bay, Oban, on Tuesday morning after a search resumed from the previous night.

Police have named the man as 55-year-old Robert Campbell, who has family in Oban.

A yacht owner alerted the emergency services after spotting the body in the bay, just before 9am on Tuesday, and Oban Lifeboat brought it ashore.

Although there seem to be no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death, police enquiries are continuing and witnesses who may have seen Mr Campbell near Dunollie Point on Monday night are asked to contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500.

Rugby player hit by police van

A RUGBY player was in a critical but stable condition as The Oban Times went to press after being struck by a police van in Brodick, Isle of Arran.

Daniel Gallagher was airlifted to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow after the collision at around 10pm on Saturday.

The 22-year-old had travelled to Arran to take part in the island's rugby sevens tournament.



Brave Oban teenager hands out eggs to hospital children

Oban's own Easter Bunny, Louise MacDonald, brought a large helping of Easter cheer to children in Yorkhill's Schiehallion Ward on Sunday – in the form of 100 chocolate eggs. For Louise, 13, the fun-filled day marked the end of a mixed month, during which she was nominated for a national award for her bravery and generosity, before undergoing surgery. She quickly bounced back though, keen to bring a smile to those children forced to spend Easter indoors.

For the full story, see page three.

Windfarm protest groups boycott meetings following anonymous threats

WINDFARM protest groups have boycotted public meetings after receiving anonymous threats on internet forums, *The Oban Times* has learned.

People Against Clachan Turbines (PACT) was due to attend a windfarm debate in Oban Community Fire Station – but pulled out over the alleged blog abuse. Debate organiser Richard Wesley said: "It was more intimidation than threats. One or two people got rather personal and the names of some PACT members were mentioned."

According to Mr Wesley, two local websites are acting as a forum for nasty comments. He said: "This has split the island of Seil, it has caused a lot of bad feeling because their names had

been mentioned. The problem with both forums is people use pseudonyms so people can say things they wouldn't usually say if their names were there."

Speakers at the debate commented on the absence of PACT. Christine Metcalfe, from Avich and Kilchrean Community Council, said: "Other speakers initially booked to take part have felt too intimidated by both anonymous and other recent postings on forums and websites to join in this debate. It is certainly a widely held view that if the courage is absent for the writer to add his or her name to comments made within such mediums when publicly aiming criticism of others, those comments are best left unsaid."

Airport costs taxpayer £2.9m

OBAN Airport has cost the taxpayer nearly £2.9million in running costs alone over the past four years, latest figures show.

The news comes after *The Oban Times* revealed Argyll and Bute Council was taking some £73,000 each year since 2006 from parking fees collected in the town to subsidise the facility.

The local authority maintains the airport is run as a public service, rather than a profit making enterprise, so it does not record figures in terms of profit and loss.

The airport cost £729,903 to run in 2008/09, £744,689 in 2009/10 and £768,279 in 2010/11. For the financial year to April 2012, the council spent £645,498

running the airport. While it once employed 14 people, staff numbers have fallen to 11.

The authority says there were 1,418 flights between Oban and 238 other destinations in the last financial year.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: "Oban Airport is a very important asset providing connectivity to the local, public and private sectors."

"A marketing strategy for the airport has recently been developed with partners and other stakeholders and it is expected that this will be tendered and awarded during the early part of this financial year."

"This will be a two-year marketing and development strategic plan which will not

only seek to encourage growth in the [private] sector, but also in all other sectors at the airport."

Original estimates for the upgrade of the Connel airfield, together with new provision at Coll and Colonsay, was put at £4.5million.

But the price more than doubled – with Oban Airport responsible for the bulk of the additional costs, costing a reported £9million alone. When originally proposed, the council said the airport would create somewhere between 100 to 400 jobs and support up to 200 jobs through the creation of new business.

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

Pool staff save boy, 8, from drowning

Quick-thinking lifeguard resuscitates youngster

STAFF at an Oban's Atlantis Leisure have been praised after an eight-year-old boy was saved from drowning in the centre's swimming pool.

Lifeguard Kevin Keen resuscitated the lifeless youngster after pulling him from the bottom of the deep end during the centre's family fun session on Monday morning.

Fellow lifeguards assisted him and other staff members cleared the area, as the centre's emergency procedure kicked into action.

Atlantis Leisure assistant manager Kyle Dods, who explained his pool staff attend weekly training sessions, paid tribute to the quick thinking of the lifeguards, adding: "Their training just kicked in. We overstaffed the poolside that day and had five lifeguards on duty because of the number of people in the water. They did everything they should have done. I'm very proud of them."

"When the boy regained consciousness he was obviously in a bit of distress but we made him comfortable and a retired doctor, who was at the pool, was also on hand."

The young casualty, who was on holiday in Oban with his family, was discharged after a short time. The boy, who was seemingly unaccompanied, was spotted struggling to resurface by a fellow lifeguard. Kevin then dived in to haul the boy to safety before performing "rescue breaths" to restart his breathing.

An alarm was sounded to bring



Lifesaver: Kevin Keen.

all staff to the poolside, the pool was emptied and members of the public were ushered from the area.

Kevin, aged 20, said: "It was the most terrifying moment of my life."

"If it hadn't been for my training I would have panicked but I knew exactly what I had to do."

"Instinct and adrenalin kick in and before I knew it, the boy was coming round."

"I was in shock afterwards but on reflection I was just glad he was okay. It was back to work as normal the next day."

Atlantis Leisure chairman Neil Matheson said: "Obviously situations like this are worrying and the staff were all a bit shaken but we do a lot of training with our lifeguards for a reason. 'The level of incidents like this at Atlantis are incredibly low but if something does go wrong you need to be able to act quickly, which is exactly what our staff did.'"

Argyll and Bute Council suspends two more staff after monitoring messages

ARGYLL and Bute Council has suspended two more members of staff in its press office after secretly monitoring private messages, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

Press officers Janet West and Dinah Mackay were ordered to leave their desks on Friday after council officers intercepted a joke between the pair in a private message using the council's internal communications system, Microsoft Lync.

It is understood the messages were being monitored by the authority as part of an internal investigation into the 'spy' allegations made against head of communications, Jo Smith, who was suspended in February.

That investigation is being led by former Audit Scotland chief, John Clayton, who has earned the nickname, "The Rottweiler".

The *Oban Times* has learned staff were not made aware internal communications were being

monitored. However, the council has refused to answer any questions on the latest suspensions, instead responding with a standard response.

A spokeswoman said: "Two members of council staff have been suspended pending an investigation. This investigation does not relate to any other investigation being undertaken by the council."

The council refused to clarify exactly what investigation the press officers are now subject to, or on what terms they have been suspended.

It also refused to reveal if all communications between council staff are being routinely monitored, including external calls and emails from members of the public.

REPORT BY
STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

A request to interview chief executive, Sally Loudon, has been refused.

Calls have now been made for a full, independent investigation into the management of the council's press office and the spying allegations, with a local political party questioning the scope of the spying investigation set by Ms Loudon.

A letter has now been sent to the chief executive, calling for a fresh investigation with a remit agreed by all councillors.

Argyll and Bute Council began installing the Lync software in December 2010. To date, around £250,000 has been spent implementing the system, with a further £100,000 to be spent completing the system by next year.

Described as a business alternative to IP chat software, Skype, the system is designed to provide a secure network for communications, telephone, video calls, internet chat and emails.

University of the Highlands and Islands Argyll College
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean Colaiste Earra-Ghàidheil

Study at your local university

Ionnsaich aig an oilthigh ionadail agad

Apply now | Cuir a-steach an-dràsta:
www.ThinkUHI.com
0845 272 3600

NEVIS CYCLES

SALES | SERVICING | HIRE | ADVICE

BIKE HIRE

Full day rates starting from £20
Discounts for groups and multiple days

Call for details on our delivery service



01397 705555
01631 566033
www.neviscycles.com



Telephone: 01631 568015

krisp print

Design
Copy
Print

email: sales@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

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



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

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

Editorial

Editorial Director Stewart MacKenzie editor@obantimes.co.uk

Northern Editor Stephen Norris snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Chief Reporter Euan Paterson epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Senior Reporter Steven Flanagan sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter Faith Orr forr@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter Richard Haddock rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

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

Newsdesk 01631 568060 editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

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

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

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

Advertising Sales Person Lise Williamson MacDougall lwilliamsonmacdougall@wyvemedia.co.uk

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

Branch Offices

Fort William Tel 01397 703003 Fax 01397 702495

Lochgilphead Tel 01546 602345 Fax 01546 602661

Campbeltown Tel 01586 554646 Fax 01586 553006

Arran Tel 01770 302142 Fax 01770 302021

www.obantimes.co.uk

Facebook logo and text: Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes

Glasgow High Court sentences Whitehouse man in dangerous driving case to four years in prison

A PENSIONER convicted of causing death by dangerous driving on the A816 in Argyll has been sentenced to four years in prison. Clifford Dickson, from Whitehouse, Tarbert, claimed he was distracted by a buzzard after a road accident in 2010 which killed one woman and seriously injured two others.

Christine Beard, from Nottinghamshire, was seriously injured in the crash and died weeks later. Her daughter Laura Rose and husband Paul were also severely injured.

Appearing before Glasgow High Court last Tuesday, Lord McEwan told Dickson a prison sentence was the only option. Dickson's lawyer, Peter Gray QC, had argued for a non-custodial sentence on the grounds that the retired

stonemason is a carer for his disabled son. But banning Dickson from driving for the next seven years, Judge Lord McEwan said: 'I think you ignoring the double white lines and facing a blind dip is a very serious piece of driving.'

During the trial last month, Dickson claimed he had pulled out of his lane in a bid to avoid the buzzard rising up towards his windscreen. But the jury rejected his explanation and found him guilty by majority verdict.

Tiree Tech Wave success

IT MAY be known as the Land Beneath the Waves, but Tiree is earning a reputation as a prime destination for some of the country's technology designers and programmers.

Tiree Tech Wave held its third bi-annual meeting this spring with leading coders, scientists and engineers from across Europe drawn to the island to relax and expand their horizons for four days.

As one of the few places in the world you can see the earth's true horizon, the island is a breeding ground for ideas.

Some of this year's more interesting developments included mind-controlled music, looking at alternative ways to use the information stored on the Three Place Names website and taking apart Microsoft's Kinect controller to build large, low-cost touch surfaces.

Explaining their musical creation, organiser Alan Dix said: 'The mind music is not exactly tonal but thinking about sandy beaches produces distinctly different sounds than recalling office work and deadlines.'

Other projects include determining what the exact time is on Tiree - scientifically, the island is one hour, 27 minutes and 30 seconds behind British Summer Time.

Alan said: 'It has been a fun event, but also one that brought the searing edge of high technology to the island community and the peace and space of the island to the visitors.'

Broadcaster on book festival bill

BROADCASTER Lesley Riddoch has become the latest addition to the bill for Scotland's newest book festival on Colonsay later this month.

Conversations @ the Edge, the inaugural book festival on the island, will assemble some of Scotland's finest authors for a weekend of events on April 28 and 29. The new book festival joins a highly successful annual folk festival, Ceòl Cholas, now in its fifth year, and the three-week Festival of Spring, which started in 2011.

Ms Riddoch joins some of the nation's greatest writers including Liz Lochhead, Alexander McCall Smith CBE and James Robertson, winner of the Saltire Society's Scottish Book of the Year for And the Land Lay Still.

New Gaelic app

Gaelic learners are set to benefit from a new app to help them get to grips with Scotland's native language.

The free app, which can be downloaded from iTunes to smartphones and iPads, contains key verbs and pronunciations from a native Gaelic speaker. Aimed at students at all levels, the Scottish Gaelic LearnBot app supports the self-out book, Verbots - Learn 101 Scottish Gaelic Verbs.



Jura passenger ferry skipper Nicol MacKinnon and Rob Tigear of Jura Development Trust prepare for the ferry's maiden voyage last Thursday. 15.15Jura08

Jura's passenger ferry launches into new season Sense of optimism surrounds project

THE NEXT two years could make or break the Jura Passenger Ferry service but its operators say they are looking forward to the pressure that comes with funding for the project.

Funding for the ferry service, which runs between Tayvallich and Craighouse on Jura in under one hour, was secured for two years in March, after Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish Government announced late funding packages.

The two-year security is a weight lifted from the shoulders of Jura Development Trust (JDT) members, who run the service. Last Thursday, at the first sailing of the ferry's fifth season, there

was a sense of optimism about the success of the project.

JDT member Rob Tigear said: 'We are building on previous years by marketing the service better and the two-year funding package allows us to plan that more effectively.'

'Whereas last year there was a relief that the service had been saved, we now have that security to move ahead.'

Skipper Nicol MacKinnon operates the ferry; his Stormforce II RIB is named Shannick after his two children, Shannon and Nick. He said: 'There is a good feeling about the passenger ferry service this year because people are talking about it.'

'If we can prove ourselves, hopefully we get to keep the service. There has always been pressure to make it work but if it is a massive success this year, it makes it more difficult for the council and the government to say 'no' to it.'

The optimism for the ferry service extends beyond the people running it.

Jura Distillery has revamped its visitor centre, Jura Hotel has refurbished its bedrooms and dining room in expectation of a busy season and Sharon Hoverty has taken on the lease at the community-owned Antlers Restaurant with the expectation of a passenger ferry boom.

Cath McCallum of Jura Hotel, who is also a member of JDT, said: 'Because the ferry's future has been uncertain, people haven't been in the habit of using it. We know it's happening next year too, so I can see more people planning to use it. You can feel there is quite a bit of momentum leading into this season.'

A previous study into the effect of the passenger ferry which, unlike the Port Askaig ferry, brings passengers directly into the main settlement of Craighouse, suggested the service generated £3.50 for every £1 spent on it. Last year, Jura Distillery saw an increase of around 1,000 visitors.



April showers fall as snow with return of wintry weather

DAFFODILS at the Sunny Lochaber United Gardeners (SLUG) Allotments on Cow Hill, Fort William, managed to peer through the snow last week.

The wintry weather returned to the west Highlands following an unusually warm and dry March which saw record temperatures set across Scotland.



Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

'BHA E MAR GUM BITHINN aig coinneamh deich bliadhna fichead air ais! Na h-aon ghearainean agus na h-aon thrioblaid-ean!'

Sin beachd aon de na bha an làthair aig co-labhairt ghoirid a ghabh àite an dèidh Coinneimh Bhliadhna a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich anns an Aghaidh Mhòr air an latha mu dheireadh den Mhàrt. Ann an cuid a dhòighean bha i ceart, ach ann an dòighean eile bha i fada ceàrr!

Bha gun teagamh buill anns a' Chomuinn ag iarraidh soilleireachadh air ciamar a thèid aca air ceanglaichean nas dlùithe a dhèanamh le bòrd-stiùirdh na buidhne agus bha cuid ag iarraidh barrachd taice aig ire coimhearsnachd bhò bhuill a' bhùird. Chualas gum bheil mòr-fheum air cuideachadh a' deasachadh òigridh airson Mòdan Ionadail feadh na dùthcha is an cànan a' lagachadh ann am mòran de na coimhearsnachdan sin. Ach chualas gum bheil An Comunn fhèin, a-nise mar chompanaidh earranta, air a chuid maoin a chothromachadh a-rithist agus gum bheil cùisean fo dheagh rian. Tha buill a' bhùird air an taghadh a rèir sgilean araid agus tha cothrom riochdachaidh air dha prìomh bhuidhnean taice. Tha am bòrd a' còimhead as ur air innleachdan leasachaidh agus modhan conaltraidh leis a' bharrachd agus thathas a' beachdachadh air dòighean air an gabh tuilleadh maoin a chosnadh a' cheadaicheadh iarrtasan taice coimhearsnachd an riarachadh. Chaidh aontachadh às ùr gur e leasachadh na Gàidhlig prìomh amas na buidhne agus gum bheil An Comunn deònach co-obrachadh le buidhnean sam bith eile aig am bheil na h-aon chinn-uidhe. Dh' innis trìùir òga mar a fhuair iadsan an cuid misneachadh sa Ghàidhlig ann am Mòdan Ionadail agus mar a tha dithis aca an-diugh a' cosnadh tron chànan agus tèile a' cur crìoch air ceum oithighe na lùib. Chaidh a chur an cuimhne na bha an làthair gur i Gàidhlig ann am foghlam agus anns a' chòimhearsnachd prìomh amasan Plana Naiseanta ùr na Gàidhlig agus bhathas mothachail is moiteil gun robh an trì òga a bhruidhinn uile a' riochdachadh nan roinnean sin!

'Chan eil suidheachadh na Gàidhlig idir mar a bha deich bliadhna fichead no fiù 's deich bliadhna air ais! Tha cùisean eadar-dhealaichte ann an iomadh dòigh, ach tha neart is fàs a' chànain fhathast an urra ri gun cleachdar i!'

AT A mini-conference following its recent AGM, An Comunn Gàidhealach re-stated its primary objective as being the development and promotion of Gaelic.

Despite the challenges of reducing public sector funding, the organisation is in good health and it confirmed its commitment to work with all organisations which have similar objectives in respect of Gaelic.

Members enjoyed hearing from young speakers whose motivation in relation to Gaelic had come through involvement in Provincial Mods. Two of these are employed through the language and a third is completing a university degree through Gaelic. While some encouraging progress has been achieved, members agreed unanimously that the future of Gaelic, as with any language, depends very much on it being used as widely and actively as possible.

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

Women to chat in 'Craic'

Gaelic's answer to the daytime television programme 'Loose Women' aired for the first time on BBC Alba on Monday.

'Craic' is a 16-part series of half-hour evening chat shows presented by Cathy MacDonald.

In each episode she will be joined by a panel of guests who discuss a number of topics, examining how they relate to them as women.

Guests include Mairi Alice Bartlett, Seonag Anderson, Liz Pyper, Mairi Bremner and Rhoda Meek.



Paul and Celia Austin-Metcalf took their vows on the shore at Crinan Ferry. 08_31wedding01

'For the love of Crinan I thee wed'

LOVE was most definitely in the air at Crinan Ferry recently when an English couple tied the knot - on only their second visit to the area.

Paul and Celia Austin-Metcalf had holidayed in Argyll for the first time just eight weeks ago and fell so deeply in love with the area that they re-arranged their wedding to take place on the shores of Crinan Ferry.

Smiling from ear to ear, the couple tied the knot surrounded by one of the country's most stunning landscapes.

Celia said they had chosen to come back because of the ruggedness of the area, which was not something they would be able to find back home.

While the recent good weather made way for a blanket of grey skies, Paul and Celia still had a great time during a day they will never forget.

Celia said: 'We got married here because it was a beautiful place and because of all the freedom out here. We thought it would be a more personal way to do it.'

The Oban Times & West Highland Times bonnie babies competition 2012

in association with The co-operative good for everyone

In next week's Oban Times

Your top 8 Bonnie Babies revealed

and your chance to vote for the overall winner!

Votes for your top 8 finalists are now closed.

Thank you for all the entries and votes that we have received over the past few months.

Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies for more information.

WIN! A four night stay for two in South Lakeland - worth £500 Abbey House Hotel Collect your final token today see page 9

Lorn Lines

MEMBERS and their wives gathered in the Regent Hotel, Oban, for Oban Photographic Club's end-of-season buffet on Monday April 2.

After the excellent buffet prepared and served by the Regent's chef, the trophies, won by members over the winter, were presented by club secretary Katy Weir.



Left to right: Ronnie MacKillop, Stephen Lawson, Jim Kirkpatrick and Hugh Wilson. Missing from the line-up was John Douglas.

RESIDENTS in Oban's Ardconnell Road had a rude awakening when workmen began examining the town's sewer network from the street - at 3.30am.

Scottish Water has confirmed the work, carried out on March 28, was done by sub-contractors who were surveying the sewer network on behalf of the water company.

One resident said: 'I was so angry. I was wakened by hammering and clattering and when I opened the window there was a lorry and three or four men working at the top of Ardconnell Road.'

'When I asked them what they thought they were doing disturbing folk at this time a voice replied that this work could not be done when the road was busy. I have lived here for 48 years and never found the road too busy.'

A spokesman for Scottish Water said the sub-contractors had elected to carry out a time when there was reduced traffic and when the water flow was low.

As a result of this incident, Scottish Water has altered the sub-contractor's working hours to between 6pm and 10pm.



Kirsty Macdonald unleashes the ducks at the Black Lynn on Sunday, starting the annual duck race in earnest. 15. 1515duckrace6

IT MAY have been raining cats and dogs, but that didn't put the crowds off from going to see the annual Duck Race at Oban's Black Lynn on Sunday.

Quackers it may be, but there was nothing fowl about this race, which saw masses of multicoloured rubber ducks dropped into the stream in a race to be the first to exit into the bay.

The ducks were released by Kirsty Macdonald, daughter of the late councillor Donald Macdonald, who presided over last year's event.

It may have taken a few seconds for the ducks to drop - shedding their feathers as they went - but once away, there was no stopping them.

This year's event raised £920 for Bid4Oban, which organisers said was remarkable given conditions on the day.

Warning of record high midge numbers

MIDGE numbers could be heading for a record high on the west coast after an unusually mild spring.

Worse - they seem to be living for longer and longer as the climate becomes warmer and wetter.

According to Dr Alison Blackwell of the Scottish Midge Forecast Service, normally the mild winter wouldn't have much of an impact of midge numbers.

But the warm start to the year - coupled with last weekend's rain storms - means the tiny pests are likely to start their breeding season early.

And Dr Blackwell didn't have too many words of comfort to offer when asked how future weather trends would effect midge numbers.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'They do seem to be extending their season, because there were

contacting our Facebook page to say they've been bitten.'

Only the female midges bite and need the blood to mature their eggs. The males, on the other hand, feed exclusively on nectar. The more female midges bite, the more eggs they can lay, said Dr Blackwell. Midges usually produce two generations a year - so the more they breed now, the larger the second generation could be. Beleaguered

hikers, though, can outwit the insects by choosing when and where they walk.

'Midges prefer low light conditions,' Dr Blackwell said. 'Sheltered areas, then, are their preference. They don't like high winds either. They tend to be most active in the early mornings and evenings.'

Midgeforecast.co.uk provides updated information on the midge threat.

Police files

THE WINDOW of a moving car in Glenshellach Road was smashed after a young boy threw a stone at the vehicle.

The incident happened between 6.30pm and 7.15pm last Thursday and Oban Police are seeking any information from the public.

The boy who threw the stone is described as aged between eight to 10 years, with blonde hair. He was wearing a light blue tracksuit top and bottoms.

The boy was in a group of six and police say they are concerned about a number of incidents of stone throwing at vehicles in Glenshellach Road and Davaar Gardens.

Oban Police chief inspector Brian Auld said: 'Throwing stones at moving vehicles is particularly dangerous, so we plan to go into schools to reinforce that message.'

TWO MEN, aged 18 and 20, have been charged with conducting themselves in a disorderly manner following a fight in Rockfield Road, Tobermory.

The incident happened at around 5am on Sunday.

A 48-YEAR-old man has been charged with driving a vehicle at 52mph in a 30mph zone through Kilmiver.

The incident occurred at 2.20pm on April 3. That same afternoon another driver was issued with a conditional offer.

A DRIVER has had his car seized after being charged for driving with no insurance.

The 24-year-old man was stopped in Combie Street at 7.50pm on Monday.

CONNEL Village Council is appealing for volunteers to come out and help clean the village.

The community clean up starts at 6pm on Monday from the village hall. Gloves, pick up sticks and rubbish bags will be provided.

CHIEF OF POLICE has had his car seized after being charged for driving with no insurance.

The 24-year-old man was stopped in Combie Street at 7.50pm on Monday.

CONNEL village clean-up appeal

Brave teenager spreads cheer

Louise hands out Easter eggs days after undergoing brain surgery

A BIG-HEARTED Oban teenager has delivered 100 Easter eggs to children in Yorkhill's Schiehallion Ward - just days after undergoing brain surgery.

Louise MacDonald dressed up as the Easter Bunny to deliver the chocolate treats - 80 bought with her own money and 20 donated by family friend, Nicola Robertson.

The fun-filled day at the hospital marked the end of a mixed few weeks for the bubbly girl, who turns 14 next month.

Her bravery, generosity, infectious sense of humour in the face of neurofibromatosis - a genetic condition causing spontaneous tumour growth in her body - saw her recently shortlisted for the Young Scot Readers' Award.

But just a few days after receiving the news, Louise was undergoing surgery in Glasgow to drain excess fluid from her brain. Earlier attempts to insert a shunt into her skull had failed to correct the problem.

Finally leaving hospital last week, Louise immediately made preparations for Easter and, donning a bunny costume, returned to Schiehallion to bring seasonal cheer to the children in the ward.

Speaking after a very 'hoppy' Sunday, Louise, from Nelson Road, told *The Oban Times*: 'I

EXCLUSIVE REPORT

STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

handed out 100 Easter eggs and everyone was like 'it's a rabbit!'

'It was really good fun and I ended up being given £15 towards doing it again next year. I wasn't even asking for money. There was one kid who ate their Easter egg straight away. It was an awesome day, but I was quite tired afterwards and my head was sore as well.'

Being nominated for the Young Scot award caught Louise by surprise - and she admits to being nervous about the finals ceremony at the Glasgow Hilton Hotel on April 26.

'I don't know why I've been nominated,' she said. 'I think it's because of the Easter eggs and selection boxes. Mum says its for bravery as well.'

'It was amazing when we found out I was in the final three. I was off school because I wasn't well when we got the phone call. When mum told me I just screamed and was bouncing up and down.'

And if she wins? 'I'll probably scream so loud everyone will be deaf!' said Louise. 'I'm not worried about winning though, it's amazing to have been nominated.'



HM THE Queen has answered a plea from Appin residents to help fix the village's landmark Jubilee Bridge. Resident Mike Rayworth, who heads up the bridge sub committee of Appin Community Council, wrote to Her Majesty's Private Secretary after learning the bridge was built in 1897 to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The community council has now received an undisclosed sum towards the repair. Whilst the iconic bridge can still be used, urgent repair work is required and any individuals or groups who can help with funding can contact Appin Community Council. On the bridge, from left, are: Appin Youth Club members Ross MacDonald, Darius Scorgie, Conner Kerr, Aimee MacDonald and community council chairwoman Alison MacCorquodale. 16. 115bridge02

Hooligans jailed for hostel rampage

THREE young men have been given time after their 'high spirited behaviour' turned into a wrecking spree in a youth hostel.

Oban Sheriff Court heard Andrew Aitken, Robert Campsie and David Costello discharged fire extinguishers, barricaded doors and removed batteries from smoke alarms at Oban Youth Hostel in December.

The hooligans caused £1,128 in damage to the recently refurbished premises on the Corran Esplanade.

After hearing their antics left two rooms uninhabitable, Sheriff Ruth Anderson sent all three down.

Aitken, 21, a local fish farm worker of 33 Forestry Cottages, Eredine, got six months.

Gordon McNab, defending, said jail would mean Aitken losing his job and home, and would have 'disastrous consequences on his life'.

Sheriff Anderson sentenced Campsie and Costello, both 19, to eight months in a young offenders' institution.

A fourth man, Conor Webster, aged 19, was remanded in custody pending a further court appearance on April 18.

Charity stall cashes in despite supermarket snub



Jim and Christine Heward manned the busy stall at the Co-operative on Soroba Road on Saturday morning and paid tribute to the supermarket for stepping in when Tesco pulled out. 15. 115macmillan1

LOCAL fundraisers for Macmillan Cancer Support (MCS) raised £1,700 for the charity with a stall at Oban's Co-operative - despite a last-minute snub from another supermarket.

Volunteers had originally intended to sell raffle tickets over Easter weekend from the *The Oban Times* caravan in Tesco's car park - but the supermarket withdrew permission at the last minute, saying it would be too busy.

MCS organiser Jim Heward, said: 'As a member of the Oban committee for Macmillan Cancer Support, I was horrified to find that, at short notice, Tesco refused this worthy charity permission to sell raffle tickets from its car park over the Easter weekend. My committee colleagues had gone to a lot of trouble to prepare a team of volunteers to staff the stall over the weekend. In spite of Tesco's attitude, we managed to raise £1,689 over Friday and Saturday and we are very grateful to the Co-operative for their support and the store's customers, who were very generous.'

'We're also grateful for those that donated prizes to the raffle, it was very much appreciated.'

First prize was a painting by Robert McCulloch, while second was a ferry ticket from Oban to Castlebay, donated by CalMac.

Other prizes included £100 from the MacQueen Brothers, a taster session from Pieroth Wines, and a dinner for two at the Manor House Hotel.

Tesco did not respond to repeated Oban Times' requests for a comment.

Marathon run round Mull raises £3,000 for charities

A FORMER Tobermory High School pupil successfully completed the equivalent of five marathons on Mull last weekend.

Caroline McKay, originally from the Ross of Mull, took on the challenge to raise money to support the work of The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and RSPB Scotland.

Starting at 7am on Friday, she was supported by friends and family on the run as well as receiving messages from well wishers on Twitter.

Caroline also ran to honour her mum who was a 'marine scientist and did lots of conservation work on Mull. She died of cancer in 2005 as she was just getting into running,' said Caroline.

The total raised so far has passed £3,000 but late donations are still welcome at runaroundmull.co.uk.

Cash-strapped 'Gers owe council for pitch hire

THE FINANCIAL troubles at Rangers Football Club have implications for Argyll and Bute Council, after it was revealed the club owes the council money for the hire of football pitches.

A report by the club's administrators Duff and Phelps, which breaks down Rangers Football Club's debts, indicates the club has an outstanding bill of £406,80 owed to the council's financial services department.

Argyll and Bute Council confirmed the bill was for the hire of football pitches at Hermitage Academy in Helensburgh.

Lost Ben Cruachan walkers rescued

TWO DISORIENTATED walkers were promptly taken off Ben Cruachan Ridge after rescuers used their phone's GPS to find them.

Oban Mountain Rescue Team and Strathclyde Police Mountain Rescue Team were mobilised to help trace the 32-year-old woman and 35-year-old man at 8.50pm on Saturday.

Ross Lilley, member of Oban Mountain Rescue Team, said: 'We sent them a link to a website on their phone and that immediately allows us to see where they are, using the phone's GPS.'

Rescuers confirmed the pair had been well equipped for the climb up to Cruachan peak and along the ridge but had simply gotten disorientated in the dark and decided to 'stay put' until help arrived.

The mountain rescue teams arrived at the climbers just before midnight. Everyone was off the hill by 2am.

betterhomes
Invest In The Best!

Scotland's Premier Home Improvement Specialist
Contact Us Now for our Special Offers!

OFFER 1
WINDOWS & DOORS
FREE DOOR when you purchase a full house of windows and doors

OFFER 2
ROOFLINE
FREE GUTTERING AND DOWNPIPES when you purchase your fascia and soffit
Limited Time Only, Subject to Availability, Terms apply

GLASGOW | T. 0141 774 4000
E. enquiries@betterhomesgroup.com www.betterhomesgroup.com
Unit 2A, Burntbroom Court Queenslie Industrial Estate, Glasgow G33 4JB

Bonhams 1793

Forthcoming Sales
An invitation to consign

Our specialists will be travelling in your area the week commencing 23 April offering free valuations with a view to selling in our forthcoming auctions.

Items of interest include: jewellery, silver, paintings, books, furniture, works of art, clocks, rugs, ceramics, glass, whisky, arms and armour and Asian and sporting art.

Enquiries & Appointments
0141 223 8866
susan.bouwens@bonhams.com

Anne Redpath (1895-1965)
Poppies and Daisies (detail)
£50,000 - 70,000 to be sold on 19 April

International Auctioneers and Valuers - bonhams.com/glasgow

business gateway

Build your own business website

Learn from scratch how to build and manage an attractive and effective website for your business.

This FREE workshop will show you how simple it is to develop your own business website and keep it up to date yourself. It is ideal for businesses that don't have their own website yet, or for those who do but want to take control of managing it themselves. No prior knowledge or skills other than basic web browsing and text editing skills are required to use this simple but powerful website building tool.

Dunoon - Wednesday 18 April 2012 - 10am-3.30pm
Inveraray - Tuesday 8 May 2012 - 10am-3.30pm
Oban - Thursday 10 May 2012 - 10am-3.30pm

Social media for business

Social media can boost your business. This FREE workshop shows how you can use social networks to best effect for your business as well as the pitfalls to avoid. It will help you make informed choices about which social networks to engage with and how to evaluate success.

Dunoon - Thursday 19 April 2012 - 9.30am-12.30pm
Inveraray - Wednesday 9 May 2012 - 9.30am-12.30pm
Oban - Friday 11 May 2012 - 9.30am-12.30pm

Planning to start your own business?

Develop your ideas into a practical and effective plan to launch your business.

Key elements covered during this FREE 2 day workshop include:
Getting the marketing right for your business. This workshop will help you to understand your competitors, identify your customers and understand the things you need to cover for effective marketing.
Developing a realistic, working business plan. This workshop shows you how to create your own robust business plan.
Good financial management. This workshop will help you manage a profit and loss account, produce a cashflow statement, understand working capital, identify the main sources of finance and understand the different legal structures of a business.

Dunoon - Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 April 2012 - 9.30am-4.30pm
Lochgilhead - Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 May 2012 - 9.30am-4.30pm
Oban - Thursday 31 May and Friday 1 June 2012 - 9.30am-4.30pm

HM Revenue and Customs - Becoming Self Employed

This FREE workshop is an introduction to becoming self-employed and covers tax, National Insurance, VAT, record keeping and when to pay, partnerships and Online services.

The course aims to give you the knowledge to:

- register your self-employment
- setup and maintain business records
- know what National Insurance to pay
- know what expenses you can claim
- know which pages of your Self Assessment Tax Return you need to complete

Oban - Thursday 24 May 2012 - 1.30-4.30pm

Places are limited so we advise you to book early. For more information or to book please call the Business Gateway team on 01546 605459 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

OT

Mull Lines



Fingal and Iona will be stepping into the limelight this year. Photograph: Paul Jessett.

SOME of Mull's most famous residents are back in the public eye for the season and there's even a new eagle hide for spotters trying to catch a glimpse.

Fingal and Iona will be the ones to watch this year as they step into the limelight in Glen Seilisdier, the area they have called home since 2002.

The white-tailed eagle pair will be taking over from two of the most well known eagles, Skye and Frisa, who will be taking some time out as a result of on-going forestry management.

Dave Sexton, RSPB Mull Officer, said: 'Whilst Skye and Frisa, our resident Loch Frisa pair, hopefully get to enjoy some well-earned time off with the family, we thought it would be a great opportunity to find out more about the other white-tailed eagles on Mull.'

'Fingal, originally wing tagged Blue 9, was re-introduced to Scotland from Norway in 1997, whilst his mate Iona, wing tagged Green T, is a wild bred bird from the Isle of Skye and so far they've made a good contribution to Scotland's growing white-tailed eagle population.'

'They are currently taking turns to incubate their latest clutch and all being well we'll hopefully welcome their next generation of young next month.'

The new hide opened for business last week and has already welcomed delighted visitors. Glen Seilisdier, which means Glen of the Irises, is on the western side of the island, set amongst the stunning backdrop of Ben More, with lochs, forestry and plantations.



THIS coming Monday, April 16, sees a public meeting to discuss the issues surrounding the new progressive care centre being built in Craignure.

The meeting will be held in Craignure Village Hall and start at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.



MULL has been put on the map – or on film at least – in a short video produced by mobile cinema company Screen Machine during its last visit to the island.



The mobile cinema in Ledaig car park. 16.11Screen01

In March it filmed the cinema arriving at the port of Fishnish before it headed to Tobermory where, over three days, they spoke to residents about what the Screen Machine means to them and the local community. The film can now be viewed online at vimeo.com/39558063.

Oban drug dealer sent back to prison for further 28 months

A DRUG addict who handed himself into the authorities after seeing a friend charged with possessing drugs belonging to him has been sent back to prison.

William David Lee McConnell, aged 32, who is currently serving a sentence at Greenock Prison, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court

last Wednesday on a deferred sentence, having previously admitted being concerned in the supply of heroin on two occasions.

The court heard how on October 18 last year McConnell and a female friend attracted the attention of police officers and, believing he was the one about to

be searched, McConnell handed over a packet of heroin worth £790 to her and disappeared.

However, after hearing his friend had been arrested for the possession, he admitted his guilt. Swabs of DNA from the package later confirmed the package was his.

Procurator Fiscal Kim

McGregor said on January 16 police searched the accused's address.

'They found £330 in cash, an envelope with names and phone numbers and a letter from a friend or associate, who was in prison, asking McConnell to send him controlled drugs,' she said.

Police also found heroin with a street value of £660 at the flat, meaning the total street value of the drugs found was £1,350.

Defence agent Jim Friel explained his client's parents had moved him from Possil, Glasgow, to Oban in a bid to keep him out of trouble but he had picked up his drug habit in

prison. Referring to the evidence police found at his client's flat, Mr Friel added: 'To indulge in mitigation would be verbal folly.'

Sheriff Richard MacFarlane sentenced McConnell to 28 months in prison, backdated to January 9, when he was first taken into custody.

Sudden Oak Death strikes trees at Argyll's famous Arduaine Gardens Remedial work may cost National Trust £500,000

ARGYLL'S scenic garden at Arduaine has been struck by a deadly fungus – resulting in hundreds of diseased trees having to be felled.

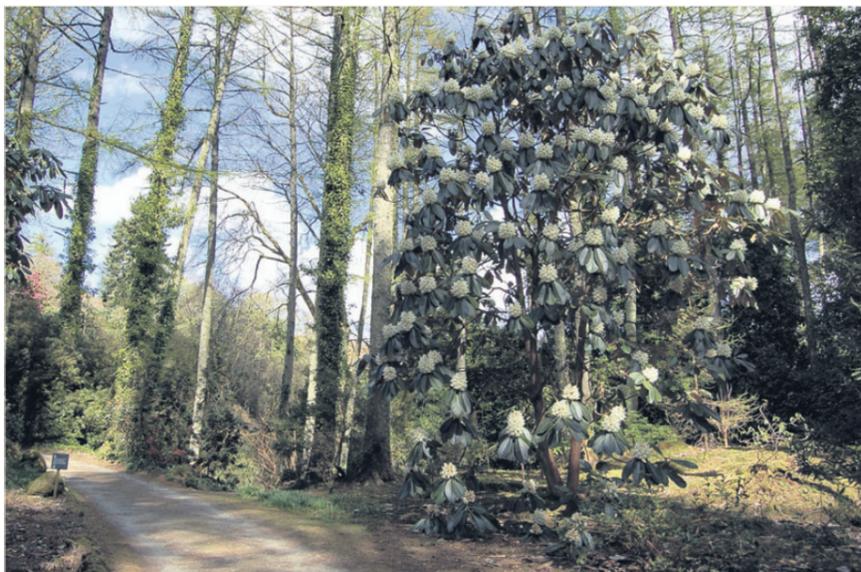
The pathogen, Phytophthora ramorum, which is sometimes referred to as Sudden Oak Death, has struck the larch trees in the famous Arduaine Garden, near Kilmelford.

Head gardener Maurice Wilkins said: 'In the short term, and certainly in the coming spring and summer seasons, visitors are not likely to see any change, but will be encouraged to follow any guidance posted at the entrance. The nature of the pathogen is such that visitors are highly unlikely to be responsible for transferring its spores elsewhere and can rest assured that they can continue enjoying this beautiful and unique garden.'

Mr Wilkins was also positive about the opportunities the pathogen presented: 'Arduaine is a plant-collector's garden and has evolved over the last century as new varieties were brought there from all over the world.'

'In carrying on this tradition, we can bring forward new planting regimes that should be less susceptible to P. ramorum and better adapted to the climate changes we are experiencing. Indeed, we can use our experiences at Arduaine to pass on the lessons we learn to visitors and other landowners and gardeners.'

All infected larch trees must now be killed or felled as soon as infection is apparent. All other larch trees must be killed



Arduaine Garden staff are keen that this episode serves as a warning to other landowners and Scottish and UK government agencies.

or felled by January 2014. The expected cost of remedial works to the National Trust may be as much as £500,000 and staff are anxious this episode serves as a wake-up call to other landowners and Scottish and UK government agencies. Ann Steele, the trust's gardens and designed landscapes adviser, said: 'We need to raise awareness of the threat posed by pathogens like P. ramorum and similar species such as P.

kernoviae. 'We are doing the right thing – but how many other sites are out there where nothing is being done and spores are being released to infect other locations? Control measures must be applied consistently on a national basis and cannot be left to individuals and charities like us to sort out – government must look seriously at mechanisms for co-ordination and funding support.'

SUDDEN Oak Death also infects a great number of other plant species, significantly rhododendrons, causing a non-fatal foliage disease known as ramorum dieback. Such plants can act as a source of the inoculum for the disease, with the pathogen producing spores that can be transmitted by wind and rainwater.

P. ramorum was first reported in 1995, and the origins of the pathogen are still unclear but most evidence suggests it was introduced as an exotic species.

Very few control mechanisms exist for the disease and they rely upon early detection and proper disposal of infected plant material.

Work on A83 alternative route could start in the summer

PLANS for upgrading the forestry road at Glen Croe could be finalised as early as next month with engineers on site at the start of the summer.

A timetable to upgrade the road near the Rest and Be Thankful, which could be used as an alternative route when landslides close the A83, was outlined by Transport Minister Keith Brown last week.

Meeting with Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce last week, the minister told local business people that the forestry road would not be widened to two lanes but could possibly include passing places to allow the flow of two-way traffic.

Short-term solution

Commenting on the meeting, Jane Macleod, secretary of the chamber said: 'Chamber members impressed on the minister and his officials the importance of keeping the Rest and Be Thankful open at all times and that the relief road should be seen as a short-term solution and should not detract from work which is required for the A83.'

The minister's meeting with Mid Argyll business officials happened just days before the Sign for the A83 petition was presented to the Scottish Parliament.

The petition, which calls on Scottish Government to address a host of problems along the A83, was signed by more than 10,000 people.

www.highlandhospice.org/3cchallenge

CAIRNGORM



CHALLENGE



CANOE CLIMB CYCLE

Saturday 25th August 2012



For further information on these challenges, please contact Amanda Burt on 01463 227913 or a.burt@highlandhospice.org.uk

Cocaine father fined £200

A FATHER who was found to be in possession of heroin in Oban's Combie Street has been fined.

Christopher Campbell, aged 31, whose address was given as Glenview Guesthouse, Oban, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday to being in possession of 0.126 grammes of heroin on February 24. After hearing Campbell was stopped and searched by police after appearing to be unsteady on his feet, Sheriff Richard MacFarlane fined Campbell £200.

Families hit by tax credit change

AN ESTIMATED 7,700 families in the Highlands and Islands will no longer be entitled to tax credits under a new system introduced this month, according to new government figures.

Some 3,600 families in Highland will be hit, 1,200 in Argyll and Bute, 300 in Orkney, 400 in Shetland, 1,700 in Moray and 500 in the Western Isles.

The biggest change will see couples with children having to work 24 hours a week between them, not 16, to qualify for working tax credit. If they cannot secure those extra hours, they stand to lose out.

Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant said the situation for families already struggling to make ends meet would become 'a lot worse'.

She said: 'Families on modest and middle incomes could lose all their child tax credit that would be worth around £545 a year. With one hand Chancellor George Osborne takes these credits away from hard-working families and with the other he gives millionaires a tax cut.'

Morar house plans

A MORAR man's plans to build a four-bedroom house on land near his home are being considered by Highland Council planners.

Tony Kenning, of 1 Riverside, has applied for permission to build the two-storey home behind his current residence.

Road work stalls

WORK on the new access road to Pennyfuir Cemetery, near Oban, has stalled until more funds become available.

Phase one of the project has been completed and consisted of earthworks and rock cut to form the basis for a new access and car park.

Further phases will include a right turn lane but no timescale for this has been set.



Lochailort: the new plant as it will look when it begins supplying new Marine Harvest salmon farms with young fish.

Work underway on new salmon smolt plant

WORK is underway on a major new salmon smolt plant for Marine Harvest at Lochailort.

The £8 million unit will provide Atlantic smolts for new fish farms the company is planning for waters off the west coast and the islands.

Ground preparations at the production base, being built by construction group Robertson, began last month.

More than 100 people will be employed during construction. When completed, the 150,000sq

ft building will house 12 staff – six of them in the hatchery.

The area's beauty and environmental sensitivity means particular attention would be paid to minimising disruption, Robertson said.

All transport and deliveries will be programmed to reduce traffic and allay any local community concerns regarding road safety.

Regional managing director Frank Reid said: 'Scottish salmon is one of the country's

greatest modern day success stories and we are delighted that we have been chosen to build this impressive new facility.'

Lochailort has a long association with fish farming and claimed an industry first when it trialled commercial rearing of young salmon back in the 1970s.

Marine Harvest Scotland managing director Alan Sutherland said: 'We are investing a total of £16m in this

new facility as part of a major expansion in Scotland to meet demand.

'We need to increase production to meet the needs of customers who recognise the high quality of the salmon we produce.'

'Lochailort is the birthplace of fish farming in Scotland so it is fitting that this is the location for our new smolt facility.'

Marine Harvest plans to boost salmon production by 50 per cent by 2015.

Oban parking problems highlighted at community council meeting

PARKING problems have reared their head at Oban Community Council (OCC) amid claims that a lack of double yellow lines in the town is causing a major headache.

Community councillor Jessie MacFarlane told the meeting motorists were frequently – and illegally – parking on both sides of George Street, seemingly unchecked.

A lack of traffic wardens, caused by police no longer funding them, meant turnover of metered parking spaces on the street was reduced – forcing more people to park on double yellows, members heard.

Ms MacFarlane said: 'You seem to be able to park wherever you like now – but in the car parks. Lots of people seem to be using the double yellow lines on George Street without any problem.'

Inspector Brian Auld was aware of the issues but explained resources had to be targeted where they were most needed.

He said: 'It is my position that we will

By STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

be policing the yellow lines but not the regulation of parking in the town. That had been communicated to the local authority as early as April 2010.

'We told them we'd be stepping back our policing between April 2011 and 2012, with a view to stopping completely by April 2012.'

'That has now happened. I don't feel it's good value of my resources. Yellow lines, however, will be enforced.'

Another of Oban's main thoroughfares also came up as a potential problem area – but only after Inspector Auld had left the meeting.

According to OCC member Billy Martin, legally parked cars on Soroba Road were posing a possible hazard, with some

motorists taking risks trying to negotiate the bottleneck near the railway bridge approaching the fire station.

Mr Martin raised fears of a potential safety risk because of drivers losing patience when waiting for opportunities to pass parked cars on the northbound carriageway.

Calling for new double yellow lines to be painted there, he said: 'You take your life in your hands to get down that street.'

But two other councillors pointed out that the cars were parked legally. One said: 'Nobody has come to us, not the fire brigade, not the ambulance service. Nobody. But if Oban Community Council wants to write to the council they can.'

Chairwoman Marri Malloy said: 'I do feel sorry for them because where else could they park? How would you like it if someone said to you, you couldn't park outside your house any more? They're not doing anything illegal.'

Top cop claims single force will benefit Argyll

A SINGLE police force for Scotland will benefit rural areas such as Argyll and the islands, according to one of the country's top cops.

On a fact-finding visit to Oban last Wednesday, Strathclyde Police Chief Constable Stephen House scotched fears the move would pull power away to the Central Belt – and claimed instead rural chief inspectors would be handed even greater control over resources.

Scotland will move to a single police force in April next year and Mr House, who would be a strong candidate to be chief constable of the new force, denied a more centralised service would have an adverse affect in rural areas.

His stance runs counter to views expressed by Highlands' police representatives that a single force could mean less local accountability.

Speaking exclusively with *The Oban Times* after going out on patrol in Oban with road polic-

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by

EUAN PATERSON

epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

he led a successful drugs raid, Operation Independence, and has continued to oversee good policing in the area.

Lately the focus has been on other aspects of crime, namely speeding, violence and disorderly behaviour – a targeted style of policing criticised for leaving police officers with less time to patrol their community.

'We know what people's priorities are because we ask them,' Mr House said.

'With the best will in the world you are not going to get regular patrols in every area but we do have significant rural assets in Argyll and Bute.'

'We have to balance that with our priorities. To see a police officer is reassuring and makes people feel safe but if there is a house break-in, people want a police officer there in seconds. If a member of your family is assaulted, you want to see a CID officer and if you are climbing and lost, you want the force helicopter there.'



Strathclyde Police Chief Constable Stephen House, left, on patrol with road policing officer, PC Ronnie Stevenson. 15_115chief01



Clare Holohan and her team of volunteers sort out the frame for the polytunnel.

Allotments take shape at Lochaline

LOCHALINE community growers are racing to get their allotments ready for the growing season as the days lengthen.

Around 20 plots are taking shape on land above the Morvern port under a scheme to boost local food production, cut fuel and import costs and reduce CO2 emissions.

Latest developments under the Community Land Association Morvern (CLAM) project include a volunteer evening, which saw helpers start weatherproofing a new community tool shed. Construction of a polytunnel for soft fruits and salad leaves production is also underway. Several more volunteer evenings will be needed to finish the job. Last week also saw the arrival of the two wheel tractor and its attachments including a rotavator and chopper. Plot holders will be able to use the tractor on site and will process material for composting and the machine will be available for hire within the community.

Meanwhile, plot holders have been hard at work

building raised beds, turning the soil and starting to get plants in the ground with garlic, fruit bushes and rhubarb already coming through.

The local nursery has been busy removing excess stone from their plot and marking out beds and the community log cabin is well on the way to completion.

Volunteer co-ordinator Clare Holohan told *The Oban Times*: 'There are six more logs to go on the cabin with three larger logs to be brought from Achnaha community woods for the top of the building. Volunteers from the community and further afield have shown great help and enthusiasm toward the build. Next step is arranging a turf roofing course to complete the cabin. CLAM is currently awaiting a response from the Community Woods Association to enable us to go ahead with this.'

The CLAM Allotments project has been funded by Climate Challenge fund, Highland LEADER and Awards for All.

New team oversees Inveraray piping

A NEW team has been appointed to oversee the running of the piping competitions at Inveraray Highland Games, one of the largest one-day games in Scotland.

The sad loss of Robert Stewart and the retirement of Agnes Liddell as piping secretary after many years, resulted in the appointment of Jimmy Beaton as piping convener and Eilidh and Emma Carmichael as joint secretaries.

Jimmy was born and brought up in Inveraray and learned his piping from Pipe Major Ronnie MacCallum and Robert Stewart. He works at the National Piping Centre where he runs an oral history project called 'Noting the Tradition'.

Eilidh and Emma are grand-daughters of Robert and are both based in Glasgow. They have made significant alterations to the piping section of the games website and competitors can now access the competition rules and enter online by going to piping@inveraray-games.co.uk. The closing date for entries is June 15.

Anti-wind farm campaigner contributes to documentary

AN ANTI-wind farm campaigner from Argyll has contributed to a documentary made by an American couple on how wind farms affect those living close by the structures.

Christine Metcalfe received a visit 'out of the blue' from Lilli Green and her husband Preston Ribnik, who are experienced professionals in healthcare education and are travelling the world gaining information on how wind farms are affecting humans. They recently visited Christine's home in Loch Avich to discuss the effect wind turbines have on sleep deprivation, heart problems, raised blood pressure, depression and general debilitation.

Christine said: 'That existing studies have already shown certain levels of low frequency sound is known to be detrimental to human and animal life was a fact already known to us. We were unaware, however, of the kind of evidence that is growing all around the world documenting the serious effects that can occur.'

burrowing into riverbanks - and can walk short distances overland.

Eradication programmes elsewhere in Scotland have typically involved deoxygenating ponds to bring the crayfish to the surface, then applying a chemical to the water. Edges of the pond are also sprayed to prevent escapes.

Both ponds at the quarry will be fenced off while toxic chemicals are added to the water to kill the crayfish, Ballachulish Community Council heard.

Chairman Mel MacAskill said Lochaber Fisheries Trust, SEPA and SNH were working with Highland

Council 'to thrash out a means of getting rid of these things'.

He said: 'If they get into the main watercourses they could devastate the River Coe. We must get rid of them, but the price we have to pay is that it will kill some fish – but the alternative is worse. It is illegal to take them from anywhere without a licence. I would warn people in the village that if they are caught down there trying to get these crayfish they will be prosecuted.'

He added: 'We'll know firm dates for the operation by our next meeting [May 1].'

Ballachulish prepares to eradicate crayfish

BALLACHULISH slate quarry is to be fenced off for a period of time this summer while work to eradicate foreign signal crayfish is carried out.

The water-filled former industrial site – comprising a bigger and a nearby smaller pond – has been colonised by the alien invaders at least since last summer.

The edible species, native to the United States, was fish-farmed in the UK in the 1980s but escapees rapidly spread to nearby rivers and beyond.

Until last year, the nearest crayfish to Lochaber were 60 miles away in the River Kelvin.

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by

STEPHEN NORRIS

snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Their discovery at Ballachulish meant only humans could have carried them there either deliberately, or unintentionally through eggs attached to fishing gear or boots.

The four-inch long mini-lobsters can devastate watercourses by eating everything smaller than themselves including larvae, frogs and fish eggs.

They also cause serious damage by

TARIFFS. WE'VE MADE THEM EASY PEASY.

We've made it much easier for you to get the best energy deal with us. Simply choose between a fixed and variable tariff and get 7% off the unit rate when you choose monthly direct debit and paperless bills. No wonder we've been voted number one for customer service by uSwitch for the past six years.* To find out what else we're doing to make energy better, call us or go online.

Call 0800 048 3642 www.hydro.co.uk



*Scottish Hydro is a trading name of SSE Energy Supply Limited, voted Best Overall Energy Supplier every year since 2006 in the uSwitch Customer Satisfaction Reports.

OT

No progress on new Gaelic school plans

PLANS for a new Gaelic primary school in Fort William will not be looked at until after next month's council elections after they failed to be progressed at the final full council meeting in Inverness last week.

The preferred site for the new school is at the Blar Mhor, but suggestions the costs of peat clearing could spiral mean the new council could consider a possible relocation to a site at Ardgor Road in Caol, where peat has already been cleared.

The proposed timescale for completion of the Gaelic school, part of the multi-million pound Greater Fort William schools project, is 2014.

Marine 'aliens' in spotlight at society meeting

LOCHABER Natural History Society will meet in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, next Wednesday at 7.30pm to hear a talk from Dr Elizabeth Cook of the Scottish Marine Institute entitled 'Marine Aliens - the Silent Invasion'. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Museum hosts World War II week of events

THE WESTER Ross-based Russian Arctic Convoy Museum project is holding a World War II week from May 7-12.

A series of events are planned, including the chance for visitors to have 'hands on' sessions with a German 'Enigma' machine. The daring capture of one of the machines from a Nazi U-boat allowed British intelligence staff to break its codes, helping to win the war.

Dr Mark Baldwin, a world expert on code-breaking, is the keynote speaker at the event.

He is bringing his Enigma machine with him when he lectures on 'Enigma and Bletchley Park'.

Loch Ewe was the assembly point for a series of danger-fraught Arctic convoys to the Soviet Union from 1941-45.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000



Packing a punch: Lochaber Phoenix heavyweight Chris Donnelly, right, was one of the stars at the club's home show. 20_15chrisbox01

Boxing club night packs a punch

LOCHABER boxing fans were treated to a night of non-stop action at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Saturday night as no fewer than nine local boxers took to the ring against opponents from across Scotland.

An estimated 400 people packed into the popular venue to cheer on their favourites

— and were treated to some high-quality boxing. Lochaber Phoenix ABC's home show was another resounding success — and provided further evidence that the club is punching above its weight on the national scene.

Local heavyweight Chris Donnelly topped the bill against Ayrshire's Alec Mullen — and

came out the victor in a bruising contest. Middleweight senior novice Scott Lawrie posted another sensational performance — and provided the bout of the night when he stopped Ross Houston of Highland Boxing Academy.

See boxing show report and photos, page 24.

MacArthur Stewart taken over by new group of lawyers

WELL-known Fort William solicitors and estate agents MacArthur Stewart has ceased trading and been taken over by a new group of lawyers. The High Street company, which also has offices in Oban,

Tobermory and Lochgilphead, will now trade as Dewar, Murray and Webb. Leading the changeover are believed to be David Dewar and Craig Murray in Fort William, and Sandy Murray in Oban.

As *The Oban Times* went to press, it was unclear what the implications, if any, will be for staff across the new group. It is understood The Fort William office employs between five and six people.

Fort West end re-vamp kick-starts regeneration

THE £8MILLION Grand Hotel re-development appears to have kick-started a wider scale regeneration of the west end of Fort William with the nearby Station Bar set to re-open this summer.

Dale Monk, who owns the Crofter Bar and the Maryburgh Inn on the High Street, has bought the popular bar which closed last year.

With work on the new hotel and retail development continuing, Mr Monk said he expects to get the keys to the Station Bar at the end of the month and after some refurbishments is planning to open by the end of June.

Mr Monk told *The Oban Times* the new development made the west end of the town a more attractive prospect.

He said: 'Yes, it was one of the factors. I wanted exposure to that end of the High Street.'

'But even if Wetherspoons hadn't been coming to that end of town, it was too good

By RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

an opportunity to turn down. Certainly the regeneration of the High Street is helping from the aesthetic point of view, people are not greeted by a derelict hotel anymore.

'And anything that can increase the town's image can only be better for the High Street.'

Local councillor Donald Cameron said he was happy with the 'rapid progress' being made.

He said: 'The jobs created will mean more young people can remain in the area and I am sure Lochaber residents will respond by making the developments viable.'

'The revamp of the streetscape using Scottish Government and Highland Council money and the investment from the business community will bring this part of town back to life.'

'The police station and old school sites will afford further

opportunities and we should be optimistic for the future. We are certainly more fortunate than many other towns who are finding it difficult in coming out of recession.'

The Scottish Crafts and Whisky Centre which lies across the road from the new development has been empty for the past few months.

Local rumours had suggested the property had been bought by Onich man Paul Morgan, but he told *The Oban Times* there was no truth to this suggestion.

The project to replace the former McTavish's Kitchens, destroyed by fire and the neighbouring Grand Hotel is expected to be ready to open by August.

It will see health and beauty retailer Superdrug, outdoor clothing shop Cotswold Outdoor and a JD Wetherspoon restaurant/pub move into a property, with a 60-room Travelodge on the upper floors.

Event set to showcase Lochaber's wildlife and geology to the world

A WEEK-long event designed to promote Lochaber's wildlife and geology to the world will get underway on June 1.

The Wild Lochaber Festival showpiece will be a festival fair on June 2-3 to showcase the incredible variety of Lochaber's natural environment and provide comprehensive information on the area's biodiversity.

Local operators providing wildlife tours and landscape activities will attend the event along with government and professional bodies.

Local Lochaber marketing groups, including accommodation and food providers, will be supporting the festival.

A series of events throughout festival week will show visitors and locals the best areas to view wildlife and the dramatic landscapes of Lochaber Geopark.

Local schools will also submit entries for a photography competition, which will be on display and judged during festival week.

Scottish Natural Heritage are providing grant funding for Wild Lochaber two years, which will be matched by local businesses, further grant applications and sponsorship.

As part of the overall Wild Lochaber project, a series of self-guiding trails will be developed.

Further plans to create wildlife hides form part of the initiative's longer term strategy.

More patients being cared for at home following closure of Belhaven ward

THE FUTURE of a former Fort William hospital unit controversially closed last month came under the spotlight at a closed-doors meeting at Fort William Health Centre on Monday night.

Councillors, NHS representatives and local campaigners met privately to discuss the closure of the Belhaven Ward as part of plans to look after more patients in their own homes.

Inpatient beds from the ward were moved to Belford Hospital

in 2010, with the outpatient service ceasing last month as part of the budget savings exercise.

Health campaigner Colin Neilson told *The Oban Times* after the meeting he felt NHS Highland had not been open enough about their decision-making.

He said: 'They should come out and tell the people why they are doing this. They have now promised to hold a public meeting about it.'

'The Belhaven was a super wee place. I was on the health

council when we closed Glencoe Hospital when it had 13 beds. The Belhaven had 27 beds, so that's now 40 beds less in the area. It's not very fair and I don't think we should take it.'

NHS Highland's Gill McVicar said Monday's meeting had been 'very useful'.

She said: 'We explained that we are able to care for more people at home now as we are developing rehabilitation approaches in the community. There are also opportunities to work in a more integrated way with social work

and care at home. This has all meant that we are less reliant on hospital beds.'

'The money from the closure of Glencoe Hospital has been invested locally. We have enhanced community teams and are working closely with local care homes. And the consultants in Belford Hospital are now operating virtual wards with GPs and community nurses.'

The Belhaven Ward's closure will be discussed at a public meeting at Fort William Health Centre next Thursday at 2pm.

10 Years Ago

Those Were The Days The Oban Times

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Fleming ward - 'mistake made'

SENIOR members of staff at Oban's Lorn and Islands District General Hospital have admitted mistakes have been made regarding the proposed name change to the Malcie Fleming ward.

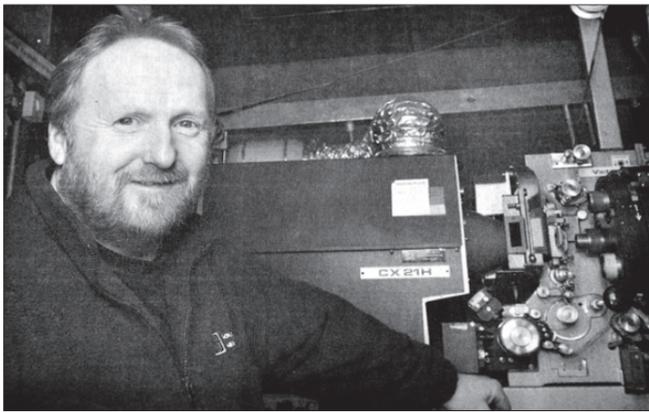
At a meeting of North/Mid Argyll Health Forum, a member resigned over the furore saying the name change was a 'fait accompli'.

The ward was named in honour of Malcie Fleming's 40 years of service as a porter

at the Dalintart hospital, Oban. There has been a lot of ill feeling in Oban over the proposal to change the name to the Cruachan ward.

Malcie's widow Peggy is a resident of the ward and a spokesman said the family had been consulted and Mrs Fleming had given her approval.

But at the forum meeting on Monday, Adam McCracken spoke out on behalf of the Nelson and Fleming family saying they were both unhappy.



Iain MacColl in the projection room of the Screen Machine.

Screen Machine summer tour success

THE SCREEN Machine's summer tour to the West Highlands is a great success. On Islay the mobile cinema

sold out, organised extra showings and even then still had to turn away customers. On Mull last week its three

film programme was also playing to packed houses eager to see Lord of the Rings, Ocean's 11 or Monsters Inc.

Former Gigha laird convicted for hiring 'hit man'

A FORMER millionaire laird of the Isle of Gigha has been convicted of attempting to hire a hit man to kill the mother of his child and her lover.

Malcolm Huntley Potier, 50, who owned Gigha more than a

decade ago, has been warned by a judge in Sydney, Australia, that he faces a lengthy jail sentence.

Convicted Potier was convicted last October of soliciting to murder his estranged Scottish partner

and her Australian boyfriend.

He was arrested last year in Sydney after snatching his two-year-old daughter from her mother and was then found to have entered Australia on a false passport.

Housing association wants to buy Mull schoolhouse

ULVA Ferry schoolhouse on Mull could soon be a home again if a proposal by West Highland Housing Association is accepted by Argyll and Bute Council.

The schoolhouse is one of four properties the association is seeking to buy.

The other properties are at Lochdonhead, Mull and Balemartine and Ruaig, Tiree. All the properties have been empty for between two to four years.

No price details have been released. Many in the community at Ulva Ferry have been annoyed that the schoolhouse has stood empty for so long.

Mull community councillor Bert Leitch said teachers and other individuals have asked to rent the house in the past two years but were always turned down.

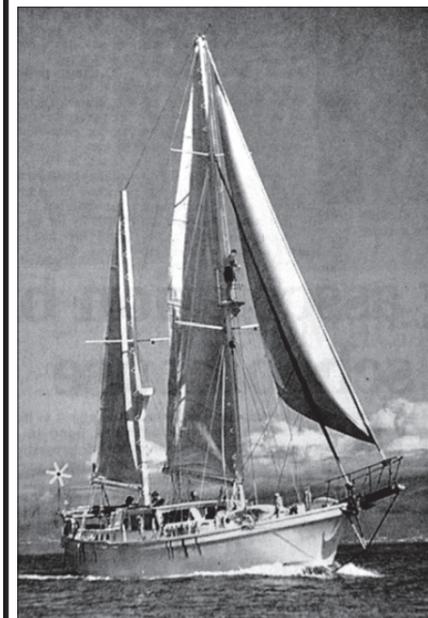
He said about a year ago a move was staved to get the house back into the community.

Mr Leitch said the housing association became involved and the Scottish Land Fund was approached for help.

He said there were people in the area waiting for decent accommodation and if the bid was accepted it would be the first house in the locality that would be let by the public sector — but hopefully not the last.

He said: 'There are people that want to come to this area but there is just no accommodation for them. We badly need people with young families in this area. This house has sat empty for so long and the leader of Argyll and Bute Council talks about 'best value'.'

'They have lost more than two years rent for allowing it to stand empty.'



Silurian, which was used to film part of the BBC's Blue Planet series.

New boat for Mull trust

A 64-FOOT motor sailing vessel has joined the ranks of the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust on Mull as part of a three-year project to monitor whales and dolphins.

The Silurian, which was used to film part of the BBC's Blue Planet series, arrived in Tobermory Bay on Friday.

It will be used over the next three years, with a skipper, marine ranger and education officer on board, to visit schools and communities throughout Argyll and the islands, while monitoring areas in between.



Left to right: Murn Cameron, 5, Patrick Mackinnon, 6, Clare Mackinnon, 4, and Erin Cameron, 4, at Oban's Jack and Jill Playgroup fundraising coffee morning at Glencruitten Church Hall.



Egg expedition for Lochaber teenagers

TEENAGERS from Caol Youth Centre and Kinlochleven and Lochaber high schools spent last weekend on Eigg as part of their Duke of Edinburgh course. The youngsters are pictured at Fort William Railway station.

Oban shinty teams fined £500

TWO FEUDING Oban shinty teams have each been given £500 fines, suspended until June 2004, following the abandonment of a league fixture at which a brawl broke out.

Oban Celtic and Lochside Rovers met in a South Division One league tie at Ganavan last February when referee Robert MacMillan of Paisley was forced to abandon the match after 82 minutes when fists and shinty sticks flew in the middle of the park between several opposing players.

The ruling body of the sport, The Camanachd Association, met at Fort William last week and issued hefty suspended fines.

The committee also warned that the town rivals

must be on their best behaviour over the next two seasons or face further immediate action.

It was the sport's disciplinary committee's ruling that the conduct of the players from Oban Celtic reserves and Lochside Rovers had brought the game of shinty into disrepute and that, in addition to the suspended fines, each club should have two league points deducted from their current league totals.

The abandoned match will now be rescheduled on a date still to be confirmed.

Lochside Rovers had been winning the abandoned league tie 3-1 when violence erupted without warning.

Teenager admits breaking in to primary school

A TEENAGER has admitted carrying out the break-in at Fort William Primary School last year which saw money stolen, windows smashed and children's work set on fire.

Jacob Payne, of 2 Brown Court, Fort William, pleaded guilty to breaking into the school, smashing a number of windows, setting fire to a painting inside and stealing a quantity of money on September 28.

The 16-year-old also admitted breaking into the school on April 20 and forcing open a lockfast canteen and stealing money.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing until May 8 for reports.

Man sent threatening text messages

A MAN has admitted repeatedly sending threatening texts to a man and a woman in Caol for a month last year.

Andrew Brotherton, aged 34, of 1 Lyndsay Avenue, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire pled guilty to sending messages which were grossly offensive, or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character between October 6 and November 5 at 5 Glenloy Street, Caol.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing at Fort William Sheriff Court until May 8 for reports.

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal service changes

THE CROWN Office and Procurator Fiscal Service in the west Highlands has been incorporated into the newly created North of Scotland region.

David Harvie has been appointed as Senior Procurator Fiscal for the area, which includes the Highlands and Islands, Tayside and Grampian.

Mr Harvie said: 'We will continue to work closely with Northern, Grampian and Tayside Constabularies to ensure that justice is delivered swiftly and effectively and that our communities remain safe places to live.'

People carrier crashes into loch

A CAR carrying seven people crashed into a loch on the Isle of Lewis on Monday afternoon, leaving two occupants with head and face injuries.

The people carrier left the A859 a mile north of Lusken-tyre road end, which police said was badly affected by surface water, and landed on its side in a small loch. Stornoway Coastguard helicopter took the injured people to Western Isles Hospital.

Agreement on next stage of Gaelic plan

HIGHLAND Council has agreed the second phase of its Gaelic language plan for the next four years.

The plan, which aims to increase Gaelic usage, was agreed at a council meeting in Inverness and will now be submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for ratification in the very near future.

Councillors meet to decide on new whisky distillery

HIGHLAND councillors will meet in Ardnamurchan this week to discuss whether or not to give the go-ahead for a proposed new whisky distillery.

South Highland planning committee will visit the site of the proposed plant at Glenbeg, between Glenborrodale and Kilchoan, on Tuesday before making a decision later in the day.

Adelphi Distillery Ltd's application for a fine malt plant and visitor centre has won support from many local people, including



Kinlochleven youngsters Connor and Courtney MacGregor help clean their mum's car. 20_f15wash01

Fundraising car wash helps Upper Achintore bloom

A FUNDRAISING car wash at Fort William Fire Station raised cash to help Upper Achintore bloom this summer.

The event, organised by Upper Achintore Regeneration Group (UARG), offered

drivers the chance to get their car washed and rinsed with the powerful fire engine hoses - and made £44. The cash will go towards compost and plants to fill 12 whisky barrels donated by Ben Nevis Distillery. UARG has

already placed the planters around the Fort William housing scheme. Secretary Ken Johnston said of the 'successful' day: 'It's all part of our project to regenerate the area.'

Stamp price hike hits trust newsletter delivery

A MASSIVE planned rise in the price of second-class stamps has forced the National Trust for Scotland-owned Balmacara Estate to stop posting out its twice-yearly newsletter to all local households.

The move, which follows Royal Mail's announcement of a 14p increase to 50p, would see the cost of sending out over 700

copies jump to more than £375 - a hike of £105 per circulation.

Email addresses

The estate has been encouraging readers to provide email addresses so the newsletter can be sent electronically - but recognises not everyone has email access.

Estate manager Iain Turnbull said: 'We

apologise for this reduced service but as financial times are hard we need to review our expenditure from time to time.

'A total cost of more than £750 per year is simply too great for our current budget.'

Anyone wishing to continue receiving hard copies of the newsletter can contact 0844 493 223.



Loch Aline's pontoon development opened to great acclaim last July: now shore-based facilities will be built. 20_f15pontoon03

Onshore services boost for Loch Aline pontoons

MORVERN has received an Easter boost with news that onshore services are to be built to service Loch Aline's pontoon development.

Funding with a total value of £200,000 has been secured for a building incorporating toilet and shower facilities, a laundrette and an office for Morvern Community Development Company (MCD) staff.

The pontoons, on the west side of Lochaline and just a five minute stroll from the village, opened in July last year. Author Alexander McCall Smith was among the dignitaries attending

the ceremony. The new facilities should be up and running by the end of 2012.

In the meantime, temporary showers and toilets will be in place for the start of the 2012 yachting season.

MCD development officer Lilia Dobrokhodova told *The Oban Times*: 'This is a logical continuation of the pontoon project which hopefully will bring more people to the village as well as providing a better service.'

'We did a survey of yachties coming to Loch Aline last year after the pontoons opened to

ask what other facilities they would like to see. The majority said toilet, shower and laundry facilities - people when they are travelling find those services to be very useful.'

'They don't like using their own toilets and showers on the boats because of water pollution - they don't want to get rid of dirty water where they are staying.'

Funding for the onshore services has come from Highlands LEADER and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. MCD is contributing five per cent of the costs.

Drivers warned to expect long delays

DRIVERS in Fort William are being warned to expect long delays as work gets underway to remodel the Lochybridge junction between the A82 and the A830 Road to the Isles.

Work to expand the junction into a two-lane roundabout starts on Monday and is expected to last five weeks. Verge and footway work has been performed on land at the Ben Nevis Distillery in recent weeks.

Traffic lights, which will be manually controlled during peak times to minimise congestion, will be in place until the junction is ready to re-open, and the pedestrian crossing will be removed with a temporary crossing point put in place. Traffic will be restricted to a single lane through the junction during the works.

A spokesperson for Perth-based contractors I and H Brown

told *The Oban Times* the works were unavoidable and delays 'inevitable'.

Carriageway

He said: 'The upgrade works require the excavation and reconstruction of significant areas of existing carriageway, together with new drainage, kerbing and lighting.'

'For practical and safety reasons, this work cannot be carried out without imposing

restrictions on existing road users for a short period.

'The new roundabout should ease traffic congestion at this busy location for many years to come.'

Miller Developments is carrying out the roundabout upgrade under an agreed community benefit package associated with its Blar Mhor development, which includes a Tesco superstore.

Federation calls for ferry clarification

THE SCOTTISH Crofting Federation has written to the Scottish Government asking for urgent clarification of their proposed 'replacement' for the present vehicle ferry service between West Ardnamurchan and Tobermory.

The government draft ferries plan proposes a passenger only service between the two ports - a move Ardnamurchan people in particular are fiercely resisting.

The plan document stated

the scaled-down service would 'continue to meet the needs of the local community' - a claim the local branch of the SCF also disputes.

West Ardnamurchan SCF member Davie Ferguson, one of the leaders of the campaign to maintain the existing service, said local crofters doubted any savings would be made should the downgrade be implemented.

Mr Ferguson told the Oban Times: 'At the moment

Caledonian MacBrayne do not have any passenger only vessels in their fleet.'

'If this is the case, do the Government intend for them to charter a passenger only vessel for this run, or buy one?'

'Can they tell us what the costs are that would be associated with this?'

'Even if they can secure such a vessel, there are doubts as to whether it will be able to use the berthing facilities at Kilchoan.

That's because in recent years the Government has spent a small fortune on the slipway at Kilchoan to improve its suitability for the roll-on/roll-off vessels - there are still divers working there at the moment.'

'The water level at the side of the slipway is now very shallow and I suspect they are going to have great difficulty with the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers if they are not using a ro-ro ferry.'

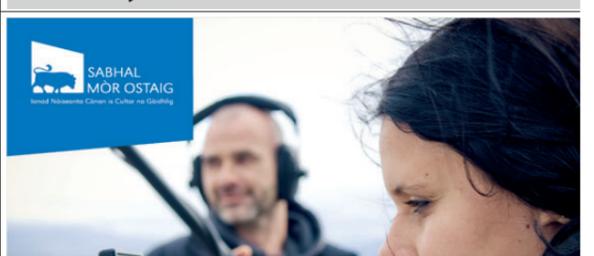
Council leader to hold tug talks with Prime Minister

HIGHLAND Council leader Michael Foxley is to meet with Prime Minister David Cameron to discuss the possible reinstatement of emergency tugs.

Councillor Foxley gave a presentation at a council meeting to highlight some of the work done by the tug boats. The council gave the campaign unanimous backing.

Councillor Foxley said: 'It is vital we retain this crucial service in the Highlands and Islands to safeguard our shipping and coastline. We need to keep the pressure on the Government to make urgent progress.'

Got a story? call the newsdesk on 01631 568000



"Cùrsa sònraichte math airson daoine de gach aois is gach eòlas."

"Cothrom math coinneachadh ri daoine a tha sàs anns a' ghnìomhachas agus sgilean ùra is cudthromach ionnsachadh"

DIPLÒMA ANNS NA MEADHANAN GÀIDHLIG

Chaidh an cùrsa seo a dhealbhadh airson luchd-trèanaidh ullachadh airson saoghal craolaidh an latha an-diugh. Tha oileanaich air an trèanadh ann an suidheachadh Gàidhlig agus ann an dòighean a' ghnìomhachais, a' toirt dhaibh an cothrom teisteanas aig ard-ìre a chosnadh agus aig an aon àm eòlas faighinn air dreuchdan eadar-dhealaichte anns na meadhanan.

Tha oileanaich a faighinn bogadh anns na sgilean bunaiteach a tha deatamach airson a bhith ag obair anns nameadhanan fhad 's a tha iad cuideachd a' leasachadh nan sgilean cànan aca. As dèidh bliadhna aig a' Colaiste cuiridh oileanaich seachad bliadhna a' trèanadh anns a' ghnìomhachas.

Ceann-là airson iarrtas: Dihaoine 8 An t-Ògmhios 2012

Airson foirm-iarrtais cuiribh fios gu:
01471 888336
sm00cni@uhi.ac.uk

www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

Approved fitters of
CR SMITH
home sweeter home
VELUX

gage.joinery
windows

CR Smith PVC Windows, Fully Guaranteed, Professionally Fitted
5 Windows 1 Front Door 1 Back Door - from only £2500 Fitted
PVC Front Door - from only £450 Fitted
Velux Trained Installers - Kitchens Supplied and Fitted
www.gage.uk.net

Call now for a free quote and full colour brochure
07756 514660 01631 570455

FREE MEASURE & DESIGN SERVICE

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

Expert advice on the perfect fitted kitchen from Howdens Joinery.

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

One of our designers will help you design your kitchen, and help you choose from our range of over 40 different styles. Our products are only available to you through your builder or professional fitter, because we believe that the best way to install a fully fitted and perfectly working kitchen is to use an expert. Our designers will explain how to find a builder and will be on hand throughout should you need more advice. We are a UK manufacturer and have over 500 depots nationwide, which means local convenience, support and knowledge.

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

FREE TRIVET WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR KITCHEN PLANNED

Tel: 01631 567083 Fax: 01631 567141 Email: oban@howdens.com
Howdens Joinery Co. Smeckle Drive Oban PA34 4DN
Dept opening hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-12 noon

To find your nearest depot and to request a brochure call 0800 6888 167 or visit www.howdens.com

ISLAY

ISLAY firefighters were called out to two large moor fires in the Rhinns of Islay on March 31.

One fire ran from Culbuie to the ditch bordering Sunderland fields while the other reached from the Conisby side of the hill behind Sunderland and nearly met the Kilchoman road at Miss MacNicol's.

Flames and smoke could be seen from miles away and the fire burned through most of the day until late at night.

ISLAY'S junior Gaelic choir, Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ile, and The Port Charlotte Hotel thank everyone who came to the recent whisky dinner and auction.

A total of £3,395 was raised for Còisir Òg towards its travel to compete at this year's National Mòd in Dunoon. Special thanks go to Martine Nouet as the evening's host and for assistance in preparing the whisky-highlights menu and to Kilchoman Distillery manager John McLellan who was such a knowledgeable auctioneer when the donated whisky bottles were sold.

Thank you to all the distilleries and individuals who donated bottles and the diners and everyone who helped or participated.



The trees alongside Ledaig road are leaning over the carriageway. 15_113tree02

BENDERLOCH

A RETIRED policeman says 'dangerous' branches overhanging Keil road in Benderloch are a serious accident waiting to happen.

However, Argyll and Bute Council believes there is no risk to public safety.

Ledaig resident Bert MacBrayne first contacted the local authority to raise concerns about the roadside trees and in 2004 a survey was taken and some

lower branches removed. The council has also served notice on the landowner to remove additional unsafe trees.

However, Bert insists the more flimsy branches are higher up in the canopy and fears traffic and school pupils that use the road are in danger unless something is done.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The issue first came to my attention in 2003 when I came across a large branch lying on the road. It was so heavy I could hardly move it.'

'My concern is this is a busy road, morning, noon and night. Young children also walk by it to get to school and it worries me that one of these branches is going to fall and kill, or at best severely injure, someone.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said it was satisfied the existing trees and branches were safe.

She added: 'The canopy is high above the road and of no concern at the moment, although we can't anticipate what will happen in the future.'

INVERGARRY

INVERGARRY Primary School welcomed a former pupil back to the classroom before the Easter break - Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander.

The P4-7 class had invited Mr Alexander in as part of their topic on government and he gave a talk on what a politician's

job entails. The MP was treated to a tour of his old school, during which he reminisced about his schooldays.

Head teacher Jane Strachan said: 'He talked to the pupils for over an hour and they thoroughly enjoyed hearing about parliament and his journey to being an MP. They did not however discuss policies or party politics.'



Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander back at Invergarry Primary School.

MALLAIG



Fishermen's Mission chief executive officer David Dickens has made his first visit to Mallaig Fishermen's Mission. Mr Dickens met with people from the local fishing industry and visited various places of interest to acquaint himself with the Mallaig area. Pictured above during his visit to the mission are Superintendent Murray Campbell, West of Scotland Fish Producers Organisation chief executive Kevin McDonnell, Mallaig Fishermen's Mission manager Karen Calder and Mr Dickens.

KILLIN

VISITORS will soon discover much more about Killin when the new heritage trail is developed.

The aim of the trail is to encourage people to explore the whole village and its history. Interpretation panels will be located along the trail illustrating the landscape, architecture and local folklore. A leaflet will also be available.

Some of the interesting features of the trail include the evolution of the village's mix of building styles, stories of people who helped shape it and legends in and around it.

Killin Heritage Trail is part of the Killin Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS). CARS is jointly funded by Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and Historic Scotland. Stirling Council is also making a generous contribution to the project.

As the Breadalbane Folklore Centre has recently closed the interpretation panels and heritage trail will be particularly important.

The aim of the boards and the leaflet is to encourage visitors to explore on foot the whole of the village rather than just gathering around the Falls and then departing. Local businesses are invited to request Killin Heritage Trail stickers and leaflets for displaying in their businesses. The leaflet will also be available to download on to smart phones.

Wider activities and events in the local area will also be shown.

Local business owners who would like to display a sticker and leaflets please contact 01389 727743.

SPEAN BRIDGE

NURSERY children at Spean Bridge Primary School showed a flair for business and baking when they decided to support 'Yummy Mummy' week in aid of the CLIC Sargent - Children with Cancer charity.

The youngsters successfully raised £142.15 by baking and selling a range of delicious cakes to other children, staff and parents within the primary school. Demand was such that more baking ventures may be considered in the future.

Clerical assistant Lorna Weir said: 'The children are ages three and four years and all worked very hard. They had good fun too though!'



BANAVIE Primary School kids enjoyed an Easter egg hunt before the holiday - thanks to nearby BSW Timber at Corpach. The UK's largest sawmill group arranged the fun day for the school's 158 pupils, donating BSW-branded chocolate eggs

BANAVIE

for each child to find. Maxean Dunham, head teacher at Banavie, said: 'We are grateful for the help and support given by BSW Timber and hope that our joint

partnership can continue.' Andy Rogers, manager at the BSW mill said: 'The egg hunt was a cracking day for all involved and, most importantly, the children had a fantastic time.'

The Corpach mill employs 170 people.

Islay Letter

Northern Conference

THE SCOTTISH Society for Northern Studies is holding its 2012 conference on Islay from Thursday April 12 to Sunday April 15.

The theme of this year's conference is 'Islay: From Gall and Gael to Gallowglas' and while the main focus will be on settlement and society on the island during the middle ages, the lectures will also encompass a broad sweep of archaeology, history and folklore in the Hebrides and the surrounding areas from pre-historical until more recent times.

The free introductory session takes place in the Round Church at Bowmore on Thursday April 12, beginning at 7.45pm. Speakers at this opening night will be Malcolm Ogilvie who will address 'Language and Natural History', John Barber on 'Pre-Historic Settlement Patterns' and Margaret Storrie on 'Settlement and Society over the past 300 Years'.

The remainder of the conference, jointly sponsored by Glenmorangie and the Finlaggan Trust, promises to deliver a truly international perspective on the island's past from university delegates representing the UK, Ireland, Canada and Scandinavia. For more information or to register please contact society treasurer Alan Calder on alancalder@btinternet.com.

Surfing challenge

IRISH surfer Al Mennie completed one of his most gruelling challenges on March 27 when he surf-boarded from the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland to the south east coast of Islay.

The internationally known surfer battled strong currents and tidal flows as he tackled the northern channel.

His perseverance paid off, however, when he touched base at the cliffs below the American monument at the Mull of Oa nine hours and 25 minutes after take-off.

He was met there by a group of local supporters led by local surfing enthusiast Marcus

Covell. Al's challenge was heavily sponsored and, to date, he has raised in excess of £2,000 for the Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke Association.

Design a postcard

GLASGOW Islay Association has launched a 'Design a Postcard' competition as part of its 150th anniversary celebrations.

The postcards should clearly depict Islay and can be in photograph, drawing or cartoon format. There will be two separate competitions, one for children up to the age of 12 and the other for senior entrants. Local schools are also encouraged to take part in the competition.

The winning entries will be produced as fundraisers and the winners will be announced at the association's home gathering at Bowmore on July 28.

Participants should send their entries by June 1 to Dr Elizabeth Campbell, 7 Loanhead Avenue, Linwood, PA3 3QR.

Easter worship

A NUMBER of special services marking the Easter period were held in churches throughout the island and involved all local congregations.

The services began with an act of worship at St Columba's Episcopal Church at Bridgend on Maundy Thursday and on Good Friday a Walk of Faith took place in the rain from the Round Church to Morrison Square at Bowmore where an open air service was held.

Easter services continued in all the local churches and children enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by the St Kieran's Sunday Club, in Bruichladdich Village Hall on Easter Day.

The island's Roman Catholic congregation brought the Easter worship programme to a close when they celebrated Mass in the Episcopal church where they regularly worship. **Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810658.**

LUING

FRIGHTENED passengers on board the Luing ferry last Wednesday were shaken as the vessel's gear box failed on approach to the island.

People onboard reported that the boat 'bounced' off the pier several times as the crew battled to control it but there are no reports of anyone being injured onboard the vessel.

One passenger said: 'They knew the gearbox was dying but had managed to make it to the last run and get everyone across. We were told to sit down because they couldn't change down the gears and they used the pier to stop the boat.'

The ferry was put out of service by the incident and a replacement vessel took over the run until repairs were carried out. Normal service resumed two days later.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council confirmed the failure on the vessel after lunchtime on Wednesday April 4.

She said: 'The gear box seized on the Luing ferry and a replacement gear box was sourced on Thursday April 5. 'The ferry was back up and running on Friday April 6. Relief ferry, the *Grey Dog*, was used in the interim.'

ISLAY and Jura Palliative Care Fund is available to help people living on Islay and Jura with life-limiting conditions.

The fund can give assistance when patients need to buy equipment or to access condition-specific training for their carers and local palliative care staff.

The aim of the fund is to allow patients to live more comfortably in their own homes. The fund is managed by local NHS staff and for more information patients should contact their GP or specialist nurse.

ISLAND artist Deborah (Heather) Dewar opened an exhibition of her new work last Friday at the Outback Art Gallery, Sanaigmore.

Many of Deborah's paintings feature Islay's landscapes and seascapes, mythic stories and native breeds of farm animals found on the island. Outback Art Gallery's spring opening hours are 11am to 4pm on Thursdays to Mondays. Follow the signs for Sanaigmore, then turn at the red phone box, going north away from Loch Gorm.



The delighted pupils of Strath of Appin Primary School take delivery of the environmentally-friendly raised beds.

STRATH OF APPIN

BARCALDINE-based Fusion Recycled Plastic Products has designed and manufactured a set of three raised beds for Strath of Appin Primary School.

The school, alongside Kinlochlaich Garden Centre, approached the company seeking beds primarily constructed from recycled materials.

It was envisaged the children would benefit from widening their experience of 'going

green'. The designers said the simple design, which is tailor made to suit the young student gardener's requirements, is both durable, environmentally friendly and will last for many years to come.

The children said they were delighted with them and are looking forward to growing lots of vegetables and flowers.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH FIELD... NOW ON SALE

HAVING AN OBAN BALL - Joy Dunlop on why Argyll is unbeatable

READ... STUNNING RECIPES FROM NICK NAIRN

The legendary Fitzroy Maclean

SET LOOSE THE MOOSE

Stunning images of Scotland's lighthouses

DOUGIE VIPOND ON THE COUCH

Attadale's beautiful gardens

WHY OUR RIVERS WILL SOON BE TEEMING WITH SALMON AGAIN

WIN £255 RM Williams Boots

SUBSCRIBE TODAY... AND RECEIVE FREE TICKETS TO DUNTREATH CASTLE GARDEN SHOW OR 3 HELLEBORES

www.scottishfield.co.uk

Singin' in the rain

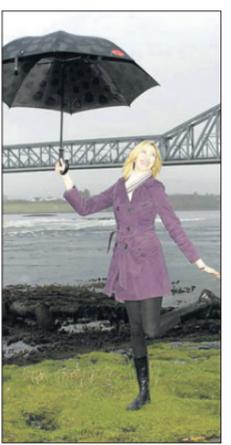
Gaelic songstress Joy Dunlop sings the praises of her native Argyll, in the May edition of Scottish Field magazine

I am very much an Argyll girl. I was born and brought up in Connel, which is a wee village just outside Oban. It's so small you could blink and miss it, though it does have a famous bridge over the stunningly beautiful Falls of Lora.

I was a real tomboy as a child. We didn't have a swimming pool or bowling alley to go to, so we used to roam free, exploring the hills and glens of Argyll, running and playing make-believe a lot. I was an expert tree-climber too. My friends and I would cycle back and forth to each other's houses and along the Bridle Path and back roads.

My family played a very active part in the community. We attended St Oran's, the local church, which is a gorgeous building; it's actually a smaller version of Iona Abbey. If you go there now you'll see the Dunlop rows - they're the only ones with cushions! I would often sing in the church - in fact, churches are my favourite places to sing as the acoustics are glorious.

There is so much that I love about Argyll: the fact that all the drivers wave to each other at passing places; that at Hogmanay in Connel you can hear the boats sounding their horns in Oban harbour; and I love coming back and seeing the same people - it makes me feel at home.



'Singin' in the rain' - Joy Dunlop, back in her home village of Connel.

so good at finding things out they could work for M1!

I've been lucky enough to travel all over Argyll, as an adult and as a child. We regularly visited my dad's family in Port Appin, and for many years our annual holiday was to the Isle of Colonsay, which is just beautiful. We also used to go on church daytrips to Kerrera, Lismore and Mull. The area has such a varied landscape; every

time I come back I'm struck again by just how beautiful it is.

Argyll's hills and forests make it a walker's paradise, and the coastal roads are perfect for a scenic drive. It's also great for activity holidays, on water or land. There is wildlife galore too, with seals, porpoises and whales and numerous seabirds on the lochs and sea. Inland you'll come across deer, red squirrels, hawks and buzzards. I once saw the most enormous eagle just in front of our house. Ceilidhs are my favourite part of Argyll life. They can give you the best nights you'll ever experience. I love the ceilidhs in our neighbouring village Taynuilt - I started singing there when I was young and my mum and dad have been part of the committee for years. They've kept in contact with a lot of people who came along while on holiday over here - we still get Christmas cards from as far away as New Zealand.

My Gaelic singing experience started in 1992 when the National Mòd came to Oban. At that time I didn't speak any Gaelic but a wonderful lady called Mary Pollock, originally from Islay who lived in Connel, taught us all our Gaelic songs for the Mòd. This was her way of supporting the music and language. We were very lucky to have someone like that in the community.

When I first began singing Gaelic songs for the Mòd I didn't understand what the words meant.



Joy Dunlop is no stranger to Royal National Mòd success.

I went on to study Gaelic at school, but I wanted to improve my fluency so I spent my sixth year at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college on Skye. Although I had planned to study medicine, that one year turned into a full Gaelic degree, and the rest is history. On graduating, I got a job as a Gaelic development officer for An Comunn Gàidhealach, which runs the National Mòd, as well as singing, step-dancing and teaching Gaelic. I've been taking part in singing competitions since I was eight years old, but winning the Mòd Gold Medal in 2010 has been the highlight of my singing career

"I love coming back and seeing the same people. It makes me feel at home."

to date - and not just because Prince Charles presented me with my medal. To win it was an amazing feeling and something that I'll always treasure. Releasing my first album, *Dùsgadh/Awakening*, was also a huge milestone and I am really excited about my new collaborative album. But I am also a Gaelic choir geek: I sing in three choirs and I also conduct a wonderful Gaelic male voice choir. I just love my boys!



Thanks to her increasing role on the traditional music scene, Joy is becoming a well known name both at home and abroad.

Read the full article in the May edition of Scottish Field magazine - on sale now

Down Your Way

The Isle of Arran



THIS year sees the 32nd annual Arran Banner Photographic Competition. Once again, the winners will receive a super hamper of island goodies, kindly donated by Gordon Kinniburgh of the Isle of Arran Cheese Shop at Home Farm.

Last year's winners from a bumper entry of more than 500 photos were Jane Brown of Linlithgow and Ian Small of Brodick.

Once again, the two categories will be views and people or animals.

The only rule is that the photo must have been taken on or around Arran from last September to the present day. Closing date is Friday September 14 after which *The Arran Banner* will publish a selection of commended entries followed by the winners in early October.

Animal park could be new island attraction
AN EXCITING visitor attraction could soon be opening its doors on Arran, and it may well bring some unusual new residents to the island.

A couple from Edinburgh, Gordon and Kathleen Graham, plan to buy Auchareoch Farm in Kilmory and open an animal visitor centre that will include some rather exotic creatures.

Auchareoch is situated up a four-mile track, northeast of Southend village. Attractions at the visitor centre are still dependent on planning permission but the couple plan to keep zebras, meerkats and wallabies as well as pigmy goats, pigs, donkeys, chickens, ducks, rabbits and the rarest sheep in Britain, Boreray.

'We are currently going through the formal planning stages in this process and we're hoping for a positive outcome,' explained Gordon.

'The animal park will be funded by ourselves with some private investment and will be run as a business.'

Other attractions on the farm will include an indoor café, sheltered kids play area with a rural theme and a large outdoor kids' fort and outdoor play areas.

In addition there will be various daily activities and demonstrations that could include sheepdog trials, fly fishing casting, sports days and animal talks.

Kathleen was head keeper of hoofed mammals at Edinburgh Zoo and worked there for 14 years.

Smartphone your problems to the council
NORTH Ayrshire Council is building on the success of Scotland's first 'Report It' app by extending the service to Android smartphone users.

The free app comes just months after the launch of the pioneering iPhone app. Thousands more residents will benefit from the App - the first of its type in Scottish local government.

Recent research shows that more than 50 per cent of smartphone users are now on the Android platform, while seven of the top 10 best selling smartphones are currently Androids.

The Android version is similar to the iPhone app, launched in October 2011, in terms of style and functionality.

It harnesses mobile technology and uses maps, photographs and GPS to enable residents to report issues and faults - anywhere, at anytime. This includes potholes, dog fouling, fly tipping, graffiti, road and pavement faults, street and lighting faults.

The app links directly to North Ayrshire Council, providing automatic feedback to customers and allowing them to track the progress of logged cases through to completion.

Dalry road bottleneck to be bypassed
TRANSPORT Minister Keith Brown has unveiled plans for a £28million bypass at Dalry.

Arran drivers will be well aware that for many years Dalry has been the main bottleneck on the road journey between Ardrossan and Glasgow.

Many drivers will have been frustrated at being held up in traffic in Dalry when heading back to catch the ferry.

For decades there has been talk of a bypass around the Ayrshire town. Stumbling blocks have been not only finding the finance but a feeling by Dalry businesses that it would turn it into a ghost town.

Now Mr Brown has revealed in Parliament: 'The proposed A737 Dalry Bypass is included in Intervention 22 of the Strategic Transport Projects Review.'

'Scottish ministers recognise its importance in helping to reduce the conflict between local and strategic traffic that occurs along the A737, improving road safety and journey time reliability.'

Next week *Down Your Way* brings you the news from *Crianlarich*.

LISMORE

LISMORE Gaelic Heritage museum at Ionad Naomh Moluag opened on April 1 for the 2012 season.

During April it will be open daily from 12 noon to 3pm and thereafter from 11am until 4pm. In addition to the permanent displays, the main exhibition room has a schoolroom from the first half of the 20th century plus photographs of the pupils from every decade of the last 100 years. This is a must see for islanders and anyone with any connection to Lismore.

The museum also has an exhibition honouring Alexander Carmichael, folklorist, antiquarian and author of the two volumes of *Carmina Gadelica* (1900), who was born at Taylochran on December 1 1832 and brought up at Killandrist. Among other things, this includes two information panels, a gift from Alexander Carmichael Watson Project at Edinburgh University.

Beside this is the audio-visual display telling the story of the hey day of the Lismore trading smacks - versatile cargo boats operated out of Port Ramsay and Salean between 1870 and the 1940s carrying lime, slate, potatoes and more going as far afield as Dublin and Orkney.

The display was officially opened on October 22 by Donald Meek, Professor of Scottish and Gaelic Studies at the University of Edinburgh, who shared his great knowledge of and enthusiasm for the subject to a capacity audience.

The reconstructed croft house has been spruced up for the new season and Freda Drysdale is promising spinning displays on the resident spinning wheel.

Entry to the museum, the library - with an excellent collection of Gaelic and English books as well as ongoing art exhibitions - and the reconstructed croft house is £3.50 which allows for multiply entries up to five days. Children under 16 are free.

FROM April onwards, the Isle of Lismore café will be open seven days from 11am to 4pm with many special events which will be advertised on www.isleoflismore.com.

There is also local art on display in the café for enjoyment or to buy.

LISMORE hall is looking for new directors to help in the running of this vital institution.

The island's relatively small population means that keeping the many organisations viable needs a great deal of volunteering. Please consider nominating yourself or others to become directors of the hall which is one of the principal centres of island life. To discuss the role, talk to any of the current hall board members. Nomination forms are available in the shop or from www.isleoflismore.com. Should there be more than 11 nominees, an election will be held at the hall AGM on May 2 at 7pm.

CRIANLARICH



'Egg-cellent' pupils at Crianlarich Primary School have been making sugar models as they get ready for Easter. Chocolate nests and models of bunnies were order of the day, while P5 pupil, Ross Ronald, pictured, made a colourful Easter chick - ready to be devoured later. 15_114cscsh1



Easter egg hunt fun at Inverloch

A group of Inverloch Primary School pupils entertained younger children by organising an Easter egg hunt on their last day before the Easter holidays. Nine girls from the P5 class came up with the idea with teacher Mrs MacDonald and hid hand-drawn eggs around the school grounds for P1-P4 pupils and youngsters from the nursery to find. Class teacher Maria McLeod told *The Oban Times*: 'It was fantastic. Everybody really enjoyed it and they had a great day for it.' 20_115egg01

PLOCKTON

DURING March there was only 2.5inches of rain at Plockton, the driest month since last July. The warmest day was 19.3°C on the 27th which was the hottest March day for many years. Coldest night was -0.3°C.

Lochan, the local arts network, presented plays in Plockton Hall. On March 19, Mull Theatre in association with Oran Mor presented 'From Paisley to Paul' by Martin McCaig and 'Waterproof' by Andy Duffy. Both were enjoyed by a large audience.

Plockton Historical Society held a talk in Plockton Hall on March 29 when around 30 people enjoyed a talk on the history of Glencoe by Iain Kennedy, President of the Strathclyde Postcard Society.

Seven men from Plockton travelled to Rome to support Scotland playing rugby against Italy. This was their tenth trip but as in the previous nine Scotland lost.

KINLOCHMOIDART

WORK on the single track A861 Drynie Hill (Kinlochmoidart) should be completed by mid July, Highland Council has said.

The current temporary road closure is to be extended to June 15 to ensure public safety and allow contractors Wills Bros Ltd of Foxford, County Mayo, to safely carry out improvements. Temporary closure times on the road, which connects Acharacle to Lochailort, will be from 10am and 12.25pm (12.35pm for southbound traffic) and from 1.10pm to 3.30pm (3.40pm for southbound traffic), Monday to Friday. The A861 will be fully open on Monday May 7, Friday May 11 and Monday June 4 for public holidays. Motorists are asked to follow local diversions. The council apologises for any inconvenience caused.

CORRAN

LOCHABER residents can hear the engineering story behind the renovation of the Corran Ferry's Nether Lochaber slipway in the winter of 2010.

Sam MacNaughton, Highland Council's head of transport and infrastructure, will give a talk on the major works in the West End Hotel, Fort William, next Monday at 7pm for 7.30pm. Mr MacNaughton will describe the history, issues and problems associated with the slipway, along with the innovative solutions employed to secure the long-term future of the ferry service. Everyone is welcome to the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation event.

Around the Rurals

Oban

'CARING for your feet' was the topic for Oban's March meeting.

Kelda 'Kay' Lang gave an informative talk about foot ailments and how to choose shoes. Kay has been practising as a registered podiatrist in Argyll for many years and donated a session as a raffle prize. Oban will be supporting Mary's Meals backpack project this spring. After the recent press coverage in the Herald, Jenny Moody has been interviewed and will be featured as part of SWRI's involvement in Coeliac Awareness week during May. Jenny has adapted some of her master baker aunt's traditional recipes to suit a gluten free diet.

In the monthly competition, Dilys MacDougall got silver for her paper flowers and Sally Weaser got gold for her item of jewellery.

Morar

MORAR Woman's Rural Institute was entertained by a chocolate expert at its April meeting.

Hostesses Eileen MacPhie and June Foxwell welcomed nine ladies to the meeting, which was moved forward as a result of members' personal commitments.

After the usual business discussion the speaker for the evening was chocolate expert Jackie Ross, who gave a brief outline of the ways in which you can use chocolate. She had also organised a chocolate quiz which involved a lot of tasting.

The second competition was a quiz which eight members completed. Two raffles were won by Christine Haynes and Pauline Elwell.

Competitions: Easter biscuits - 1 Pauline Elwell; 2 Eileen MacPhie; 3 Rita MacDonald; 4 Christine Haynes.



Easter eggs-tra: Kinloch nursery kids at their sponsored egg roll.

KINLOCHLEVEN

KINLOCHLEVEN Primary School and Nursery children held a sponsored egg roll to raise money for their school shelter fund.

A successful day took the total to £3,700 - only £100 short of the £3,800 required. The chocolate eggs were kindly donated by Kinlochleven Co-op and each child entered received

a free egg to keep after the event. For the egg that went the furthest in each class there was a larger egg from the Co-op as a prize. The winning distance was Leis Small with 10.47m. The event raised more than £1,000. Thanks go to the Co-op.



Dramatic night-time Glencoe mountain rescue

The Oban Times' article on Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team's (GMRT) 50th anniversary sparked considerable interest locally. However, unfortunately our caption for the dramatic 1970s' night-time mountain rescue photo was incomplete. The two men on the right, not mentioned in last week's article, are John Grieve, a diver and ex-teacher from Kinlochleven - now GMRT team leader - and David Todd, of Kinlochleven, an engineer at the BA works. The photo was taken by Alan Thomson of Ballachulish, who was then a member of the team.

The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

save up to 40%*

Go digital

The Oban Times Subscriptions

- Read the Oban Times as soon as it comes out
- Access the newspaper anywhere in the world
- Delivered straight to your inbox
- Never miss an issue
- The perfect gift for yourself or friends across the globe
- User friendly format

One year subscription only £34.99

Subscribe today!

single issue, 3 month, 6 month and 12 month subscriptions available

Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/digital or call 01631 568000.

*40% saving calculated against a 12 month print subscription.

WIN!

A four night stay for two in South Lakeland Worth £500

TWO TO GIVEAWAY!

Abbey House Hotel

Here is the last token to be collected, token four.

To enter, simply send us your four tokens that you have been collecting for the past few weeks, answer the question below, complete the entry form and post it to The Oban Times, Abbey House Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by Monday, April 23, 2012.

QUESTION: Which world renowned architect designed Abbey House Hotel?

Answer

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone..... Email

Please post your entries to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Entries to be in by Monday, April 23, 2012.

Tick here to receive special offers and news from Abbey House Hotel

The Oban Times would like to send you special offers and details of our forthcoming promotions.

If you would prefer not to receive information from us please tick here.

How frequently do you buy The Oban Times?

I am a subscriber Every week 2-3 times a month Once a month 1-2 times each season Never

Terms & conditions: The prize is based on two people sharing a double or twin room, bed and breakfast only, subject to availability. The prize must be taken by September 30, 2012. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and Abbey House Hotel employees and their families. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications.

Business

Mull shellfish company to expand with demand

Six new staff to join family firm in thriving fish farming enterprise

FAMILY-owned Inverlussa Marine, Mull, is expanding to keep pace with the demand from the salmon farming operations along Scotland's west coast.

The shellfish company, which diversified into marine services seven years ago, is recruiting six and taking delivery of a new supply-type vessel this month after new securing contracts to deliver feed to fish farms in the Western Isles and Shetland.

The farms are expected to increase business by around 35 per cent in 2012.

Ben Wilson, aged 29, who runs Inverlussa with his father Douglas, 55, said: 'The fish farming industry has been very good for us and, as it has thrived, so we have been able to build our business and employ more local people.'

'We rely heavily on the success of the salmon farming businesses and recent developments including plans by the Scottish Salmon Company to expand its operations give us great confidence going forward.'

'It is important knowing that we can provide employment for local people when there are few opportunities in this part of the world.'

The six new recruits will operate the new 27m, 100 tonne capacity vessel. Five of the six are under the age of 27, including one 17-year-old; four are from Mull and two from the Oban area.

Inverlussa will now employ 19 full time staff and operate three works boats. The latest addition to the fleet was manufactured at Macduff Shipyards.

Charters to deliver feed to Meridian, Marine Harvest, Scottish Sea Farms and The Scottish Salmon Company will provide a big boost to trading at the firm.

Over time, Ben, who left school at 15 to join his father in the business, also sees the prospect of supporting the growing renewables sector in the future, as to date Inverlussa has supplied support vessels to almost all of the renewable survey and investigation work on the west coast.

He said: 'We welcome investment in the west coast of Scotland as it opens doors for local supply chain businesses such as ours. With a third boat and six new crew, our opportunities are expanding.'

Rates deferral scheme comes into play this month

A NEW scheme designed to soften the blow of a 5.6 per cent increase in business rates has come into force this month.

The Business Rates Deferral Scheme became available from

April 1, allowing businesses to defer paying 60 per cent of the increase over a three year period, equivalent to 3.2 per cent of their total 2012-13 non-domestic rates bill.

They will be expected to repay half of the deferred amount in 2013-14 and the other half the following year.

There will be no interest payable on the deferred amount,

but firms have to apply to their local authority to take part.

Argyll and Bute Council leader, Dick Walsh, said: 'There may well be organisations across our area interested in

joining this scheme, which is being administered by the council on behalf of the Scottish Government.'

'However, as this is an opt-in initiative, these businesses

need to submit an application form to our non-domestic rates team. If they wish to be on the scheme from the start, I would encourage them to do this as soon as possible.'

Anyone with any queries should call Argyll and Bute Council's non domestic rates team on 01586 555249, 01586 555220 or 01586 555254 or contact ndr@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Alastair Ness is looking forward to a business boost from the Scottish Six Days Trial.

Lochaber welcomes Scottish Six Days Trial

FORT William businesses are gearing up for the Scottish Six Days Trial on May 7-12 - traditionally a busy time for the town's hotels, restaurants and shops.

An independent economic impact survey commissioned after last year's event showed the trial pulled in around £1,100,000 to the local economy - and hopes are high that 2012 will

provide a similar boost. Alastair Ness, of The Granite House on High Street, seldom has time to go and watch the trial - but has no doubts of the event's importance.

He said: 'The High Street gets a lot busier that week as competitors often travel with their families and make a holiday out of it.'

'Spectators and bike lovers

who don't follow the trial every day also spend time looking around the area. It gives local businesses like ours a fantastic boost and is usually seen as the start of the summer season.'

Impact

'Riders and trials followers have a huge financial impact on Fort William and we always do well during trials week. Fort William plays host to a number

of national motorcycling and cycling events but only the 'Six Days' lasts a whole week.

'The Scottish is known all over the world and that has to be good news for the town. Fort William locals are rightfully proud to have it back every year.'

Pre-event activities include the now well-established Pre-65 two-day trial, based at Kinlochleven on May 4-5.

Oban pub designer transforms popular Tobermory bar with natural materials

MULL gastro-pub Macgochans is sporting a new look, thanks to leading pub designer, Oban man Ranold MacColl.

Licencee Neil Morrison asked Ranold, famous for his unique designs in Glasgow's Oran Mor, Lismore and Ben Nevis bars, to create a contemporary Scottish look for the Tobermory pub.

Using an abundance of locally sourced natural materials, Ranold crafted a look that wouldn't look out of place in amongst its Glasgow peers.

Mulleach Neil Morrison relaunched the bar in February,

complete with an unrivalled mix of local produce, the best Celtic musical talent and cultural atmosphere only found on the west coast.

The former bar manager and director of Isle of Mull Whisky said: 'Ranold and all the local tradesmen have done a fantastic job in producing the ideal venue for me to work with. It has been a pleasure and a great learning experience for me all the way through the process. Now it's down to me to provide the service to match the premises and, with the best of Scottish produce available on my doorstep, this will be an exciting

venture. The more great premises found on Mull, the more visitors we will continue to attract each year and the island will continue to grow.'

Neil has now started working on an additional whisky bar within Macgochans, with Ranold again taking the lead. The new whisky bar is due to open for the Mull Music Festival on April 27. With the support of the Tobermory distillery, visitors will be offered the finest of Scottish whiskies, showcased beside a large open fire in an original stonewalled fisherman's cottage creating an ambience lost in modern times.



The new look Macgochans, Tobermory, plans for which were drawn up by Oban-born designer Ranold MacColl.

Islay distiller celebrates US link

ISLAY'S John Campbell was part of a three-man delegation of Scotland's top distillers who travelled to the United States to celebrate the centenary of the Scotch Whisky Association.

The Laphroaig distiller was joined by Andy Cant, master distiller at Cardhu Single Malt Distillery from Moray, and Bill Lumsden, master distiller at Glenmorangie, to travel to Mount Vernon to toast the Scottish connection to the George Washington Distillery.

The ceremony was the culmination of three days' hard work using 100 per cent Scottish barley and specially-constructed oak barrels to produce the whisky.

After three years of aging in accordance with the maturation period for Scotch Whisky, a limited edition of 100 of the bottles - marking the 100th anniversary of the SWA - will be auctioned for charities around the world.

The US distillery, at Mount Vernon outside Washington DC, has strong Scottish roots. In 1797 George Washington's farm manager, a Scot named James Anderson, convinced his employer that producing whisky made from corn and rye grown on the plantation would be a natural complement to his milling business.

The distillery was built and by 1799 it was producing 11,000 gallons of whisky.

Gavin Hewitt, chief executive of the Scotch Whisky Association, said: 'This exciting project brings together three master distillers of Scotch Whisky to produce what will be a unique single malt. It is a fitting way to celebrate Scotch Whisky's continued success in the United States and the association's centenary year.'

Exports of Scotch Whisky to the US broke through the £600million mark for the first time last year, reaching £654.9million.



Helen Chalmers with the TripAdvisor award for being one of Europe's top 25 rated bed and breakfasts.

'Brockville' is fine holiday getaway

BROCKVILLE may be the home of the footballing Falkirk Bairns, but its name as Mull is winning plaudits as one of Europe's finest holiday getaways.

The Tobermory bed and breakfast run by husband and wife team Gordon and Helen Chalmers, has been named by TripAdvisor as one of the top 25 B&Bs in its 2012 Travellers' Choice Awards.

Recognition comes after the pair established a reputation for outstanding service, quality and value in recent years - something backed by its five star rating on the website.

The Travellers' Choice Award is the highest honour that a bed and breakfast or hotel can

receive from the TripAdvisor community and is based on its reviews.

Helen said: 'We are both flattered and honoured to be given recognition by our guests in this way.'

And the name?

'The house name came about, as Gordon is from Falkirk and is a lifelong supporter of the football club. We built the house with B&B in mind, and it seemed a good start to connect with a potential customer base from around that area.'

The club connection has helped, with guests from central Scotland choosing to get there just because they would be staying at Brockville.

Modern apprenticeship success for Argyll 'on the job training'

Developing excellent customer service skills

OBAN'S Rachel Angus is continuing to reap the rewards of her modern apprenticeship after achieving a level two certificate in retail skills.

Rachel, 20, who has worked for the Original Factory Shop for four years, spent the last year working towards the certificate. Training was provided by Argyll Training and the course funded by Skills Development Scotland.

Rachel's manager, Gwen Cameron, said: 'I am delighted to have supported Rachel through her Level Two Modern Apprenticeship in Retail Skills.'

'It is good to see someone young trying to make a better future for themselves and I think this is a great way to do on the job training.'

'Rachel has worked hard and deserves her qualification. The Original Factory Shop encourages all employees to better themselves if the opportunity arises.'

Rachel said: 'I am very proud I have achieved this qualification



Rachel Angus with the retail skills certificate she earned as part of her modern apprenticeship with the Original Factory Shop.

and it will help my career development.'

Trainer Peter Darling said: 'Rachel was a very positive candidate from the start.

'This qualification is recognition of the excellent customer service skill and retail knowledge she now possesses.'

Businesses adjust to budget changes

Online services to be simplified

LOCAL businesses are coming to terms with a host of changes announced by chancellor George Osborne in March's budget statement.

Administrative changes will be the most noticeable impact for most companies, with online services to be simplified to make tax registration simpler, while a new business tax dashboard will allow small and medium enterprises (SME) to view their current liabilities and payments for self assessment or corporation tax, VAT and PAYE for employers.

VAT registration will be available online from October and by April 2013 businesses applying for a new VAT number should get a response within three days.

Small business taxation

Further simplifications have been made to small business taxation, with the Government consulting on introducing a voluntary cash basis for unincorporated businesses up to the VAT registration threshold. There will also be a simplified expenses system for business use of cars, motorcycles and home.

SMEs should also benefit from the introduction of the Enterprise Management Incentive scheme, which will help them recruit and retain skilled workers.

Furthermore, there is additional support to help start-ups access the scheme and the grant limit is doubled to £250,000.

Corporation tax will be cut to 22 per cent by April 2014, down from 26 per cent last year, while the VAT taxable turnover threshold will be increased from £73,000 to £77,000.

Turnover

Meanwhile, taxable turnover threshold which determines whether a person may apply for deregistration will be increased from £71,000 to £75,000.

The minimum wage will rise below inflation, a move designed to support small business, but the individual income tax personal allowance will rise by £1,100 in April 2013, taking it to £9,205 in total.

The top rate of income tax will be reduced from 50 per cent to 45 per cent next April.

A cap will also be introduced on all unlimited income tax relief of £50,000 or 25 per cent of income, whichever is higher.

The Government says the reforms will make Britain one of Europe's most competitive countries to do business and will strengthen the economy in the medium term.

For more information, visit <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget2012.htm>.

Business

Business reporter:
Steven Flanagan
 sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk
 01631 568021



Arisaig hosts annual West Coast Communities Growth Trust seminar

AROUND 30 entrepreneurs from the west coast and from the isles of Tiree, Lewis, Gigha and Skye, gathered at Arisaig House for the third annual West Coast Communities Growth Trust seminar.

Six keynote speakers travelled to the event,

near Mallaig, which focused on growing sustainable business across the Highlands. Keynote speakers included Bruno Beradelli, founder and chief executive of Highland Wood Energy, Alex Paterson, chief executive of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, John

Benson, founder of efinancialcareers - a leading internet based recruitment company - Paul Atkinson, founder of private equity firm Par Equity, Coll Murchison-MacDonald from accountancy firm Saffrey Champness, and publishing entrepreneur Angus MacDonald

OBE, founder of the Moidart Trust, which helps fund the West Coast Communities Growth Trust.

Angus MacDonald, who chaired the seminar, said: 'The attendees really enjoyed discussing the business issues and ways of addressing

them. The event is designed to help those building the major highland companies of the future.'

Businesses can contact the Scottish Community Foundation on 0141 341 4960 or e-mail grants@scottishcf.org.

All change on Jura business front

IT IS all change on the Jura business front as the island prepares for the 2012 summer season.

Sharon Hoverty has taken on the lease of the community-owned restaurant and tearoom, The Antlers. As a former employee, Sharon is no stranger to the popular restaurant.

Meanwhile, Andy and Cath MacCallum, who took over the Jura Hotel two years ago, are finishing off a revamp of the bedrooms, as well as the guest room and dining room, in time for the busy summer.

Jura Distillery has also been busy in recent months, overseeing an upgrade of its visitor centre and gift shop.

Whisky industry toasts rising exports

DISTILLERS are raising a dram to news that Scotch whisky exports grew by 23 per cent last year - with the industry now worth £4.2billion to the economy.

The Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) said rising demand in both emerging and mature markets has resulted in export values increasing by an average of 10 per cent a year over the past five years. It contributes £134 per second to the UK balance of trade.

Once again, exports to the USA were the most valuable, breaking the £600million barrier for the first time in 2011 to reach £654.9million - up 31 per cent on the previous year.

France, the second biggest market, saw exports grow by 27 per cent to £535.4million.

It was in the world's fastest growing economies that the biggest rises were seen, however, with the SWA saying affluent young professionals are driving a trend for only the best whisky.

Brazilians are quickly catching on to the quality of Scotch, with exports growing by nearly half - 48 per cent - to £99.2million.

Exports to Asia continue to grow at a rapid rate. Shipments to Singapore, which serves as a distribution hub for much of the continent, rose by 44 per cent to £317.9million. Exports to Taiwan also increased by 44 per cent, to a total of £155.2million.

News of the increased demand has seen distillers invest record amounts in production capacity across Scotland. In the last four years, the industry has invested £1billion in new facilities.

Gavin Hewitt, chief executive of the Scotch Whisky Association, said: 'Despite continuing economic uncertainty, Scotch whisky continues to meet increasing demand from all corners of the globe.'

'It continues to appeal to consumers in countries such as the USA and France and is being enjoyed by younger professionals in newer markets in Asia and Latin America. Exports have increased for seven years running contributing to delivering an export-led recovery, a focus for both the UK and Scottish Governments. Securing fair market access and reducing tariffs is a priority for the industry.'

'A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the European Union and South Korea came into force in July. India is a priority for this year. We are hopeful a FTA can be signed which will lead to a reduction in the onerous 150 per cent import tariff.'

'The industry is investing in Scotland to ensure it can seize these overseas opportunities.'

HIE points to Irish opportunities

COMPANIES in the Highlands are being encouraged to take advantage of business opportunities in Ireland by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

HIE will this month hold a free seminar on how to work in the UK's fifth biggest export market - the UK's largest export market in food, drink, fashion and footwear.

The half-day event by HIE in partnership with Scottish Development International (SDI) with funding from the European Social Fund, will be held at Inverness' Eden Court on Tuesday April 17.

McConnell to speak at business expo

FORMER first minister, Lord Jack McConnell, will join a prestigious list of guest speakers at the Scottish Business Exhibition in Glasgow's SECC this year.

Held on November 15/16, he will be joined by Stagecoach supremo, Sir Brian Souter, Clyde Blowers' Jim McColl OBE and Lord Karan Biliamor of Cobra Beer, among others. More information is available at thescottishbusinessexhibition.com.



Denise and Paul Burns are looking forward to the challenge of running their first restaurant as they put the finishing touches to the Hawthorn, Benderloch. 16_15hawthorn2

Hawthorn offers a dream come true

RUNNING your own restaurant can be a daunting experience, but for Paul and Denise Burns taking over Benderloch's Hawthorn Restaurant is a dream come true.

Paul has already built a strong reputation in the area, having been the chef at Appin's Airds Hotel for a decade before moving to Edinburgh last June.

However, the lure of Lorn was strong enough to pull them back to the area they call home and they leaped at the chance to take over the lease at the popular Keil Crofts eatery.

The 44-seat restaurant has undergone a facelift ahead of its full opening, when lunches and high teas will be on offer in addition to the evening menu.

Putting the finishing touches to The Hawthorn Restaurant on Thursday, Paul, 41, and Denise, 43, said they were excited about their challenge.

Denise, who was a framer and worked in Alba, Oban, before taking on the challenge of running the Hawthorn's front of house, said: 'Paul has been a chef for 25 years and this is his dream.'

'We had moved to Edinburgh but we didn't take to city life, so we pretty much moved straight back. This is our first restaurant and we're very excited.'

While Paul's background is in fine dining, he's aiming more towards the bistro market, with firm favourites such as handmade burger and chips making the menu, together with a selection of tasty, seasonal dishes, using local ingredients where possible.

Paul said: 'We're trying to focus on seasonality, so you'll find dishes like Cullen Skink alongside other

favourites. All our fish is sourced locally and, as we live in one of the best parts of the world for local shellfish, we've got that on the menu too.'

'It's honest food at honest prices. We want people to go away feeling they've had a decent and tasty portion.'

Denise thanked the owners of the Hawthorn, Willie and June Currie, for their help.

She said: 'We're really grateful for all the support Willie and June have given us, they've been a terrific help.'



Peter MacLellan turned a hobby into a business.

Colourful start for local craftsman's business

CONNEL based craftsman Peter MacLellan has managed to turn a long-term hobby into a new business with excellent results.

After hearing that he was to be made redundant from his job, Peter decided to turn his passion for glass into a commercial venture and set up Argyll Stained Glass.

'I developed my interest in glass when working for Caithness Glass in Oban in the 1980s and decided to have a go at making my own products.'

'I created stained glass panels, mirrors and decorative products for family and friends,' he explains.

With the threat of redundancy looming last year, Peter decided to turn his hand to running his own business and was hopeful he could attract sales for his stained glass products.

'Although I was confident I could produce a range of products, I had no real sense of how to go about establishing the business until the local Jobcentre put me in touch with Business Gateway,' says Peter.

Through one to one meetings with his advisor Nicky Archibald, he was able to discuss all aspects of starting his business - from creating a business plan and cash flow forecast to pre-start costs, timescales, pricing and networking.

Networking proved particularly useful when a chance meeting at

a Business Gateway workshop introduced Peter to contacts at Dunollie House, seat of the Clan MacDougall.

The historic house is now one of Peter's clients, selling his stained glass panels that reflect the colours of the MacDougall tartan.

Since starting his business last month, Peter has received four commissions for bespoke windows, window panels and a transom and is also adding to his range of non bespoke products.

'I want to cater for every type of customer and budget from attractive gift ideas, to specific design requirements,' he says.

As the orders come in, Peter is also planning to attend local craft fairs and is actively marketing his business, having created his own website www.argyllstainedglass.com.

'I am delighted with how the business is developing,' he says. 'It has been very encouraging to have such an excellent resource behind me in Business Gateway and really given me the sense that I have my finger on the pulse,' he adds.

Peter can be contacted via his website or on 07587 845 856.

To find out more about how Business Gateway could help you set up or develop your business, contact the local office on 01546 605 459.

New West Coast fleet takes to the road



Welcoming the new buses that will serve the Glasgow to Oban service are Colin Craig, managing director of West Coast Motors, and Scottish Citylink commercial manager Aiden Proctor.

Fair trade study looks at challenge of island life

ISLANDERS in the Outer Hebrides are being urged to take part in a study on the challenges facing consumers and businesses in remote communities.

Na H-Eileanan an Iar SNP MP Angus Brendan MacNeil highlighted the study by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) as the rising cost of fuel pushes up yet further the cost of living on the islands.

He said: 'I am in regular contact with the OFT regarding fuel costs, particularly in relation to the high price of fuel in comparison to the mainland and the knock-on effect this has on goods and services in the Outer Hebrides. In addition to high fuel costs, excessive delivery charges from mainland and online stores also anger people, this review is looking for evidence from the public and I hope that many will take advantage of this opportunity and submit their views.'

The deadline for submissions to the OFT is April 20.

Bell Ingram Oban nominated for industry awards

OBAN estate agency Bell Ingram is celebrating after being nominated in three different categories at this year's ESTAS awards.

Not only does the agency find itself listed in the Scottish Lettings and Sales categories, but residential lettings manager Jackie Moore has been shortlisted for the second successive year in the individual achievement award category.

Representatives from the agency will travel down to London's Hilton Park Lane Hotel for next week's awards ceremony, hosted by celebrity estate agent Phil Spencer, to discover if they have won.

The nomination comes on the back of last year's success, when the sales division won a bronze award.

The ESTAS is the only awards programme specifically for estate agents and voted for by clients.

That, says Steven Hornby, senior estate agent at Bell Ingram Oban, is a triumph in itself.

'To be nominated in these awards is an absolute merit to Bell Ingram as ultimately the judges are the clients,' he said. 'To be nominated can have a massive impact on the way potential clients will view us.'

'At last year's ESTAS, our sales division received a bronze award which was a massive honour to everyone involved. It is too often the case within this industry that you only hear when there is a problem so to be rewarded for our hard work is a real boost for our staff morale.'

'Reading positive messages and feedback from our clients is a really rewarding experience and shows our staff which areas we are performing best in.'

Customer service

Entering the ESTAS and to be within the chance of being shortlisted involves writing to clients and requesting their participation in a detailed questionnaire of 11-15 questions which rates the agent on the level of customer service it is providing.

Steven said: 'Entering the awards is quite labour intensive which emphasises our dedication to providing a high standard of customer service, as we want to be in a position to review which areas within our services excel and what we could improve on.'

'We've had a fantastic start this year, beating last year's figures in our sales and lettings divisions.'

'To be nominated in the ESTAS is a fantastic way to increase client loyalty, attract new clients, motivate staff and find out what clients think about our services.'

'We hope our services excelled last year's to win us a silver or gold award.'

On her nomination, Jackie said: 'This award is also purely based on client feedback from the questionnaires so to be recognised for my customer services by those I deal with regularly is a massive compliment.'

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

Practical help, advice and support for new and growing businesses

To find out how Business Gateway can help your business, contact the local office on 01546 605 459 or visit www.bgateway.com

Supporters of the Oban Times business pages

A day out with Lise & Issy




MacPhee & Partners
Solicitors and Estate Agents

Our Estate Agency and Legal Services include:

- SALES, LETTINGS & FREE VALUATIONS
- CONVEYANCING
- COMMERCIAL & CORPORATE LAW
- FAMILY LAW
- EMPLOYMENT LAW
- AGRICULTURAL, ESTATES & RENEWABLE ENERGY
- FORESTRY
- CROFTING SPECIALISTS
- WILLS & EXECUTRIES

Airds House, An Aird, Fort William, PH33 6BL, 01397 701000
Queens Building, George Street, Oban, PA34 5RZ, 01631 562308

law@macphee.co.uk www.macphee.co.uk

Lise says...Issy wanted to put her house on the market so we popped into MacPhee & Partners Estate Agents. Issy needed to speak to someone about offering for a new house and Jo-Anne introduced us to Sandy Henry the Conveyancing Partner. As it was Will Aid month, Sandy suggested we both take up the offer of a free Will. We were researching a business feature for the paper and on hand to discuss this was Johnny Bell (Commercial Partner) and Helen MacLean (Employment Partner) with the firm. After a very productive visit to MacPhee & Partners we continued with my day.



DM HALL
chartered surveyors



Home Reports by DM Hall

Contact Gary Duff at our Oban office on **01631 564225** or email **oban@dmhall.co.uk**
Offices throughout Scotland.

Issy says...We then went round to see Gary at DM Hall to find out more about Home Reports - the first necessary step when you want to sell your residential property. Gary explained how quick and easy it was to request a Home Report to get a value on your home, and mentioned that DM Hall also provide a full range of residential and commercial surveying services so that you know exactly what your property is worth and can get on with selling it without any uncertainty.



Full range of coffees, soups, sandwiches, toasties, hot dogs, knickerbocker glories and assorted ice cream, scones, delicious cakes and pastries.

Argyll Square, Oban
01631 562 588




74 George Street, Oban
01631 564 003

Lise says...Not only was the cup of coffee much needed, it was also totally delicious as was the accompanying scone in the Coffee Corner. With its great atmosphere and friendly staff it is well worth a visit when needing a refreshment. It was a bit cold for an ice cream, but apparently the Knickerbocker Glories are a must!



MacKenzie Interiors
Quality Kitchens & Bathrooms



Professional Planning
Full Technical Survey
All Builder & Joinery Work
All Electrical & Plumbing Work

10 Year Guarantee



Why not give us a call today for a FREE Design Consultation
Tel: 01631 563 793
www.mackenzieinteriors.co.uk

Unit 12, Old Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban, Argyll
PA34 4HQ



Lise says...Thinking of changing your kitchen or bathroom? Then pop along to MacKenzie Interiors where there is a fantastic selection of kitchens and bathrooms to choose from. Not only did Issy receive a free consultation, but also Donald and his staff were extremely helpful and knowledgeable in helping her find her perfect kitchen!



argyll holistic therapy
TEL: 07787 125579 • Email: argyllholistic@hotmail.co.uk
2 Old Crofters, Combie Street, Town Centre, Oban PA34 4HN



Why not treat yourself to a lovely warm relaxing treatment at Argyll Holistic Therapy with Tracy. We can design a pamper session from just £30 for 1 hour or £50 for 2. For example, a holistic and hot stone back massage, eastern face massage, some hopi ear candling, finishing with rainbow reiki.

Go on indulge yourself with sheer bliss.....
Pop in or call Tracy and choose the treatments you would like to have in your pamper session.

For more info call 07787 125579

NEW TO ARGYLL HOLISTIC THERAPY
SKINNY DIPPING



Sit back and enjoy this centuries-old treatment whilst the toothless Garra Rufa fish work their fishy magic, nibbling away the dead and unhealthy skin from your feet or hands.
...Or why not try our Turkish foot or hand massage.

Issy says...We were very impressed with the range of treatments available here. Lise went for a manicure whilst I enjoyed an Indian Head Massage. The surroundings and ambience were so relaxing, and Tracy was very professional with the treatments. The whole experience was a lovely pampering treat which we highly recommend.



THE KITCHEN GARDEN
Delicatessen & Coffee Shop



Gourmet foods • Fine wines • Whiskies
Unusual gifts • Hampers • Biscuits & cakes
Fresh, homemade sandwiches, toasties, soups and cakes in our coffee shop.

Tel: 01631 566332
www.kitchengardenoban.co.uk

Lise says...By 1pm we were ready for lunch so we headed for The Kitchen Garden for a hearty bowl of warming soup with crusty bread (and another great coffee!) Afterwards we browsed all the amazing delicacies, fine wines and gifts in the shop below - there is a fantastic range of not only Scottish produce but world wide too!

Need a Professional Website?

Clearbox Designs is a local design company that offers website design, logo design, e-commerce development and much more.

Website prices from only £299

www.clearboxdesigns.co.uk
01631 570 831
facebook.com/ClearboxDesigns



Issy says...After lunch we went along to see Jon at Clearbox Designs. Jon will create your own website, tailor-made to fit your requirements from scratch, making sure your business really stands out. Clearbox can also design and print your own personalised stationery.

Sea Kayaking Trips and Shop



www.nationalkayakschool.com
01631 565 310
www.seakayakoban.com
Orange Building, 8 Argyll Street PA34 5SG

Lise says...Once kitted out in all the gear we headed out on the water, enjoying a fantastic paddle around the bay and seeing not only the wildlife but also Oban from the water. It was a great experience and back at base had a great time looking around the Aladdin's Cave of outdoor clothing, sea kayaks and gadgets.

I ♥ Slimming World because...



Join a warm and friendly group near you today...

Join Slimming World this Spring and receive:

- **HALF PRICE** membership saving £5
- **Special Offer: 5 friends join together - all get your first week free!** (Just pay £5 each on the night)

Wednesdays - Kilmore & Oban Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban - 10.30am
Thursdays - Lorn Resource Centre, Soroba Road, Oban - 7.00pm

0844 897 8000 ♥ SW on f
www.slimmingworld.com



SAVE £5
FREE Secrets of success guide

Issy says...We really enjoyed catching up with Gillian at Slimming World and hearing about how well the group is doing. It is 16 weeks since the group started on the 26th January and so far the total amount of weight lost is a fantastic 85 stone!! Gillian is always keen to see new members so pop along to one of the two meetings and benefit from one of these great Spring deals.

Street theatre comes to Mull

STREET theatre is being brought to the Isle of Mull this July, with free workshops available for everyone over the age of 13.

Conflux, a street dance organisation working with Scottish artists, will be running classes with all props and costumes provided. The workshops will be followed by two days of street theatre performance events at Tobermory Highland Games and at Calgary.

Ten people from Mull will then be offered the opportunity to go to Glasgow for a weekend to perform at the Merchant City Festival. Meetings for people interested will be held on Wednesday April 18 in Bunnessan Hall at 8pm and Thursday April 19 in Mull Theatre, Tobermory, at 7.30pm.

Comedian Bill Bailey returns to Oban

MUSICAL madman come comedy genius Bill Bailey returns to Oban next month, bringing with him a host of fears as he becomes the Qualmpepper.

Trialling new live material, the show will offer fans a unique opportunity to enjoy fresh, original musings from the modern master of music and comedy.

He last appeared in Oban in May 2010, when developing last live show, Dandelion Mind.

Since then, the British Comedy Award winner's fears about the modern world have turned into qualms. He intends to channel these feelings of unease and apprehension with the help of religious dubstep, a folk bouzouki and maybe a dub version of Downton Abbey.

He will arrive in Argyll on Monday May 21, for a performance at Dunoon before playing Oban's Corran Halls the following day.

He will then play two gigs in Inverness before returning to the west coast for two dates on Lewis, May 25-26, finishing the tour on Skye on May 28-29.

Tickets are available at The Corran Halls on 01631 567333.

Rich oral tradition celebrated on CD

A FREE CD of oral recordings from islands across Scotland has been launched by the Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o' Riches project based at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college in Sleat.

Guthan Eileanan na h-Alba/Voices of Scotland's Islands contains a selection of songs, stories and tunes celebrating the islands' rich oral tradition.

The Inner Hebrides, Western Isles, Shetland, Orkney and Arran are among the 26 islands represented on the CD.

Highlights include a humorous story about a farm servant on Arran, the haunting Uist song 'An Eala Bhàn', fiddle tunes from Shetland and a sweet rendition of the song 'Moira of Jura's Isle'.

The CD will be distributed free of charge. Mairead MacDonald, Director of Tobar an Dualchais said: 'The CD gives a small taste of the wealth of material that is available on our website www.kistoriches.co.uk.

Contribution

'There are now over 28,000 recordings online and those made in the islands make a significant contribution to the website.'

'We believe there will be considerable interest in the CD from people living in the islands featured and also from visitors. People will be able to get free copies of the CD from



Musicians who performed at the Voices of Scotland's Island CD launch: Gaelic singer Mairhead Stewart, Shetland fiddler Bryan Gear, Gaelic singer Alasdair Whyte and Scots singer Chris Wright.

local tourist information offices, museums and visitor centres.'

The CD launch at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig included performances by Gaelic singers Margaret Stewart and Alasdair Whyte, Scots singer Chris Wright and Shetland fiddler Bryan Gear, whose grandfather Bobby

Peterson features on the CD. Bryan said: 'My grandfather Bobby was a renowned fiddler and I am delighted that he has been included on the CD performing 'Kebister Head', a tune which he composed and one which I've always loved. 'It was a thrill to play it at the

launch - my grandfather would have been delighted.'

Recordings on *Voices of Scotland's Islands* come from three major collections: School of Scottish Studies Archives (University of Edinburgh), BBC Scotland and the National Trust for Scotland Canna Collection.

Packed line-up for Tiree Music Festival

THREE stages will be featuring live performances at the third annual Tiree Music Festival, which will be headlined by Toploader and the Red Hot Chili Pipers.

The expansion comes as organisers announce a packed line up for this year's event, which will welcome in total more than 15 acts, including the island's very own Skerryvore, while Barra's Trail West will travel through for their first ever performance on the island.

As well as the main stage, festival-goers will be able to venture into the island's community hall, An Talla, to enjoy the indoor performances, while a smaller stage will be a popular attraction in the new festival 'community village', featuring unsigned acts, family events and music workshops.

Food stalls stocking fresh, local produce are bound to be popular in the community village too.

More live acts are set to be announced in the coming weeks and festival frontman, Daniel Gillespie - a member of Skerryvore - is excited that the festival keeps expanding.

He said: 'Thanks to the new site facilities we've put in place for 2012 and the invaluable support we've received from the likes of EventScotland and CreativeScotland to help promote the event, all the signs are that ticket sales will outstrip both 2010 and 2011.'

'The more people we can encourage to make the journey for this truly unique festival experience, the more people we hope will return at other times of the year - boosting the tourism economy and creating a lasting legacy for the island.'

'Our goal from the start has been to create a family-friendly event that celebrates all kinds of music, from the traditional to the contemporary, against the stunning backdrop of Tiree.'

'We're looking to create an event that encourages new people onto the island and also affords islanders the opportunity to enjoy new musical influences. So to attract headliners as epic as Toploader and the Red Hot Chili Pipers to an island as tiny as Tiree is a real coup.'

For more information, see tireemusicfestival.co.uk.

what's on oban

Every Thursday >	Ceilidh Night
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	9pm-11pm
Every Thursday >	Disco
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	11pm-2am
Every Saturday >	Club Night with DJs
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	11pm-2am
Friday 13th April >	Chris Suckle
Markie Dans	9.30pm
Saturday 14th April >	Brass Monkeys
Markie Dans	9.30pm

what's on lochaber

Friday night >	Nightclub with DJ Irish Al
Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Beat the Clock
Saturday night >	Nightclub 10pm till 2am
Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Beat the Beats
Friday 13th April >	DICK GAUGHAN
Sunart Centre, Strontian	8pm. www.sunartcentre.org

Sponsored by

SKIPINNISH CEILIDH HOUSE FORT WILLIAM

www.skipinnish.com

Middle Street, Fort William

CD review

Rura - Break It Up

Debut album from this young band who have created a buzz throughout the traditional music scene with their powerful music.

The band features three "BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician Of The Year" finalists and an "All Ireland Bodhran Champion." Winners of "The MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards 2011 - Best Up And Coming Artist." Rura combines the passions and influence of some of Scotland's most exciting young musicians and the album is a fine balance of tunes, including a Pibroch, and songs. Tight instrumentals and stunning vocals.

Treacherous Orchestra - Origins

A turbo-charged twelve-piece plus guests supergroup comprising some of Scotland's finest young instrumentalists. An album of rousing, high energy fusion work from the vibrant Scottish folk scene, influenced by rock as well as traditional Celtic styles. Many of the group are also gifted composers, producers and engineers in their own right and 90% of the material is self-penned, with sophisticated musical arrangements.

Featuring members past and present of Croft No 5, Peatbog Faeries, Salsa Celtica, Session A9, Old Blind Dogs, Box Club and Back Of The Moon, The Treacherous Orchestra are influenced by pioneers such as Martyn Bennett, Shooglenifty, Wolfstone, Gordon Duncan... and Led Zeppelin.

sponsored by

musicscotland.com

Over 4000 Scottish, Irish, Roots, World, Folk and Celtic music CDs, DVDs, books and sheet music titles, with mp3 music samples.

Worldwide despatch next working day of in-stock titles

www.musicscotland.com

or Tel: 01631 719 001

Email: info@musicscotland.com

20 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AT

musicscotland.com is part of Oban Music

Ballet West students showcase work

A SHOWCASE for Ballet West's degree students will be held in Oban's Corran Halls tomorrow (Friday), demonstrating three years of work.

The concert, On the Edge, is an opportunity to see these eight students before they leave to work as professional dancers.

The show demonstrates the breadth of experience the dancers have gained from classical ballet, modern ballet, and contemporary and musical theatre skills.

Local and visiting musicians delight Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club

ISLE of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club enjoyed a night of performances from a large number of local and visiting musicians in Portree.

Among the performers were accordionists John Carmichael, Iain and Murdo Cameron, Blair Douglas, John MacGilvary and David Morton while on fiddles were Alan Henderson, Simon

Moran, Wendy Riva and Ellie MacPherson.

On keyboards were Iain Anderson and Alan Shepherd and on drums, Andrew MacPherson and Alistair Murray.

Completing a great evening of music was the performance of the guest band The Donald MacLeod Trio - three top class musicians led by Donald

accordian, with Iain Anderson on keyboards and Gus Millar on drums.

They delighted the appreciative audience with a great series of marches, jigs, reels and waltzes played to the highest standard to bring an evening of wonderful music to a close.

Earlier in the week the club members travelled south for an evening of music and friendship with Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club.

A host of players from Lochaber and beyond entertained, with the icing on the cake being a performance from the amazing Iain MacPhail Band.

The long journey home served as a reminder of the dedication of so many guest bands who, after entertaining at clubs often have to journey through the night to be home in time to start their 'day jobs'.

The next club night will be in the Royal Hotel, Portree on Thursday May 3 when guest artistes will be The Pentlands Ceilidh Band. - *John Grundy*



The Donald MacLeod Trio: Gus Millar, drums, Donald MacLeod, accordion, and Iain Anderson, keyboard.

Village welcomes National Theatre of Scotland

CRANLARICH Village Hall will this month welcome the National Theatre of Scotland's critically acclaimed *The Strange Undoing of Prudence Heart*.

Arriving on April 26, locals are invited to share a lock-in with the National Theatre of Scotland's company of actors and musicians and to indulge in an evening of supernatural storytelling, music and theatre

inspired by the Border Ballads, Robert Burns and the poems of Robert Service.

A sponsorship deal means a dram of Benromach's single malt whisky will be handed to each adult member of the audience, to help engross them into the story.

Tickets for the show, which starts at 7.30pm, are available at the village Post Office.

Leisure newsdesk: 01631 568000

CASTLE STALKER VIEW

LICENSED CAFE & GIFT SHOP

OPEN 9:30am - 5:30pm 7 days per week

Breakfast, brunch, lunch & home-baking

Spectacular views

Lovely gift shop

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @StalkerViewCafe

Castle Stalker View

APPIN - halfway between Oban & Fort William on the A828

Tel: 01631 730444 | Email: castlestalkerview@yahoo.co.uk

Castle Stalker: A great place to go

Castle Stalker is the perfect place to head out to for a delicious afternoon tea while enjoying the stunning scenery.

The café offers fantastic coffees and home baking, as well as an extensive lunch menu.

Stocking primarily Scottish produce and with its licensed status, I think the

café is the ideal place to sit out in the sun and relax.

Not only is it a great place to go and eat, but there is also a super gift shop with a huge choice of unique cards and prints, hand-made jewellery, ceramics, toiletries, clothing and a great range of books and music.

Follow us on facebook

www.facebook.com/obantimes

Local Producers Market

Thursday 19th April

Kintaline Farm, Benterloch, 1 mile along the Tralee road

10 am to 3 pm

LOTS TO EAT AND DO

Every First / Third Thursday

Interested Producers contact 01631 720223

Local Origins Rural Network www.lorn.org.uk

Cuilfail Hotel means a sheltered corner Kilmelford, By Oban, Argyll

Open for lunches and evening meals

We are delighted to welcome our new chef, John Fisher, from Kilmartin Museum Restaurant.

Food served all day Saturday & Sunday, 5.30-8.30 throughout the week.

Bar & Bistro menu served in our new restaurant and light lunches also available 12-2.30.

Booking advised

New Restaurant opening Friday 20th April

T: 01852 200274 E: mail@cuilfail.com

Oban Times LEISURE TIMES

FREE West Coast 2012 Tourist Maps

OUT NOW!

Available for FREE from tourist hot spots, Tourist Information Centres and most retailers. PLUS, download for free from www.scottishtouristmaps.co.uk

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

Source: Jigsaw data as at 01/07/2011

The Oban Times A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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

Meur Lochabair Present a **UIST NIGHT**

West End Hotel, Fort William

Saturday, April 21st at 7.30pm

Paul MacCallum, Gilebride and Mairi MacMillan

Linda MacLeod, 'Seasaidh Lexie'

Piper: Brighde Campbell

Music: Alec MacLean's Highland Ceilidh Band

Admission £8

Supported by Caley Builders

Comunn Gaidhealach An Obain **Ceilidh**

Masonic Hall Oban

Saturday April 21, 7.30pm

Artists: Kenna Campbell, Calum Ross, FAnn MacLean, Duncan MacDonald, Piper P.M Ian Hurst, Accordion Robert Robertson, Chairman Dr Roddy MacLeod

Admission £5

Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival

Tickets now on sale

Accordion & Fiddle Masters (4 May)

Scottish Choreography Challenge (5 & 6 May)

Festival Family Dance (5 May)

Tel. 07510 841198

OBAN BRANCH **SCOTTISH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS COFFEE MORNING CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HALL**

10AM - 12 NOON ON SATURDAY APRIL 14

ENTRY BY DONATION

BAKING STALL AND RAFFLE

Oban & Lorne Strathspey & Reel Society

Fiddlers' Rally Concert

Saturday 21 April 2012, 7pm

Corran Halls, Oban

Guest Artistes

Mary Catherine MacNeil: Mod Gold Medallist

Maurice Duncan: Champion Fiddler

James MacPherson & Aaron Hossain: Pipers

Conductor: Helen Jordon

Chairman: Peter MacLeod

Tickets: £8 Concessions £6.50

Seats can be reserved, available from Corran Halls only

Tel: 01631 567333

OBAN AND DISTRICT **DARTS LEAGUE**

S D MACDOUGALL OPEN SINGLES COMPETITION

Sat April 28

Glencruten Golf Club 12 noon.

£250 First prize £100 Second Prize

£50 each for losing Semi-Finalists and a £50 prize for the best female player.

ES Entry Fee

Entries Telephone Kenny Carmichael 07934 026127

To advertise in the **WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD**

Telephone: **01631 568000**

SPRING PROPERTY GUIDE



Savills Glasgow
163 West George Street
Glasgow G2 2JJ
0141 222 5875
glasgow@savills.com
savills.co.uk




EILEAN FRAOICH, NORTH CONNEL, OBAN

A large family home with excellent spec and open views over Loch Etive

5 bedrooms (3 en suite),
2 receptions, playroom/bed 6
Shore access, mooring

Offers over £450,000
Contact: Andrew Perratt

Buying or selling this spring? Talk to Savills.

Savills Glasgow
Andrew Perratt
Head of Residential
0141 222 5875
aperratt@savills.com

Miller Stewart
ARGYLL & DUNOON ESTATE AGENTS SOLICITORS & NOTARIES
TEL: 01369 708960
204 Argyll Street, Dunoon, Argyll PA23 7HA
www.millerstewart.com



Caman, Manse Crescent, Inveraray
Fantastic family 4 bedroom semi detached house set in a rarely available area of Inveraray offers stunning views of Loch Fyne.



Campbells Cottage, Cairndow
Detached 2/3 bedroomed Cottage with a sizeable plot to the side of Campbells Cottage which has detailed planning consent for a detached dwelling.



Mo Dachaidh, Strachur
most attractive traditional family home, benefits from being situated in the heart of the village of Strachur and yet is located down a quiet lane with country views.



Red Lodge Cottage, Tarbert
Delightful traditional 2 bedroom semi detached cottage. Located just off the harbour in the beautiful village of Tarbert.



3 Bed Detached, Taynuilt
A selection of 3 and 4 bed detached homes ready to build to your specification.



West Drimfern, Inveraray
Charming 18th century 2 bedroom cottage, situated amid stunning Glen Aray with spectacular views of the Argyll countryside.

Miller Stewart Estate Agent and Solicitors, covers the whole of Argyll and the Islands. Although based in Dunoon our agents are available to value and conduct all viewings throughout Argyll. We also have prominent high street offices in Glasgow, Inverness, Aberdeen, Aviemore, Cumbernauld and Dumfries. Combine this with our unbeatable online marketing with Rightmove, GSPC, Zoopla, S1 Homes and many more. No other estate agent in Argyll offers you this coverage. If you are looking for a proactive estate agent that will leave no stone unturned then you have found it. Miller Stewart Argyll GSPC can help with all aspects of buying and selling your property. Call today for a no obligation chat about how we can help you get the results your property deserves. We pride ourselves on being helpful, efficient, friendly and trustworthy. Pick up a copy of the ever popular GSPC property guide at one of our display points throughout Argyll or visit us online at www.millerstewart.com to view over 300 properties. We have new properties coming on every week so why not leave your details with us to be first to know your dream home has come on the market. Thinking of selling? Call today quoting the Oban times to receive a discount on our very competitive fees. Offer valid until 30th April 2012

**West Coast
Property Guide
West Coast**

CORRIGALL BLACK
Solicitors, Estate Agents & Notaries Public

1 HAZEL GARDENS, TOWARD, BY DUNOON, ARGYLL, PA23 7SW

Detached Bungalow with magnificent views up and down the River Clyde situated on Toward Shore Road comprising Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, 3 Bedrooms, Shower Room and Utility Room with Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage and Off Street Parking.

OFFERS IN REGION OF £230,000 ARE INVITED

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS

20 John Street, Dunoon, Argyll. PA23 8BN Tel. 01369 702941/704777
Fax . 01369 704304 DX 591651, Dunoon, LP 4 Dunoon www.corrigallblack.com

TO LET

ONE BED FLAT TO LET
Oban Town Centre
Fully furnished
£380 per month
Ex Council Tax
Tel: 07530186998
or 01631 565724

To let in the picturesque village of Carradale, 3 bedroom detached bungalow, large garden, driveway, L-shaped lounge/diner, whirlpool bath and shower, dual central heating oil and solid fuel, references required, £495 pcm.
Telephone 07401835333.

TO LET
Spacious two bedroom ground floor flat well maintained in quiet area of Tarbert, off road parking and garden
£350pcm exc. council tax and bills
tel 01852 300484
mob 07500039688

COMMERCIAL

Retail unit to let adjacent to Hazelbank Motors, Lynn Road, Oban.
Telephone 07795972665

Two bedroom ground floor flat in a good Campbeltown tenement.
£300 PCM.
References and deposit required
Phone 01586 810267
16-21 April
or 01848 200364
any other time
REG 33590/130/19520

HOUSE FOR RENT
4 bedroom detached house in country location 5 miles south of Oban. Available for long term let. References required, no DSS,
rent £675 pcm + council tax etc.
Contact 07795972665.

increase your bookings through Welcome Cottages

Over 250,000 people book with Welcome Cottages every year, making us one of the UK's most successful holiday letting brands.

Why join Welcome?

- We manage the bookings for you
- Your own expert manager based in your area
- Unrivalled group advertising budget

Call for your free owner information pack
0845 268 0558 or visit us at www.letmycottage.com

AUCTION

A MAJOR LONDON PROPERTY AUCTION

Must be Sold.com
Friday 20th April 2012 at The ExCel London, One Western Gateway, Royal Victoria Dock, E16 1XL, 1.00pm

93 Sound of Kintyre, Machrihanish, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6GA
Guide price £35,000

Contact auctioneers for further information (0207) 407 1743 • www.mustbesold.com

WANTED

Want to let your holiday property? We'll give you more bookings, less hassle

✓ Achieve as many as 47 bookings a year
✓ FREE property inspection & letting consultation
✓ EXPERT photos & advertising

Call today for your FREE owners pack
0800 915 4750
www.SykesOwners.co.uk

SYKES cottages

HOLIDAY COTTAGES WANTED

ONLY 15% AGENCY COMMISSION (FIXED & GUARANTEED)

Payment in advance
Flexible owner bookings
Sales lines open 7 days/week

For details and an Owner Information Pack please contact Karen McWilliams
01665 721 241
Email: karen@scottish-cottages.co.uk www.scottish-cottages.co.uk

THE KEY TO SELLING YOUR HOME TODAY

The Oban Times
WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk



MacPhee & Partners
Solicitors & Estate Agents

Oban Office - Jo-Anne MacDougall or Iona Bethune
8 George Street, Oban PA34 5SB
Tel: 01631 565251

Fort William Office - Katie Lamont or Colleen MacLean
Airds House, An Aird, Fort William PH33 6BL
Tel: 01397 702200

PRICE REDUCED BY £20,000



29 DALAVICH
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF
£95,000
NEW REDUCED PRICE
SELLING AT £20,000
BELOW VALUATION

- SEMI DETACHED COTTAGE
- RURAL VILLAGE LOCATION
- COMPLETELY REFURBISHED THROUGHOUT
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- UTILITY ROOM
- 3 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN
- GARAGE SHED
- COAL SHED
- OFF STREET PARKING



17 COMBIE STREET
OFFERS IN THE REGION
OF: **£105,000**

- EXCELLENT LETTING POTENTIAL
- LOUNGE
- BREAKFASTING KITCHEN
- 3 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- TOP FLOOR FLAT
- CONVENIENT TOWN CENTRE LOCATION



TIGH BAN, KILCHRENAN
NEW TO MARKET
OFFERS OVER **£320,000**

- DETACHED COUNTRY HOME
- WELL PRESENTED
- RURAL COMMUTER VILLAGE
- OPEN OUTLOOK TOWARDS CRUACHAN AND SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE
- OPEN PLAN LIVING AREA WITH KITCHEN AND LOUNGE
- 5 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- SUN ROOM
- STUDY
- LAUNDRY ROOM AND UTILITY
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING & ELECTRIC HEATING
- LARGE GARDEN
- DETACHED GARAGE WITH WORK SHOP SHED AND CAR PORT
- PARKING FOR MULTIPLE CARS



CAMAS BAN, GANAVAN ROAD, OBAN
NEW TO MARKET
OFFERS OVER **£320,000**

- ATTRACTIVE DETACHED SEASIDE HOME
- STUNNING LOCATION CLOSE TO OBAN TOWN CENTRE
- OUTSTANDING OPEN OUTLOOK TOWARDS THE ISLES OF LISMORE AND MULL
- KITCHEN
- DINING ROOM
- LOUNGE
- 3 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- CONSERVATORY
- LARGE GARDEN
- DETACHED GARAGE
- PARKING FOR MULTIPLE CARS



17A CORRAN BRAE, DUNOLLIE, OBAN
OFFERS OVER **£85,000**

- WELL PRESENTED GROUND FLOOR FLAT
- IN GOOD ORDER THROUGHOUT
- POPULAR RESIDENTIAL AREA
- CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- 2 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- SOLID FUEL CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN AND SHARED DRYING GREEN



INVERARAY COTTAGE, SOROBA HOUSE MEWS, OBAN
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF
£145,000

- SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN
- GARDEN SHED
- DRIVEWAY WITH PARKING



PLOT EAST OF SEABANK COTTAGE, SOUTH SHIAN, BENDERLOCH
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF
£135,000
NEW PRICE

- HIGHLY DESIRABLE BUILDING PLOT
- COUNTRYSIDE LOCATION
- WATERFRONT POSITION
- SPECTACULAR VIEWS
- EXTENDING TO 0.85 ACRES
- PLANNING PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE



ELLERIC HOUSE, FASHACLOICH, BY APPIN
PRICE GUIDE **£320,000**
NEW PRICE

- SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED COUNTRY HOUSE
- FANTASTIC RENOVATION PROJECT
- RURAL COUNTRYSIDE LOCATION
- EXPANSIVE GARDEN GROUNDS EXTENDING TO APPROXIMATELY 8 ACRES
- TWO STONE OUTHOUSES WITH DEVELOPMENT / HOLIDAY LET POTENTIAL
- LOUNGE
- RECEPTION ROOM
- LARGE KITCHEN
- SUN LOUNGE
- 4 BEDROOMS / UPSTAIRS SUN ROOM
- 3 BEDROOMS
- LIBRARY
- STUDY
- BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- 2 CLOAKROOMS
- UTILITY ROOM
- 2 ATTIC STORE ROOMS
- DOUBLE GARAGE
- GREENHOUSE
- DRIVEWAY WITH PARKING
- COMBINATION OF OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING AND ELECTRIC HEATING



ERRAY COTTAGE, TOBERMORY, ISLE OF MULL
NEW TO MARKET
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF
£125,000

- DETACHED BUNGALOW
- ISLAND LOCATION
- COUNTRYSIDE VIEWS
- LOUNGE/DINER
- KITCHEN
- 2 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- GARDEN
- OFF STREET PARKING



10 KERRERA TERRACE, DUNOLLIE, OBAN
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF
£130,000

- END-TERRACED DWELLINGHOUSE
- POPULAR RESIDENTIAL LOCATION
- CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- 3 SPACIOUS BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN WITH GARDEN SHED



ASHGILL, DRUMMORE ROAD, OBAN
NEW TO MARKET
OFFERS OVER **£225,000**

- ATTRACTIVE SPACIOUS DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- PLEASANT RESIDENTIAL LOCATION
- CLOSE TO OBAN TOWN CENTRE
- GOOD ORDER THROUGHOUT
- LOUNGE
- BREAKFASTING KITCHEN
- DINING ROOM
- SITTING ROOM
- 4 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- CLOAKROOM (W.C)
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- MIL FIRED HEATING
- SPACIOUS ENCLOSED GARDEN
- AMPLE OFF STREET PARKING



SEILEACHAN, BALVICAR, ISLE OF SEIL
FIXED PRICE **£170,000**

- STRUCTURALLY REPAIRED DETACHED DORRAN BUNGALOW
- RURAL LOCATION
- REQUIRES UPGRADING
- LIVING AREA
- KITCHEN
- SUN ROOM/OFFICE
- 3 BEDROOMS
- SHOWER ROOM
- UTILITY ROOM
- STORAGE HEATING AND DETACHED GARAGE / WORKSHOP
- MULTI-FUEL STOVE
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN
- DRIVEWAY WITH PARKING FOR MULTIPLE CARS
- NO ONWARD CHAIN



18 GLENMALLIE ROAD, CAOL
FIXED PRICE **£160,000**
REDUCED BY **£5,000**

- END TERRACE PROPERTY
- IN IMMACULATE ORDER
- BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED
- VILLAGE LOCATION
- LOUNGE
- BREAKFASTING KITCHEN
- DINING ROOM
- 3 BEDROOMS (1 EN-SUITE)
- BATHROOM
- UTILITY
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- OFF-STREET PARKING
- GARDEN SHED



DALRIADA COTTAGE, BRIDGE OF AWE, BY TAYNUILT
FIXED PRICE **£175,000**

- DETACHED FAMILY BUNGALOW
- RURAL LOCATION
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- 3 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- GARDEN
- LARGE WORKSHOP WITH GARAGE
- DUCTED AIR CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING



39 ACHLONAN, TAYNUILT
GUIDE PRICE **£162,000**
NEW PRICE
VIEWING ESSENTIAL

- BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED EXTENDED FAMILY HOME
- IDYLIC COUNTRYSIDE VIEWS
- TOWARDS BEN CRUACHAN AND GLENDE
- TEN MINUTE WALK TO THE SHORES OF LOCH ETIVE
- BRIGHT SPACIOUS LOUNGE
- HIGH SPEC KITCHEN/DINER
- 3 BEDROOMS
- MODERN FAMILY BATHROOM
- LARGE ROOF TERRACE
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- ATTRACTIVE GARDEN WITH GARDEN SHED



BUILDING PLOT AT GLENMORE, ARDNAMURCHAN
OFFERS OVER **£150,000**

- PRIME BUILDING PLOT
- EXCEPTIONAL VIEWS
- ACCESS TO LOCH SUNARY WITH MOORING AVAILABLE
- RURAL LOCATION
- FULL PLANNING PERMISSION FOR ARCHITECT DESIGNED HOUSE
- APPROXIMATELY 1 ACRE
- SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR CONNECTION CLOSE BY



CLEARWATER HOUSE, ROSHVEN
PRICE GUIDE **£365,000**
REDUCED BY **£20,000**

- DESIRABLE DETACHED HOME
- ACCESS TO BEACHES
- STUNNING VIEWS OF LOCH & HILLS
- MOVE IN CONDITION
- OPEN-PLAN LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- NEWLY FITTED KITCHEN
- CLOAKROOM
- 4 BEDROOMS (1 EN-SUITE)
- BATHROOM
- HARDWOOD DOUBLE GLAZING
- TOTAL CONTROL ELECTRIC HEATING
- SECULDED GROUNDS
- MOORINGS NEARBY
- DIRECT RAIL LINK TO GLASGOW



7C QUARRY ROAD, OBAN
NEW TO MARKET
OFFERS OVER **£80,000**

- WELL-PRESENTED FIRST FLOOR FLAT
- IN GOOD ORDER THROUGHOUT
- POPULAR RESIDENTIAL AREA
- CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- BEDROOM
- BATHROOM
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- SHARED DRYING GREEN



5 CALEDONIAN APARTMENTS, CORPACH
PRICE GUIDE **£148,000**

- MODERN FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT
- IN "WALK-IN" CONDITION
- LOCH & MOUNTAIN VIEWS
- LIFT ACCESS
- LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- SHOWER ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- PRIVATE PARKING



NEW BUILD HOLIDAY CABINS, DALAVICH
FIXED PRICES FROM
£99,000

- 2 AND 3 BEDROOM QUALITY NEW BUILD HOLIDAY CABINS
- FIXED PRICES FROM £99,000
- FREEHOLD
- RURAL VILLAGE LOCATION
- EXCELLENT HOLIDAY LETTING POTENTIAL
- OPEN PLAN LIVING/KITCHEN/DINING AREA
- SHOWER ROOM
- MASTER EN-SUITES AVAILABLE
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS AND AIR CONDITIONING
- DISABLED ACCESS
- LANDSCAPING
- PARKING



MAHAAR, CORRIEHOILLE ROAD, SPEAN BRIDGE
PRICE GUIDE **£245,000**

- DETACHED BUNGALOW IN EXCELLENT ORDER
- STB 3 STAR B&B
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- 6 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- PARTIAL DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN
- AMPLE PARKING



WEST LODGE, INVERGLOY, SPEAN BRIDGE
PRICE GUIDE **£210,000**

- TRADITIONAL DETACHED COTTAGE
- UNIQUE RURAL LOCATION
- IN EXCELLENT ORDER
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- 3 BEDROOMS
- SHOWER ROOM
- CLOAKROOM
- ELECTRIC 'WET SYSTEM' CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN (APPROX 0.3 ACRES)



6 GLENMHOR TERRACE, LOCHSIDE, FORT WILLIAM
PRICE GUIDE **£249,000**

- SEMI DETACHED DWELLINGHOUSE
- VIEWS OVER RIVER LOCHY
- B&B POTENTIAL
- IN EXCELLENT ORDER
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM/STH BEDROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- UTILITY
- 4 BEDROOMS (3 EN-SUITE)
- BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- GARDEN
- GARAGE



QUAICH COTTAGE, UPPER BANAVIE, BY FORT WILLIAM
OFFERS OVER **£430,000**

- SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED VILLA
- IDYLIC LOCATION
- IN EXCELLENT ORDER
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- UTILITY
- 5 BEDROOMS (4 EN-SUITE)
- BATHROOM
- CLOAKROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- LARGE GROUNDS



9 CAMERON BRAE, KENTALLEN
PRICE GUIDE **£315,000**

- SUPERIOR DETACHED VILLA
- IN IMMACULATE ORDER
- SWEEPING VIEWS OVER LOCH LINNHE
- LOUNGE
- SUNROOM
- OPEN-PLAN KITCHEN & DINING ROOM
- UTILITY
- 4 BEDROOMS (2 EN-SUITE)
- BATHROOM
- CLOAKROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING (UNDERFLOOR TO GROUND FLOOR)
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- LANDSCAPED GARDEN
- GARAGE



TORBEAG HOUSE, MUIRSHEARLICH
OFFERS OVER **£480,000**

- IMPOSING COUNTRY HOUSE
- SPECTACULAR VIEWS
- RURAL LOCATION
- IN VERY GOOD ORDER
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- SITTING ROOM/STUDY
- KITCHEN/DINER
- UTILITY
- LAUNDRY ROOM
- 5 BEDROOMS (4 EN-SUITE)
- CLOAKROOM
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- LARGE LANDSCAPED GARDENS



PLOT 5, FASSFERN, KINLOCHEIL
OFFERS OVER **£365,000**

- NEW BUILD DETACHED VILLA
- LOCH VIEWS
- LOUNGE
- DINING HALLWAY
- FITTED KITCHEN
- UTILITY
- 5 BEDROOMS (2 EN-SUITE)
- STUDY
- 2 SHOWER ROOMS
- GARAGE
- GARDEN



BEACHLEA, POLVINISTER ROAD, OBAN
COMING SOON

- SPACIOUS DETACHED VILLA
- PEACEFUL RESIDENTIAL LOCAL
- ATTRACTIVE GARDENS
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- SET IN APPROX 3/4 ACRE
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- DINING ROOM
- 4 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- REAR PORCH/SUN ROOM
- GARAGE AND PRIVATE PARKING
- WORKSHOP
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING



BIRCHWOOD, CAMAGHAEL, FORT WILLIAM
OFFERS OVER **£450,000**

- DESIRABLE DETACHED VILLA & LETTING APARTMENT
- PRIVATE TO BEN NEVIS & GLEN NEVIS
- PRIVATE CENTRAL LOCATION
- IN IMMACULATE CONDITION
- 2 LOUNGES - GROUND FLOOR & UPPER
- DINING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN/DINER
- UTILITY
- 5 BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE)
- STUDY/6TH BEDROOM
- 2 BATHROOMS & CLOAKROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING (SUPPLEMENTARY SOLID FUEL HEATING)
- LARGE GARDEN
- DOUBLE GARAGE
- LETTING APARTMENT
- OPEN-PLAN LOUNGE/KITCHEN/DINER
- DOUBLE BEDROOM
- BATHROOM



PLOT 1, BUNARKAIG, ACHNACARRY
OFFERS OVER **£495,000**
REDUCED BY **£70,000**

- NEW-BUILD DETACHED LOCHSIDE VILLA
- SUPERB VIEWS OVER LOCH LOCHY
- WILL BE COMPLETED TO HIGH SPECIFICATION
- LARGE OPEN-PLAN LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- SUNROOM
- KITCHEN & UTILITY
- 4 BEDROOMS (3 EN-SUITE)
- STUDY/5TH BEDROOM
- BATHROOM & SHOWER ROOM
- LARGE GROUNDS
- GARAGE
- UNDERFLOOR HEATING TO GROUND FLOOR



PLOTS AT ACHINTORE ROAD, FORT WILLIAM
OFFERS OVER **£95,000** (EACH PLOT)

- 2 PRIME INDIVIDUAL BUILDING PLOTS
- EXCEPTIONAL VIEWS WITH ADDITIONAL LOCH FRONTAGE
- DESIRABLE LOCATION
- FULL PLANNING PERMISSION
- APPROXIMATELY 0.5 ACRES EACH SITE
- SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR CONNECTION CLOSE BY



LOSSIT, BENDERLOCH
COMING SOON

- MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- PEACEFUL COUNTRYSIDE LOCATION
- LOUNGE WITH OPEN FIREPLACE
- HIGH SPEC KITCHEN/DINER
- 3 GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE)
- STUDY/4TH BEDROOM
- UTILITY ROOM
- BATHROOM
- CLOAKROOM
- STATIC CARAVAN
- DRIVEWAY WITH SPACIOUS PARKING AREA
- EXPANSIVE GARDENS TO ALL SIDES



56 EASDALE
OFFERS OVER **£160,000**

- SEMI-DETACHED ISLAND COTTAGE
- WALK IN CONDITION
- EXCELLENT HOLIDAY LETTING POTENTIAL
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- DINING ROOM
- 2 BEDROOMS
- 2 ATTIC ROOMS
- BATHROOM
- PARTIAL DOUBLE GLAZING
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- GARDEN WITH TWO GARDEN SHEDS



EXECUTIVE BEACH VILLA, GANAVAN SANDS, OBAN
FIXED PRICE: **£600,000**
PART-EXCHANGE
CONSIDERED
UP TO 25% DELAYED
DEPOSIT AVAILABLE

- EXCEPTIONAL DETACHED BEACH VILLA NOW NEARING COMPLETION
- LAST NEW BUILD HOME AVAILABLE WITH SPECTACULAR VIEWS
- LOCATED 1 MILE FROM OBAN TOWN CENTRE
- LOUNGE WITH A CHOICE OF CONTEMPORARY GAS FIRES
- FULLY INTEGRATED DESIGNER KITCHEN
- CONSERVATORY
- DINING ROOM WITH OPEN ASPECT TO FRONT SEA VIEWS - PERFECT FOR ENTERTAINING
- 4 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- MASTER EN SUITE BATHROOM AND WALK-IN WARDROBE
- 5TH DOUBLE BEDROOM/FAMILY ROOM
- FULLY FITTED BATHROOM AND SHOWER ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING WITH UNDERFLOOR HEATING TO THE GROUND FLOOR
- DETACHED GARAGE
- DRIVEWAY WITH PARKING
- LANDSCAPED GARDENS WITH DIRECT ACCESS ONTO THE BEACH



BRAES OF THE LOCH, MORAR
OFFERS OVER **£650,000**

- STUNNING NEW-BUILD DETACHED VILLA
- SPECTACULAR LOCH VIEWS
- RURAL LOCATION
- IMMACULATELY FINISHED
- LOUNGE
- SITTING ROOM
- SUN ROOM/BREAKFAST ROOM
- KITCHEN/DINING ROOM
- UTILITY
- 4 BEDROOMS (2 EN-SUITE)
- STUDY/5TH BEDROOM
- OFFICE/6TH BEDROOM
- DRESSING ROOM
- BATHROOM & CLOAKROOM
- AIR SOURCE UNDERFLOOR HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN
- GARAGE

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

No such thing as too much training

STAFF at Atlantis Leisure in Oban have rightly been praised for their quick thinking in averting disaster at the swimming pool when an eight-year-old boy was saved from drowning.

But as the centre's chairman, Neil Matheson, pointed out the lifeguards undergo regular training for just this type of scenario.

Some of us will see regular 'staff training' as a necessary but time consuming distraction from the job at hand, rather than desirable, but, as the incident at Atlantis Leisure proved, it can be the difference between life and death.

Ill-prepared staff can 'freeze' when presented with a highly stressful situation. However, if the ability to cope with such demands has been embedded in their subconscious it is this reaction that takes over.

As Mr Matheson summed up: 'Obviously situations like this are worrying but we do a lot of training with our lifeguards for a reason.'

Can the midges get much worse?

THE WEST Highlands are known as a midge haven, with the damp conditions providing an ideal breeding ground.

But news the breeding season has started early because of the mild spring weather will strike fear into the hearts of any outdoor enthusiast or forestry worker.

And, if Dr Alison Blackwell of the Scottish Midge Forecast Service, is to be believed, the numbers are set to rise.

Anyone who lives in these parts will question how that is possible!

GLASGOW LETTER

Erskine Charity Concert

FOR MANY years the highlight of the calendar for the Clydebank and District Highlander's Association has been its charity concert in aid of funds for Erskine Hospital.

This year's concert will take place on Friday April 20 in Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, at 7.30pm. Such an event is entirely appropriate for the town, with its memory of the Blitz in March 1941 and the hospital, which has been caring for injured ex-service personnel since 1916, located on either side of the River Clyde.

An excellent programme has been arranged. The solo singers will be Mod Gold Medallists James Graham and Catriona Fair and Linda MacLeod from Uist. They will be joined by singers Guillaime and Ricky Kennedy from Arrochar and by Clydebank favourites accordionist Iain MacPhee and his Highland bagpipe playing brother Billy. Kristeen Grant will be the accompanist and I will have the pleasure of chairing this concert.

The association is looking forward to a good attendance at what is traditionally an excellent evening's entertainment for a most worthwhile cause. The cost is £6.

Stirling Gaelic Choir Concert

THE ANNUAL concert of Stirling Gaelic Choir held recently in the Victoria Hall, Dunblane, was described by many as 'the best night out in the area for ages' and 'one of wonderful variety'.

The concert was billed as the Duncan MacKenzie Memorial Concert in tribute to Duncan, a member of the choir for more than 40 years, who passed away last year.

Eunice Bruce was seen at a teach for the evening and introduced the choir, duets and soloists including herself and Catriona Lang, John Oswald, Jane MacQueen, Sandy Campbell, Donnie MacKenzie and Catriona Laird.

Guest performers were Stirling Junior Gaelic Choir, who also sang at the Youth Concert in Glasgow and who are looking to recruit new members, and Craig Paton, a former Scottish Junior Accordion Champion who mesmerised the audience with an astonishing display of virtuosity covering a wide range of musical styles.

Gaelic at 02 Glasgow Mela

ORGANISERS of the Glasgow Mela are delighted to announce they are introducing

an element of Gaelic culture to this year's event which will take place in Kelvingrove Park from June 22 to 24.

The term Mela has developed across the world to represent a coming together of peoples from varied cultures to celebrate and it is felt that the long history of the Gaels in Glasgow should be incorporated into this colourful spectacle.

Proposals from parties interested in participating should be submitted to rona.macdonald@glasgowlife.org.uk no later than April 18 and selection will be based on quality, innovation and creativity. Each chosen group will perform twice and the same routine can be replicated.

Gaelic day in Paisley

REID Kerr College Centre for Performing Arts, 5 New Street, Paisley, PA1 1XU, is the venue for a Gaelic Learner's Day from 10am to 4pm on Saturday April 21.

Language classes will be at various levels and there will also be a singing workshop. Cost £15 - Clann Gaidhlig members £12. To enrol contact Alasdair on 07972 735413 or email clanngaidhlig@hotmail.com.

Diary dates

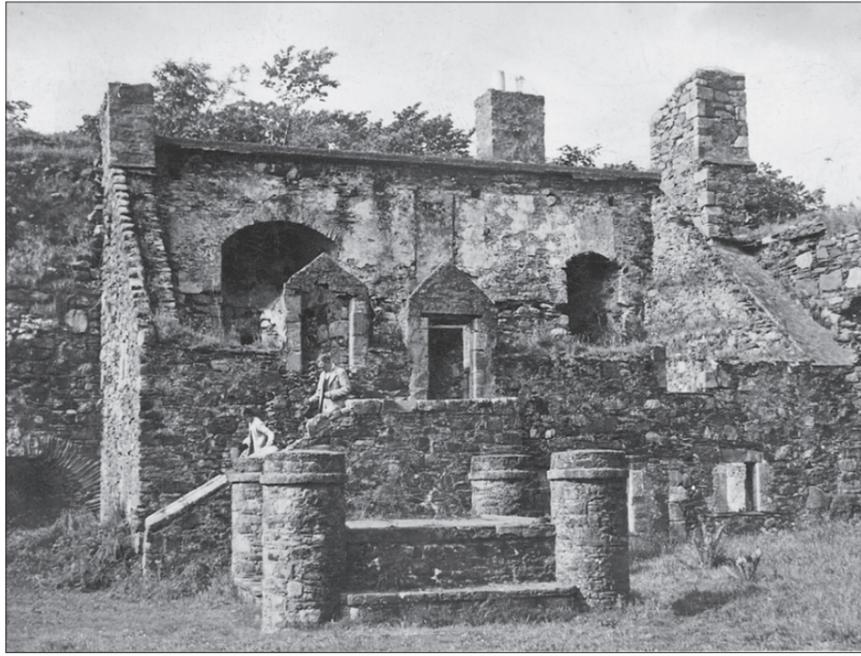
Saturday April 14: Paisley and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh Dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm - Archie Duncan's Band.
Wednesday April 18: Gaelic Quiz, Park Bar, 7.30pm.
Thursday April 19: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm - Dick Gaughan with support Chloe Matharu.
Friday April 20: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Charity Ceilidh in aid of Erskine Hospital - see above. Na Cambeulaich, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm.

Saturday April 21: Glasgow Sky Association Closing Ceilidh, 'The Wee Skye', Crawford Hall, Beith Street, Partick, 7.30pm. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm - Charlie Kirkpatrick's Band. Blaz'n Fiddles, Perth Concert Hall, 7.30pm. Paisley Gaelic Day - see above.
Sunday April 22: The Kilkennys, Perth Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

MUSIC this weekend in the Islay Inn will be provided by Penny Dogs on Friday and Crooked Reel on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Deoch'n Dorus on Friday, Gunna Sound on Saturday with Sunday still to be confirmed.

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



Inside Dunstaffnage Castle

Reader Ann Mansfield of Lorn Road, Dunbeg, submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows a view from Dunstaffnage Castle in days gone by. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk
www.obantimes.co.uk
Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

No complaints over 'Dunbeg corridor' development

Sir,
Regarding the 'Dunbeg corridor' development and its promising enhancement to this fine village, which seems to be progressively amalgamating with 'big sister' Oban, no complaints there!

As different stages become apparent, locals seem to agree with the development and implications as each step works towards completion.

This improvement will please locals and maybe visitors/holidaymakers.

There may not be anyone who could disagree. With this in mind, should we look for better times? Possibly not. Congratulations to everyone concerned.

Ewen Morrison, a content Dunbeg/Oban man.

Commit to our heritage - past and future

Sir,
The Argyll and Bute Museums and Heritage Forum poses a challenge to nominees and the electorate to place our culture firmly on the agenda of this ballot.

Argyll has some of the most outstanding built and artefact heritage in Scotland. It is a powerhouse of national history and traditional life but it is fragile and cannot be taken for granted.

Heritage is not a luxury. It is DNA, safeguarding and rooting the soul of communities, particularly during vulnerable times of recession. A building, song, photograph, stone axe or butter churn reminds people of who they are and where they have come from and helps new arrivals to understand the communities they have come to.

It builds pride and confidence and creates jobs and income through cultural tourism. It brings people together and improves quality of life. Heritage and culture are recognised tools of regeneration in communities - look at Glasgow and Dundee; look at the Highlands and Islands.

There is much work to do to bring Argyll level with other parts of Scotland: it is a risky strategy to leave the care of built heritage and artefacts principally in hands of willing volunteers and alarming there is so little strategic leadership. Nowhere else affords heritage the low status it has in Argyll and conversely few other places can match the quality of what we have.

The Argyll and Bute Museums and Heritage Forum challenges prospective councillors to commit to our heritage, past and future, by:

□ building partnerships and leadership

Let's ask the questions on the doorstep, and vote accordingly. And note that if promises are made, we will hold you to them.

Catherine Gillies, chairwoman, Argyll and Bute Museums and Heritage Forum.

Gaelic-medium education research

Sir,
I am trying to contact adults who started Gaelic-medium education (GME) at primary school between the years of 1985 and 1992.

I'm interested to find out about the relationship that such people have with Gaelic in the present day, their attitudes to the language, as well as their thoughts about and experiences of GME in these early years.

These issues form the basis of a three-year research project at the University of Edinburgh.

I would be delighted to hear from anyone who would be happy to share their ideas with me on this.

My email address is s.dunmore@ed.ac.uk. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated! Mòran taing.

Stuart Dunmore, Soillese PhD candidate, Celtic and Scottish Studies, The University of Edinburgh, 27 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD.

Thanks to helpful Cal Mac staff

Sir,
I would like to say a big thank you to Caledonian MacBray staff for their cheerful help whenever I travel to Iona.

I need a wheelchair and help with my luggage, which the staff give without hesitation.

Also thank you to taxi drivers and railway staff for all their help which lets me enjoy my visits. Keep up the good work and hopefully I will be back in June.

J Smith, Lochee, Dundee.

Islay school reunion

Sir,
Islay is a special place, so special that it is almost impossible to get into it or out of it.

Getting in by air requires taking out a second mortgage and getting out involves security checks that would put the Middle East to shame.

But it was all worth it to attend the Bowmore school reunion.

Sixty former pupils from all over the UK and one from Canada got together after 50 years. Of course, half a century had not changed any of us and we all looked the same apart from swapping the anti-acne cream for anti-wrinkle cream!

Most of the men had grey hair but none of the women did. Strange! It must be something genetic. Delicious food, rousing songs and vigorous Scottish dancing - despite arthritic knees and dodgy hips - made the evening go with a swing. Yes, Islay is a special place and to prove it there are three clocks in a row at Glasgow Airport. One shows the time in Paris. Another shows the time in Berlin. The

third, of course, shows the time in, where else, but Islay. Proof enough!

Hilda Glickman, nee Harris, by email.

Eagles set to prey more on birds

Sir,
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) are statutory consultees on environmental matters.

It is clear that the White-tailed Eagle, without the plentiful supply of fish it needs for its diet, is naturally going to rely increasingly on birds as its prey - sea-birds such as fulmars, puffins, guillemots, eider ducks, divers - and on waders such as herons, oystercatchers and curlews.

What action is RSPB and SNH going to take to prevent this disaster? They are going to release a further 20 young eagles on the Scottish East Coast.

Brenda Galbraith, Mull.

World will be watching Oban's ring of fire

Sir,
It is wonderfully exciting that people from all over are allowing their imagination to grasp the illusion of a ring of fire created by a bonfire in McCaigs Tower.

We truly hope that their fire of enthusiasm and vision of a raging inferno would not in any way be dampened by the reality that a relatively small 20ft diameter fire illuminating the windows with some flames visible above the 200ft diameter structure of the tower, would be insufficient to create a 'charring effect'.

A conservation architect commented that 'the walls of the tower would be no warmer than on a hot summer's day'.

A small area of grass would be scorched and would be reinstated within a short period.

Residents within close proximity of the annual Mossfield Guy Fawkes bonfire can confirm that any effect on the local environment is 'not noticeable'. Members of the public can easily be excluded from the tower and encouraged to revel in the illusion of a 'Ring of Fire' from the safety of Station Square area. Oban's crown can be used to create a universal celebration of HM The Queen's diamond jubilee. The world will be watching.

Name and address supplied.

Reckless idea

Sir,
A couple of people have written to you about the reckless idea of vandalising McCaig's tower to celebrate a queen's event.

When I think about the people proposing this idea I get the image of Monty Python's 'Hells Grannies' running about mug-

ging young people and vandalising property. Is it any wonder some of our young people have no respect for property?

I bet half of these potential vandals are the same folk that harp on about the environment and saving/protecting our community property, the same people that want to sell Oban to visitors yet are happy to rip up a mature garden to make way for a bonfire.

Have any of them thought about the damage that could be caused to the tower structure with the heat from the fire? What is the risk to surrounding properties from flaming embers?

Do we not have enough electricians and electrical engineers which could put on a spectacular lightshow?

Are these the same people that wanted to make a giant fisherman for Pulpit Hill? Maybe we could combine both. We could build a giant wicker man on Pulpit Hill, place in it some sacrifices and then torch it. Perhaps we could have the women of Argyll dress up in their nighties and dance round the fire maybe singing 'No Rule Britannia the bankers own you now'.

John McCaig gave Oban this monument, this symbol of community. He created work for local people and businesses at a time of great hardship yet now people want to cast that aside potentially damaging this building for the Queen who did nothing for the local community in those days of hardship or, in fact, these days.

SNH in disarray or over-funded?

Sir,
Is SNH in disarray or over-funded?

There was a report in last week's *Oban Times* that it had underwritten an expensive study of the Trotternish Ridge on Skye, which recommends the reduction of sheep and rabbit numbers because they are causing erosion and eating fragile alpine plants.

However, less than two months ago you carried another report - February 23 - stating the same organisation had backed a five-year £300,000 experiment on the Rahoy Hills Reserve on the Morvern Peninsula - similar in many respects to the Trotternish Ridge - to import even more sheep onto it because, apparently, its geology and plant life is under-grazed.

Unlike the Trotternish Ridge Scheme the Rahoy Hills Reserve experiment, which seeks to create an artificial 'garden' on top of a mountain, is unsupported by any scientific data. It risks upsetting what has flourished for 10,000 years and when it has run its course it will have been of no benefit to the public. Does the left hand know what the right hand is doing?

Iain Thornber, Morvern.

Times Diary

DURING a recent highly competitive, exciting and emotional kid's football match one young player took a tumble and slid his length on the artificial surface.

A team coach ran to the injured footballer's aid and announced loudly to worried parents that their son had sustained a 'Rangers' knee'.

Puzzled looks turned to smiles when they were then advised that their offspring's knee was 'skint'!

IT MAY only be Easter, but forward-looking Ballachulish Community Council is already making preparations for Christmas.

First on the shopping list is a new Santa outfit to replace the present costume, which is falling apart at the seams after some heavyweight usage.

The council has been quoted £160 for a new cloak - plus £30 for the beard.

ITALIAN football pundit Gabriele Marcotti, a regular on ESPN and SkySports, decided to spend a few days in Mull this week, asking Twitter followers for travel advice.

The response was overwhelming, if not entirely fair. He said: 'Thank u for your Isle of Mull suggestions. Most say bring umbrella, eat fish and drink heavily [because there's] not much there.'

Fellow sports journalist Graham Spiers weighed in with his own advice on Tuesday. He said: 'It is wonderful, Gab, in a 'West Highland' sort of way. Visit Iona on the western side - a five-min ferry ride.'

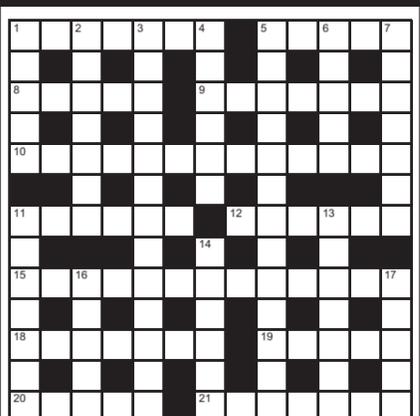
Diary hopes Gabriele discovers all of Mull's joys for himself - hopefully without any need for the umbrella.



MOTORISTS in South Kintyre would have been surprised to round a corner and find this highwayman threatening them from the verge last week.

Iain MacPherson's winning entry in the Southend Scarecrow Challenge tell its own story as the Old Wild West six shooter is replaced with a mocked-up fuel pump.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



Across

- Prevent from having (7)
- Old fashioned (5)
- Article of faith (5)
- A duct is named after him, he's known for his interest in taste! (7)
- Finally... (4,3,3,3)
- ...final transport (6)
- At a central point (6)
- Something to keep you going in latter years (3-3,7)
- Suckable pill (7)
- Take clothes in... (5)
- ...perhaps (5)
- Clown (7)

Down

- Likewise (5)
- Nostrum (7)
- Being obstinant (13)
- Personify (6)
- Pipework for eggs (9,4)
- Ancient city NW of Carthage (5)
- Pattern of Glasgow (7)
- Unruly youth (7)
- Cry pitifully (7)
- Conservation (6)
- Seeing stars (5)
- Dusk to dawn (5)

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8			9			
10						
11			12		13	
14						
15	16					17
18				19		
20						21

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.

Correction - ward candidates

THE LIST of candidates for wards four and five printed in last week's edition were incorrect.

In ward four, Graham Kanes is standing for the Scottish Liberal Democrats and Alistair MacDougall is Independent.

In ward five, Gwyneth Neal is standing for the Scottish Liberal Democrats and Elaine Robertson is Independent Apologies for the error.

YOUR LETTERS

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

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

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

Spring Farming Review

Sponsored by NFU Mutual
Oban, call Euan Warnock
and Donna MacDougall
on 01631 567 036 for
your insurance needs.
Agent of The National Farmers Union
Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



Quality the key at Woodend croft



Robert feeds his bull and breeding cows at Clovullin

THE BUSINESS of rearing quality cattle is very much a family affair at Clovullin, Ardgor.

Three generations of Wrights - David Snr, son Robert and Robert's son David Jnr - produce a steady flow of prize-winning stock, which sees them regularly return from local agricultural shows with armfuls of silverware.

The family runs two crofts - David Snr at No.7, Clovullin and Robert, wife Alison and family at Woodend, a stone's throw along the township loop road off the A861 to Strontian.

Both have rights to Clovullin common grazings which back up against Meall Breac, outlier of Beinn na Cille, the triangular peak towering over Ardgor village and Loch Linnhe.

Sitting in the family home at Woodend, it quickly becomes evident the trio of grandfather, son and grandson, aged 78, 48 and 18 respectively, are proud they have kept faith with crofting when all around them land has fallen into rack and ruin.

There's hardly a sheep between here and Bracora at Morar now, they say - a distance overland of some

30 miles.

Overzealous conservation measures, they claim, have seen estates fence off huge tracts of land, remove all the sheep and cattle, shoot all the deer and switch to growing trees - all for money.

They cite examples of trees failing to grow, either because they have been planted in the wrong place - Scots pines flourish best on north-facing slopes apparently - or because ungrazed rank grasses have choked out saplings.

The single farm payment also comes in for a healthy dose of manure, not least because it has removed any incentive to keep animals.

Instead, it has been exploited by 'slipper farmers' to milk the system - perfectly legally - and be handsomely rewarded for doing absolutely nothing.

That could be about to change in 2014 - and not before time, says Robert.

'We had 30 or 40 cattle back in the 1990s under the headage payment scheme. The single farm payment has been a disaster - if you had a decent payment per head, I could see production going back up again. I would definitely like to see us come away from a single farm payment and go back



David Jnr casts an eye over three-week old Limousin calves on Clovullin common grazings

to a headage payment.'

Other changes to the crofting grants system would also be beneficial, Robert says, such help with reseeded and fencing costs - apparently financial assistance is available for a new fence, but not a replacement one.

Meanwhile, the work David Snr began after he arrived in Lochaber from Carnlough in the Glens of Antrim in 1955 continues.

The two crofts are down to only 11 breeding cattle, but expansion plans are in the offing with stock quality, as always, the watchword.

Recent acquisitions include a Limousin/Belgian Blue cross heifer bought as a calf for a record £2,000

at Oban Auction Mart, believed to be the highest price ever paid for a calf at the sale.



The heifers include a Limousin/Belgian Blue cross bought for a record £2,000 as a calf at the Oban sales

Native cattle point the way forward at Beachmeanach

NATIVE cattle breeds are thriving at Beachmeanach Farm near Tayinloan, Kintyre.

Last month the farm, run by Malcolm and Marion McDonald, won first and second prize for a pen of four Highland bullocks at Caledonian Marts Native Breed Sale in Stirling.

They also received the top price for a pen of seven Aberdeen Angus heifers. Bred on the farm, these latter beasts fetched an impressive average price of £2.36 per kilo.

Malcolm McDonald, aged 51, took over the running of Beachmeanach from his father in the mid nineties.

Malcolm said there are currently about 20 shorthorn and Highland cross cows with Angus calves on the farm, as well as 25 Highland bullocks and 400 breeding ewes.

The cattle numbers are a reduction from what used to be kept: 'We used to have about 80 calves but we reduced the number in 2002. We will probably increase to 30 in the next year or two though.'

The cattle are kept outdoors all year round, being summered on the hill and out-wintered on the flat fields next to the beach below the farm, a factor Malcolm believes is key to keeping them healthier.

He describes these dry,



Malcolm McDonald has been enjoying recent success with his native breeds



Some of the McDonalds' calves with Beachmeanach farm behind

sandy fields as 'a big advantage' to the farm, though most of the land at Beachmeanach consists of clay soils on the steep land behind the farmhouse and peat on the hill.

As well as making the best of their land, environmental schemes have been a key part of how the McDonalds have run the farm in recent years.

They have shut off fields to allow ground-nesting birds to be undisturbed, and planted natural woodlands and hedgerows to create wildlife corridors.

Having started participating in these environmental projects when the price of livestock fell in about 1996, Malcolm says he still does them, and expects to continue.

Creamery upgrade boosts Kilmahoy

A KEY factor in encouraging a Kintyre dairy farm to further expand was the commitment made by First Milk to upgrade the Campbelltown Creamery.

Forty-year-old James McLean runs Kilmahoy Farm near Kilkenny, Campbelltown, with his wife Linda installed a state of the art milking parlour and a modernised shed last year.

The couple said they are getting the best out of their Westfalia parlour installed by Dairy Flow, and re-

vamped sheds, which have helped secure a future in this ever-evolving industry.

With 85 Holstein Friesians, a number they hope to increase soon to over 100, James said they are averaging about 7,500 litres per cow in a year.

James said: 'Now we are really starting to see the benefits of the new milking parlour after getting to grips with it in the first year. Also, with the new shed we can now winter all our cattle at home. Generally we've been trying to make our operation

more efficient.'

'We keep all our heifers for breeding and the bull calves are kept and sold at a year-and-a-half to two years old.'

'We have about 30 heifers coming into the herd which start calving in June.'

Of their future plans, Linda said: 'Hopefully we will be in the business for a while yet and make further investments. But the biggest thing next is to get our stock numbers up to where we want them.'



James McLean with son Donald John at the Westfalia parlour

Noble leads the way in agricultural buildings

MODERN, high specification, steel-framed buildings combine all the essentials of strength, adaptability and affordability whilst being flexible enough to suit most requirements and locations.

Noble Construction, a family owned and run business, specialises in the supply and erection of all types of steel framed agricultural and industrial buildings throughout Scotland - including the Islands.

The services provided by Noble Construction includes design and planning, site preparation and foundations, construction and all concreting work.

Whether you require a small general purpose building or a large, complex industrial unit, Noble Construction aims to give the best possible professional service and the highest qual-

ity workmanship on time and, most importantly, within budget.

Whatever the size of your project, the company will be pleased to try to tender the keenest quote for the best quality of building and then work with you to ensure it successful and hassle-free.

As well as complete buildings, Noble Construction can also supply Eternit fibre cement sheeting, box profile cladding, Agritubel and IAE feed barriers, gates and door track at very competitive prices.

Dalton comes out on top in sheep tag survey

NEW statistics this week for electronic sheep tags offer a significant indication to which tags are working well.

With a reported average read over all sheep of 93.5 per cent, the Dalton Electronic Identification (EID) tags currently on the market have come out as the top three tags for readability in their category.

The Dalton i-Rototag, the Dalton 25mm I-Tag Button and the Dalton I-Tag Loop scored overall reads of 96.11 per cent, 95 per cent and 94.14 per cent putting them well above average and nearly 10 per

cent better than their poorest rival.

The use of quality materials, high-end transponder technology and epoxy resin to encase the transponders in the tags has all ensured Dalton's position at the top of this report.

'The company has always used quality raw materials to produce tags and in the past our prices have reflected that, but now, advances in technology have meant we can use stronger, higher grade materials whilst keeping our cost low,' said sales and marketing manager for Dalton EID, Brian Naylor.

rsabi
Scotland's charity helping people who have depended on the land

- Have you retired from farming or other land-based job, or are you not able to continue to work due to illness or disability?
- Are you struggling to meet day to day living costs or unable to meet an essential expense?
- Are you on a low income?

If so, please contact RSABI on:
0131 472 4166
Or visit www.rsabi.org.uk
We may be able to help you.....
Scottish Charity No. SC009828

High Quality Steel Framed Buildings
Order Now for Spring!

Groundworks • Foundations • Erection
Design & Planning and All Concreting Services

We also supply:-
Steel Framed Buildings in Kit Form
Marley Eternit Fibre Cement Sheeting
Concrete Panels • Sundry Fittings
All at very competitive prices!

Suppliers of Agritubel Gates & Barriers

NOBLE CONSTRUCTION
Visit us online at www.nobleconstr.co.uk
Please email or phone for a quote
info@nobleconstr.co.uk • 07717 414 697

HOPKINS UNIQUE QUICK FIT CATTLE GRID
British Patent No 2155526

- installed within hours - not days
- set in ground on hardcore bases then drive over
- no blockwork pit required
- exceedingly cost-effective
- load-tested to 50 tonnes
- maintenance-free
- complete with hedgehog ramp
- galvanised or painted - your choice
- available from 9ft wide increasing by 1ft to a maximum of 21ft wide as required - jump - width 8ft gins, Deer Grids also Available, Ring for a Quotation

HOPKINS GRID SALES
(Contact Jane) Roxburgh Mill, Kelso, Roxburghshire, TD5 8NF
Tel/Fax: (01573) 450655 e-mail: hopkinsgrids@googlemail.com

FERGUSON TED 20

1953, p/p, older restoration
Telephone:
07989076987

£2,000

COVENTRY for FENCING

Scotland's No. 1
WIRE, STOCK FENCING,
BARBED, HIGH TENSILE,
MILD STEEL BEST PRICES

TIMBER DIRECT FROM OUR SAWMILL
Depots throughout Scotland • Delivery available
For a competitive quote please call 01631 566866

Dalton New i-Rototag® EID version

Over 100 Million Rototags Sold

360° (32011)

123456

FROM ONLY **60p** PER ANIMAL

FreePhone: 0800 838 882

TAGS4U

Self Piercing Nylon Pin

"Free Applicator with first order of 100 sets or more"

UnitedAuctions
— Since 1858 —

Auction Markets at Stirling; Islay; Uist; Tiree; Dalraddy; Lairg & Huntly
Dispenlising & Agricultural Sales
conducted in any district. Valuations for Transfer, Probate Duty and for all other purposes carefully executed. Ample keep and accommodation available for stock sent previous to and after Sales. Stock carefully attended to by full time Stockmen.

Customers wishing particular classes of stock which are unobtainable locally, the Auctioneers will arrange supplies from their many contacts throughout the country. A direct Marketing Service for all classes Cattle & Sheep Operates from our base at Moleigh.

This service has proved most successful over the years and new enquiries are invited.

Please enquire with our Auctioneers for more details. List of all special Sales at all our various centres available on request.

Area Office, Moleigh, Oban, PA34 4QR

DINGWALL AUCTION MART

WEDNESDAY 9TH MAY AT 11.00 A. M. - show and sale of registered pedigree bulls and sale of breeding cattle.

SALE OF PEDIGREE LUING CATTLE
WEDNESDAY 23RD MAY - annual sale of pedigree Luing cattle, pedigree and commercial Highland cattle Hi Health and commercial breeding cattle including unregistered bulls.

IMPLEMENT SALE
SATURDAY 2ND JUNE AT 10.00 A.M. - collective sale of farm implements, tractors, vans, plant machinery, garden equipment, tools etc.

BEN NEVIS AUCTION MART

FRIDAY 25TH MAY - annual sale of store, breeding and OTM cattle, store and breeding sheep.

For further details of the above sales contact auctioneers or visit website.

DINGWALL & HIGHLAND MARTS LIMITED
T. 01349 863252 F. 01349 865062
www.dingwallmart.co.uk

CALEDONIAN MARTS

OBAN LIVESTOCK CENTRE
Upper Soroba, By Oban

For all your Livestock Sale Requirements and a great deal more

Contact: John Kyle 07713 342512
Alastair Logan 07713 342514
Sales all as advertised and online at www.caledonian-marts.com

We also specialise in Property sales/lets, Valuations, Compensation claims, Landlord/Tenant matters, Grants and Subsidies, SFP entitlements. Etc. through our sister company **HMM CALEDONIAN**

Contact: John Broadfoot 01786 450922 for further details.

69%
of the business community
read the regional press

Regional Press
closer to home

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

AVOID THE WAITING LIST.

SELECTED BMW MODELS. AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY.

Stocks are very limited, so please contact us today to avoid disappointment. There has never been a better time to purchase a low mileage 61 plate BMW.

11 61 116i Urban (New model) 5dr



- Alpine white • Half leather
- 8,044 miles • 17" Alloys
- Climate control • Bluetooth
- CD player

£18,995

11 61 320 Efficient Dynamics



- Black sapphire • Black cloth
- 7,176 miles • 16" Alloys
- Air conditioning • CD player
- Bluetooth

£21,995

11 61 318 Diesel Sport Plus Saloon



- Le Mans blue • 18" Alloys
- Black leather • 8,000 miles
- Climate control • CD player
- Rear park distance control

£22,995

11 61 320i SE Convertible Auto



- Titanium silver • Black leather
- 3,489 miles • 19" Alloys
- Climate control • Bluetooth
- Heated seats

£29,995

11 61 X6 4.0 Diesel Auto



- Black sapphire • 21" Alloys
- Oyster leather • Media pack
- 6,700 miles • Dynamic pack
- Reverse camera

£52,995

View over 120 BMW Approved Used Cars with images at www.douglasparkbmw.co.uk

11 61 116i Sport 3dr



- Jet black • Sport seats
- 4,359 miles • 17" Alloys
- MF steering wheel

£15,495

07 07 320i M Sport Coupé



- Sparkling graphite • Alcantara cloth
- 45,777 miles • 17" Alloys
- MF steering wheel

£13,995

11 11 520 Diesel SE Saloon



- Deep sea blue • Oyster leather • Bluetooth
- 9,798 miles • 17" Alloys
- Front seat heating • USB

£24,750

This is just a small selection of our Approved Used stock at our Hillington branch. Many more to choose from.

- 1 Series**
- 07 07 116i ES 5dr, Montego blue, black cloth, 55,029 miles, 16" alloys, CD.....£8,995
 - 11 61 116i Sport 3dr, Jet black, black cloth, 4,359 miles, 17" alloys, sport seats & steering wheel, air con, MF controls.....£15,495
 - 09 09 120 Diesel M Sport 3dr, Black sapphire, black cloth/sensatec, 1,900 miles, 18" alloys, comfort pack, bluetooth.....£15,995
- 3 Series**
- 11 61 318 Diesel Exclusive Edition, Space grey, black leather, MOA, 17" alloys, bluetooth, PDC rear, servotronic steering.....£22,995
 - 09 59 318 Diesel M Sport Auto, Titanium silver, alcantara/cloth, 14,186 miles, 17" alloys, PDC, auto climate air con, MF controls...£17,995
 - 08 58 318i M Sport, Black sapphire, black leather, 44,467 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, cruise, auto air con.....£14,995
 - 07 07 318i SE Saloon, Montego blue, black cloth, 47,747 miles, 16" alloys, PDC rear, cruise, auto air con, front foglamps.....£9,995
 - 11 61 320 Diesel M Sport Coupe, Black sapphire, black leather, 6,533 miles, 19" alloys, bluetooth, seat heating front, PDC rear.....£27,995
 - 11 61 320 Diesel SE Convertible Auto, Alpine white, coral red leather, 4,500, 18" alloys, bluetooth, PDC front & rear.....£30,995
 - 09 09 320 Diesel SE Coupe, Space grey, black cloth, 28,720 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, cruise, auto air con, MF controls.....£18,995
 - 07 07 320i M Sport Coupé, Sparkling graphite, cloth/alcantara, 45,777 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, cruise, auto air con.....£13,995
 - 09 09 320i SE Coupe Auto, Space grey, grey cloth, 23,228 miles, 17" alloys, electric glass sunroof, PDC, xenons, cruise.....£15,995
- 5 Series**
- 11 61 520 Diesel EfficientDynamics Saloon, Black sapphire, oyster/black leather, 8,453 miles, 17" alloys, media package.....£27,995
 - 11 61 520 Diesel M Sport Saloon, Titanium silver, oyster/black leather, MOA, 18" alloys, media package, BMW assist.....£29,995
 - 11 11 520 Diesel SE, Deep sea blue, oyster leather, 9,798 miles, 17" alloys, Bluetooth, USB, electric folding exterior mirrors.....£24,750
- X1**
- 06 06 X3 2.0 Diesel SE, Bluewater, black cloth, 56,042 miles, PDC, cruise, rain sensor, auto headlight activation, MF controls.....£11,995
 - 05 05 X3 2.0 Diesel Sport, Titanium silver, black leather, 53,507, 18" alloys, bluetooth, running boards, front foglamps.....£11,995
- X3**
- 06 06 X3 2.0 Diesel SE, Bluewater, black cloth, 56,042 miles, PDC, cruise, rain sensor, auto headlight activation, MF controls.....£11,995
- X5**
- 08 58 X5 xDrive 35 Diesel M Sport, Carbon black, black leather, 50,916 miles, 20" alloys, media package, TV function, BMW assist, USB audio interface, loudspeaker system, seat heating front, reversing assist camera, electric folding exterior mirrors, electric front seats & driver memory, diver lumbar support, detachable towbar, adaptive headlights, xenons, headlight wash, rain sensor, auto headlight activation, cruise, CD changer, PDC front & rear, sun protection glass.....£29,995
- X6**
- 09 09 X6 xDrive30 Diesel, Vermilion red, beige nevada leather, 19,320 miles, 20" alloys, media package, heated seats, Bluetooth, PDC front & rear, auto lights, auto climate.....£31,995
- Z4**
- 06 56 Z4 M Roadster, Black sapphire, light bronze leather, 32,672 miles, 18" alloys, PDC rear, loudspeaker system - BMW business, CD changer, seat heating front, electric front seats and driver memory, headlamp washer system, soft top dark beige.....£14,995

07 07 318i SE Saloon



- Mantego blue • Black cloth • 47,747 miles
- 16" alloys • Auto air con
- Front foglamps

£9,995

09 59 318 Diesel M Sport Auto



- Titanium silver • Alcantara cloth • PDC
- 14,186 miles • 17" Alloys
- Auto climate air conditioning

£17,995

09 09 X6 xDrive 30 Diesel



- Vermilion red • Beige leather • 19,320 miles
- 20" Alloys • Media pack • PDC
- Auto climate • Bluetooth

£31,995

Douglas Park

Hillington (Used cars only)
Hillington Road G52 4BL
0141 891 4783 (H)

Glasgow
Kyle Street G4 0HP
0141 333 0088 (G)

www.douglasparkglasgowbmw.co.uk

BMW EfficientDynamics
Less emissions. More driving pleasure.

Douglas Park



The Ultimate Driving Machine

VAUXHALL CORSA



1ltr 51 plate, reg 52, 69,700 miles, one year MOT, 6 months road tax, recently serviced.
Telephone:
 07920 720711

£1650 o.n.o.

SUZUKI GSX650F



2009, 7,600miles, one owner, FSH, five months tax, new tyres, centre stand, full fairing, DNA+, Argyll.
Telephone:
 01855 811916 or 07712760937

£3500

MITSUBISHI L200



Double Cab TD Warrior 4WD 1138hp Diesel, Black, 73000 miles, Very Good Condition, Tow bar, Leather Seats, 2005.
Tel: 01546 606629 or 07765 222862

£6500 no vat o.n.o.

FORD FOCUS ST2, RED



55plate, 53,000miles, FSH, Good condition, new alloy wheels just fitted Taxed May, MOT November
Tel: 07881286936

£5650 o.n.o.

SUBARU CAR OF THE WEEK



Subaru Outback 05 (55)
 £6,500
 3litre SE 68,000 miles, Grey

AIRD MOTORS
 HIGH STREET, BEAULY, HIGHLAND, IV4 7BP
 TEL: 01463 782265 WWW.AIRDMOTORS.CO.UK

FORD FREDA (MAZDA BONGO) CAMPER VAN



4 berth, 1998, Fully Equipped, 83,000 miles, Diesel, Automatic, taxed Sept 12, MOT Sep 12.
Telephone:
 01586 553804

£6900

VOLVO S40 1.6 (RED)



2003 03 reg. Alloy wheels, grey cloth seats, cruise control. TAX & MOT October 2012 Mileage: 56,000 (genuine mileage) Excellent condition - fully maintained and very reliable
Telephone:
 01631 710 450

£1850 o.n.o.

SUZUKI BANDIT N1200 (1200CC)



R Reg (1997) 26,000 miles Full tax and MOT Scorpion End Can Very tidy bike.
Telephone:
 01546 603511

£1100

WANTED

Any 4 x 4 vehicle, Landrover 90 or 110, Mitsubishi, Toyota etc or any 4 x 4 pickup, any condition or MOT failure, will travel.
Telephone:
 07864035750

£450 o.n.o.

1999 (T) MITSUBISHI CARISMA

Auto, 1.8 16v GLX, metallic red. 80k miles, Mot March 2013, Tax Sept 2012, Working air con, new front brakes, E/Windows & mirrors.
Telephone:
 01852 314018 / 07504 054210

£450 o.n.o.

WANTED

All types of 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrover, Toyota, anything considered. We also buy non runners, accident damaged and MOT failures, instant cash.
Telephone:
 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020

Specialist Car Insurance

Adrian Flux Insurance Services has launched a new range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of island life. If you take out a car insurance policy with us, you can save up to 50% compared with similar policies on the mainland. Call us today for a free, no obligation, quote.

FREEPHONE 0800 081 8989
 Quotation hours: Mon to Fri 9am-7pm | Sat 9am-6pm

adrianflux.co.uk
 ADRIAN FLUX

2008 HONDA CBR125R



7,600 miles, very good condition, mot'd April 2013 taxed March 2013, good tyres.
Telephone: 01546 606639 or 07879826560

£1600

ELDDIS TWO BERTH CARAVAN



Double glazed, all electrics in working order, easily towed. Ready for the holiday.
Telephone:
 07990 974026

£850 o.n.o.

Cars sell **QUICKER** and for a **BETTER PRICE** when accompanied by a photograph.

Our staff can take these for you for **FREE**. Just drive to our nearest office to place your ad.

The Oban Times
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Be seen by over 40,000 readers

Tel: 01631 568000
 www.obantimes.co.uk

new car index

ISUZU S & S Services
 Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
 Tel. 01292 880080 / 880440

RENAULT W.D Semple
 Inveraray & Lochgilphead
 Tel. 01499 302150

SUBARU S & S Services
 Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
 Tel. 01292 880080/880440

TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL:
01631 568000

Motoring Times
 For the latest local deals on new and used cars. In association with Quarry Road MOT Centre

Need an MOT?
 From Cars to Light Commercials

Contact Donald or Neil
 Quarry Road MOT Centre
 Quarry Road, Oban
Tel: 01631 564614

The Quarry Road MOT CENTRE

FLIT

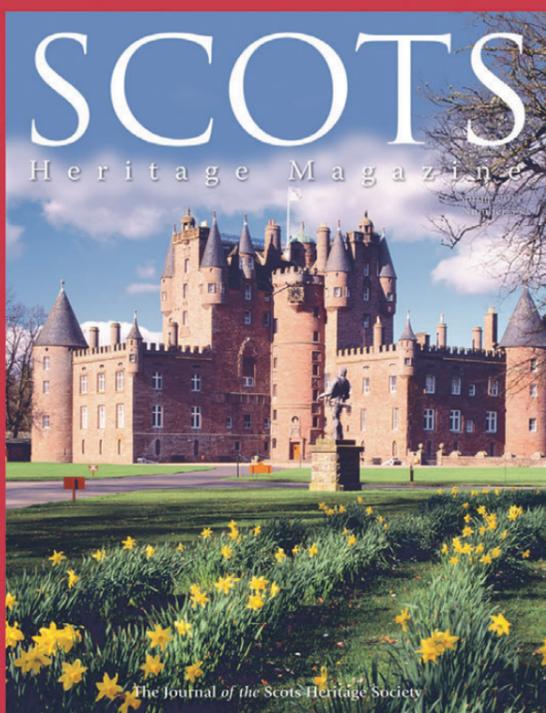
SUMMER BERTHS AVAILABLE

CRAOBH MARINA
 Craobh Haven by Lochgilphead
Tel 01852 500222 craobhmarina@talk21.com

BRINGING YOU SCOTLAND'S CULTURE, CLANS AND FASCINATING HISTORY WITH BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGRAPHY AND INTERESTING EDITORIAL.

SPRING EDITION OUT NOW!

SCOTS
 Heritage Magazine



MAGAZINE AVAILABLE BY SUBSCRIPTION ONLY
 By phone: + 44 (0) 1631 568000
 Order online: www.scotsheritagemagazine.com
 Email: subs@wyvexmedia.co.uk

AMERICAN 14.6 SAILING DINGHY WITH ORIGINAL WESCO TRAILER



Both in excellent condition with extras. Please call for more info.
Tel: 01397 703542 Mobile: 07909790552

£1900 o.n.o.

FOR SALE - ACHILLES 24 SLOOP "SPRING RUN"



Lying in Oban on own 4-wheel trailer, after 5 seasons out of use due to the owner cruising elsewhere in a bigger Achilles. Built 1973, one owner, LSA 7.14m, beam 2.17m, draught 1.14m, displacement 1080 kg. Extra long main berths, 4hp Yamaha 2-stroke outboard, sea toilet, much gear and spares. To accord with current ecological considerations, her entire underwater area is sheathed in cupro-nickel metal, so that conventional anti-fouling should not be required for decades. Well known locally and widely cruised. Email: spring.run@rys-online.net
Tel: 01631 566104 / 07876 338727

Only £4650

505 SAILING DINGHY



Great boat ready for season, Well equipped, Fun, Fast and Forgiving, Road trailer, launching trolley, plenty sails, including Kevlar main, ideal first 505 for fun or to race.
 email: arway@tiscali.co.uk
Tel: 07799 617534

£1250

DELL QUAY DORY 17FT



New galvanised trailer, Teleflex Steering.
Telephone:
 01546 602134

£2550 o.n.o.

CABIN BOAT 16FT



Yamaha 60 plus Yamaha 8 on Snipe Breckback Trailer, very good engines.
Telephone:
 01546 602134

£2550 o.n.o.

Wherever you are...*

Your Digital Edition is AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW at
 www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

*Availability subject to internet connection speed



Professor Donald Mackenzie MacKinnon 1913 - 1994

Like Van Gogh: someone whose genius was only fully appreciated after death

THERE are those who regard Professor Donald Mackenzie MacKinnon as the philosophical equivalent of Van Gogh: someone whose genius was only fully appreciated after death.

The Oban-born scholar was the son of Donald Mackenzie MacKinnon senior, a procurator fiscal descended from a family of merchants in Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

MacKinnon senior moved to Morvern House, on Oban's Glenmore Road, around the turn of the century and later moved to Broompark on the town's esplanade - today known as the Wellpark Hotel. Donald Mackenzie MacKinnon senior went on to found the firm of DM MacKinnon solicitors, which still plies its trade in Oban town centre today.

Donald junior would go on to gain a reputation as a formidable intellectual, albeit an extremely unconventional one, with students such as Rowan Williams, the current Archbishop of Canterbury, and award-winning novelist Dame Iris Murdoch.

In his book 'Rowan Williams: An Introduction,' Rupert Shortt commented on just how highly the Archbishop regarded MacKinnon, while at the same time revealing some of the professor's more unusual habits.

He wrote: 'The person Williams revered above all was Donald MacKinnon. This 'troubled genius' held the Nor-



ris-Hulse chair of divinity from 1960 to 1978.

'Stories about his eccentricities abound: he sharpened pencils with a razor blade as he lectured, and sometimes gave supervisions from under a table.

'A set of talks on Hegel involved such a lengthy prolegomenon that the subject himself was not mentioned until the final week of the course.'

Known for a host of publications including *Borderlands of Theology* and *The Problem of Metaphysics*, MacKinnon, born in 1913, received his education at Cargilfield School, Edinburgh and Winchester College. Even at this early stage, he was beginning to show signs of an outstanding mind.

Suzanne Foster, archivist at Winchester College, said: 'He

was one of our 70 scholars - amongst the very brightest boys here.

'Of his time here, Professor MacKinnon won the divinity prize a couple of times, was a prefect from September 1931 and was an active member of our debating society.'

Following that, MacKinnon won a scholarship to study at New College, Oxford, where he graduated in Literae Humaniores, and remained to study theology, winning the John Locke prize in Mental Philosophy in the process.

After completing his studies, MacKinnon took up a role at Edinburgh University as an assistant to AE Taylor, professor of Moral Philosophy.

His time at Edinburgh lasted a year before Oxford came calling again, so he returned south to tutor at Keble College, which included a period providing courses for air force and navy cadets when the second World War broke out.

It was during this time, in 1939, that he married the daughter of a Church of Scotland minister, Lois Dryer, who he had met while still in Edinburgh.

In 1947, the MacKinnons returned to Scotland and the University of Aberdeen where he was invited to take up the Regius chair of Moral Philosophy. This appointment lasted until 1960 when he moved to the University of Cambridge to take

up the position of Norris-Hulse Professor of Divinity - in doing so he became the first layman to hold the chair.

He briefly returned to Aberdeen to collect an honorary doctorate in 1961, but Cambridge was where he would spend the rest of his career up until retirement in 1978.

"It was like going on a magical mystery tour with no known location - he was an exceptionally intense man."

Professor Sarah Coakley, Cambridge

Another who studied under MacKinnon's enigmatic guidance was Professor Sarah Coakley, who has since taken up his former role at Cambridge. She spoke of MacKinnon's lecturing style, saying: 'It was like going on a magical mystery tour

with no known location - he was an exceptionally intense man.

'I realised by sticking with him I learned a huge amount, but it was often difficult to take in - but I owe him a very great deal.'

His unorthodox way of doing things raised a few eyebrows, but Professor Coakley spoke of a man who was capable of great kindness, one who was always prepared to make time for his students whenever they found themselves in need of assistance.

She said: 'He would go out of his way to help people in distress - he was all compassion.'

MacKinnon had been in demand to give lectures all across the UK, lecturing in places as far apart as London, Newcastle, Stirling and Aberystwyth, including a talk given at his old school, Winchester College.

Even after his retirement he continued to make appearances in various parts of the country, receiving two more honorary doctorates from Edinburgh and Stirling, and became a fellow in both the British Academy and the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

However MacKinnon never forgot his roots as his cousin Kenneth MacKinnon outlined.

Kenneth, who practised law at DH MacKinnon solicitors before his retirement, spoke of how Donald holidayed in Oban and also in his ancestral hometown of Tobermory.

He retained a holiday cottage at North Connel, often taking the bus into Oban town centre: despite the heady heights he reached professionally he was not known to have learned to drive.

Cousin Kenneth added: 'He was deeply proud of his Highland connections.'

On retirement, Donald and Lois settled in Aberdeen where Donald died 16 years later from a heart attack in 1994. His wife Lois died in 2009, but not before donating a sum of money towards the building of a new library at the University of Aberdeen. The university, as a result, named the reading room of the building after the professor.

Donald Mackenzie MacKinnon might not have been universally renowned for his talents - certainly some of his students were not always appreciative of his unique method of delivering lectures, but the pedigree of his graduates shows the positive influence the man had on his pupils.

He was a large, imposing figure, and as a professor of theology was prepared to vigorously stand up for his beliefs and principles as a devout member of the High Episcopal Church.

His obituary entry at the Royal Society acknowledged these traits, reading: 'Many who knew nothing of his writing or academic work knew of him as a colourful man.'

The impression of disorganisation - fostered in Aberdeen by what was once described as 'the knee-deep chaos of his office' - was thoroughly misleading, as his very effective terms as Dean of Faculty in Aberdeen and then in Cambridge proved.

As regards his unconventional behaviour, it is no doubt the case that - as with Warder Spooner - a few stories circulating soon attracted other fabricated ones, perhaps not discouraged by Donald himself.

Some of it simply reflected his other-worldliness, some the combination, typical in a Highlander, of an impish sense of humour and an independent-minded attitude - this latter perhaps being reinforced by the Wyckhamite's disdain for mere conventionality, as distinct from true courtesy.

The motto of the founder of Marischal College well fitted one side of his character: 'They haif said, Quhat say they? Let them say.'

'But even more characteristic, as befits a Highlander who was schooled at Winchester, were courtesy and consideration, along with a deep personal concern for his students, from the youngest undergraduate to sophisticated theology postgraduates embarking on a professional career, a concern expressed frequently in care, kindness and help given unsparringly when he was aware of a particular need.'



PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
12/00780/PIP	Site 80m North West of Birch Grove Spean Bridge	Erection of house - plot 2 (Renewal of 08/00414/OUTLO)	(14 days)
12/00798/FUL	House Site to North East of Garadh Buidhe Spean Bridge	New Dwelling House	(14 days)
12/00824/FUL	Abhainn Shalochain Hydroelectric Scheme Finuary Lochaline Morvern	Construction of run-of-river hydro electric scheme on the Abhainn Shalochain (Finuary)	(14 days)
12/00983/FUL	Land at Allt Gairtean Na Coarach South East of Westfield Roshven Glenug	Erection of house (amended design to 08/00133/FULLO)	(14 days)
12/01043/PIP	Land North West of Maybank Mallaig	Erection of two houses (renewal of 08/00425/OUTLO)	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
12/01169/FUL	Gosmull Wilson Way Banavie Fort William	Extension to house	(14 days)
12/01189/MSC	Land 90m NE of Ardlarach Letterfinlay Spean Bridge	Site access works	(14 days)
12/01205/FUL	Land at Riverview Morar Mallaig	Erection of house	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
12/01214/FUL	1 Lochy Road Inverloch Fort William	Extension to house	(14 days)
12/01229/FUL	2 Caiberfeith Fossifern Road Fort William	Alterations and Change of Use to House in Multiple Occupation (HMO)	(14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
12/00362/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Garden Ground Of Colonsay Cottage Croft Road Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
12/00517/PP	Replace existing front windows from aluminium to wooden sash and case.	Harbour View Guesthouse 7 Cawdor Place Shore Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LQ	Oban Area Office
12/00606/PP	Agricultural earthworks (Retrospective).	Land West Of Barochreal Kilniver Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
12/00654/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse	Forestbank Taynult Argyll And Bute PA35 1JE	Sub Post Office Taynult
12/00746/PPP	Site for the erection of 14 dwellinghouses including 4 affordable.	Land West Of Glenview Dalmally Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
12/00761/PP	Formation of removable external seating area.	62 - 64 George Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5SD	Oban Area Office
12/00763/PP	Erection of replacement dwellinghouse and detached garage/store room. (amended design to planning consent 11/00084/PP).	Eathie Arduaine Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4XQ	Sub Post Office Kilmelford

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
12/00518/LIB	Replace existing front windows from aluminium to wooden sash and case.	Harbour View 7 Cawdor Place Shore Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LQ	Oban Area Office
12/00655/PP	Demolition of boathouse, erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Druimavic Boathouse Glencreeran Estate Fasnacloich Argyll And Bute	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 Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
12/00491/PP	Erection of replacement garage.	Glenview Bridgend Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA44 7PD	Sub Post Office Bridgend

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <http://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, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.

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.

BREEDON AGGREGATES

Blast at Banavie Quarry - Friday 13th April 2012 at noon

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

A.G.M. Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain

Thursday, 26th April, 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in Free Church Hall

Lorn Garden Club Will be holding a Seed and Plant swap At our AGM (plus a photo show and talk on garden visits) At St John's Cathedral Hall, Oban On Tuesday April 17th At 7.15 for 7.30pm All very welcome For further information contact Marie on 01631 564107

69% of the business community read the regional press

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press closer to home

Relax and enjoy Your local news from wherever you are.

www.obantimes.co.uk/digital



Well established local building firm requires

GENERAL FOREMAN

The successful candidate must have significant experience coupled with proved track record. Good communication skills and driving license essential. Site Supervision/Management/First Aid certificates would be advantageous.

Salary £25-£30K.

This is a permanent position.
For further details contact:
Tel: 01631 570060



Cleaner

Based in our Loch Awe Holiday Park, by Taynuilt we are looking for a cleaner to clean and prepare our caravans before they are rented to customers.

This role includes cleaning living areas, kitchens, shower rooms and bedrooms including making the beds and laundry. Previous cleaning experience would be advantageous however training will be given.

Working during the day including weekends, weekly hours can vary depending on how busy the park is but likely to be 16 hours plus each week. This temporary position will be reviewed at the end of October.

Catherine Hughes, HR Officer,
Loch Awe Holiday Park, Bridge of Awe, Taynuilt,
Argyll, PA35 1HT. hr@argyllholidays.com



R A Clement Associates
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors

EXPERIENCED, PART TIME TYPIST REQUIRED
for our busy Oban office.

Hours flexible.

Please apply in writing or by email to dg@raclement.co.uk or Mr Duncan Grout, R A Clement Associates, 5 Argyll Square, OBAN, PA34 4AZ www.raclement.co.uk



has the following part-time vacancies

Office Administrator
Delivery Driver/Warehouse Worker

To apply, contact Elizabeth on (01546) 600466 or e-mail elizabeth@recycledrenewables.co.uk for an application pack. Closing date for applications is 4th May 2012.



A long established family owned independent store group with branches in Perth, Inverness, Ballater, Oban & Aberdeen.

McEwens in Oban is looking to recruit an experienced Manager & Senior Sales Assistant.

Are you customer focused?
Enjoy selling? Love Fashion?
Give exceptional service?

If the answer to the above is yes we would like to hear from you.

Interviews will be held locally

Please reply to:
J Cleisham, HR Manager
McEwens of Perth, 56 St John Street,
Perth. PH1 5SN
j.cleisham@mcewensofperth.co.uk



R A Clement Associates
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors

TRAINEE OR PART QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT REQUIRED
to work in our dynamic Oban office.

The candidate should be a college leaver or graduate with a desire to train as an accountant.

Please apply in writing or by email to dg@raclement.co.uk or Mr Duncan Grout, R A Clement Associates, 5 Argyll Square, OBAN, PA34 4AZ www.raclement.co.uk

SUPERVISOR REQUIRED
For new Coffee & Farm Shop and Wigwam Camp Site

At An Tairbeart, Tarbert
Must have relevant experience and certification for :-
• Food Prep & Retail • Health & Hygiene
• First Aid • IT & Accounting
The successful candidate will be versatile with good personal skills.
Apply with references to N & I Duncan Stonefield Farms, Tarbert, Argyll, PA29 6XX
e-mail: baravalla@ambamail.com



IT Officer Mid Argyll
Salary Grade 6 (£26,050 - £30,204) 35 hours per week

To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk; Tel 01546 605859 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 20th April 2012
Interviews for this post will be held in Lochgilphead on Friday 4th May 2012



This work supports a multi-agency approach AMANDA (Argyll Multi-agency Approach) enabling survivors of Domestic Abuse to assist those who have experienced domestic abuse and their children to deal with complex issues on their journey to becoming a survivor. Argyll Voluntary Action is working with partners of the Against Domestic Abuse Partnership in delivering this new initiative. The project, funded through Big Lottery (Scotland) Fund and operating across Argyll & Bute, is recruiting the following posts:
AMANDA Co-ordinator: full-time, responsible for managing the multi-agency approach involved in the co-ordination and assessment processes and ensuring partnership working and liaison. Working and linking closely with the ADA (Against Domestic Abuse) strategic partnership.
Trainer and Support Officer: 30 hrs p.wk, supporting implementation of the project and delivering the STEPS to Excellence personal development training to those affected by domestic abuse.
Trainer and Support Officer: 25 hrs p.wk, working to deliver STEPS to Excellence and support to those affected by domestic abuse, their children and working with third and public sector colleagues to ensure support measures are in place.
Both Trainer posts require qualification to deliver STEPS to Excellence, training can be available if not already held. For each of the above experience of working with those affected by domestic abuse is preferred as is enthusiasm and a commitment to improving outcomes for those affected by domestic abuse.
Administration and Finance Officer: full time - an excellent communicator, organised and efficient with empathetic manner and an understanding of these issues is required to undertake this pivotal role. Initially offered as a one year contract.
For information pack and application form please email: Kathleen@argyllvoluntaryaction.org, uk or telephone 01631-564839. Please state clearly for which post you are applying. All posts are three years fixed term, except as above.
The post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act
Posts will be open to women only. (Exempt under the Equality Act 2010 Schedule 9, Part 1) CV's will not be accepted.
Closing date 30th April. Interview date 12th May 2012
Argyll Voluntary Action. Charity no 50029947. Co Ltd by guarantee no 277345



Advertising Sales Executive

A great opportunity to work for the well established publishing group, The Oban Times, with products ranging from award winning newspapers to popular seasonal products.

Working in a friendly team environment from our modern office in Oban, our sales teams are encouraged to build on existing business relationships and forge new ones - over the phone and "out and about."

We want to work with eager, focused individuals whilst developing their skills to give them the confidence to succeed. Sales experience isn't essential - the right "can do" attitude is.

Full driving licence essential.

We offer:

- An excellent salary with opportunity to earn bonus
- On-going in-house training
- Generous holiday entitlement
- Company pension scheme
- Life insurance and private medical insurance

Please apply by email with C.V and covering letter to: ali@obantimes.co.uk



We are currently seeking a LGV Multidrop Delivery and Collection Driver operating from our Oban Depot.

All applicants must have a personal drivers digital card

If you have an interest in the above permanent full time position please apply in writing enclosing your CV by 17th April 2012
Oban Express, 7a Glengallan Road, Oban, PA34 4HG

Senior Healthcare Assistant

Lochgilphead - 1 x Bank hours - 1 x Contract (45 hours plus Bank)

Campbeltown - 1 x Bank hours - 1 x Contract (36 hours plus Bank)

Marie Curie Cancer Care is dedicated to providing care to terminally ill patients and their families in the familiar surroundings of their own home.

Community experience and a good understanding of end of life care is required. A Driver's Licence and the use of your own car are essential.

For an application pack please visit our website www.mariecurie.org.uk, email recruitscotland@mariecurie.org.uk or call the recruitment line on 0845 050 2823 quoting reference SC621.

Closing date: 27th April 2012. Interviews: w/c 21st May 2012.

These posts are subject to PVG clearance. Marie Curie Cancer Care aims to be an employer of Choice and is committed to equal opportunities. Charity Reg. No. 207994 (England & Wales), SCO38731 (Scotland).

www.mariecurie.org.uk/jobs

Real careers, a real difference.



Do you want to work for VisitScotland?

Seasonal Visitor Services Advisor
Location : Inverary

(30th April to 31st October; Hourly rate: £7.15 per hour)

Would you like to join our team and become the first point of contact for visitors to Scotland? As a Seasonal Visitor Services Advisor you will have expertise in customer service and sales, combined with strong IT, admin and organisational skills. Most of all you'll have great local and national knowledge of Scotland.

To apply please visit: www.visitscotland.org or apply in person to the local office. Closing date for applications: 20th April 2012.



COWAL DESIGN CONSULTANTS
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER/TECHNICIAN

Cowal Design Consultants provide engineering consultancy services throughout Argyll, The Highlands and Islands and Central Scotland from their offices in Dunoon and Oban. There is currently a vacancy for an Engineer or Technician in the Oban office. The right candidate will have the opportunity to grow the business, develop new client relationships and become a key member of the design team.

Interested applicants should send their CV and covering letter to: info@cowaldesign.co.uk

Museum Development Manager

Kilmartin House Museum is seeking to appoint a Development Manager to work in the key areas of audience and partnership development as well as to map out short and long term development opportunities following the recent completion of a feasibility study. This is a one year full time project funded contract with the possibility of an extension subject to funding. The salary is in the region of £29,000 per annum. For more information and an application pack please email admin@kilmartin.org or phone Anne on 01546 510 278.

MANAGER/MANAGERESS REQUIRED FOR BUSY LOCAL B & B

(Live-in-position with large en-suite bedroom, lounge and kitchen)

Experience in the hospitality trade essential, salary £10,000 - £20,000 depending on duties undertaken.

Also Cleaner required to clean seven guest bedrooms for five days per week.

Working hours are from 10am - 2pm approximately £10 per hour

For further details please phone 07867 785524 or email info@grovehouseconnel.co.uk

Oban Times Oban Times
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT



MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LTD
REQUIRE
HGV CLASS 2 TIPPER DRIVER
CLEAN DRIVING LICENCE ESSENTIAL

ALSO
TIME SERVED MECHANIC
(Semi-skilled may be considered)
WRITTEN APPLICATIONS OR C.V.
TO

Mr Harry Ross, MacLeod Construction Ltd
Kilmory Industrial Estate
Lochgilphead PA31 8RR
e-mail - til@mkmacleod.co.uk

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



Building Surveyor/Architect

Initially based in Lochgilphead, with some flexibility within Argyll
£30,204 - £34,260 per annum
35 hours per week

Quantity Surveyor

Initially based in Lochgilphead, with some flexibility within Argyll
£30,204 - £34,260 per annum
35 hours per week

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 4th May 2012

Interviews for these posts will be held mid May 2012

To apply: Visit our website at www.acha.co.uk; Tel 01546 605859; Email recruitment@acha.co.uk

YOUR LOCAL PAPER
It's easy to apply for jobs through local newspapers.
Regional Press

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

NOW ONLINE

Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk. Simply use the coupons on this page or visit the website and input your details there

BABY EQUIPMENT

COT/BED Silver Cross cot/first bed will do until 4 years with sides removed, very strong, used by 4 boys, mattress new for last child, £45 Telephone 01855 821519.

BICYCLES

ADAMS TAG ALONG BIKE good condition Adams Tag along bike suit ages 4-8, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720073.

BUILDING / DIY

4 DOORS 3 used, glazed interior doors, 1 unused exterior door, frame, no glazing. Buyer uplifts, £40 Telephone 01546 870611.

WORKBENCH FOR SALE Wolfcraft Mastercut 1000, unwanted gift (cost £112.99), brand new in box, £49.99 Telephone 01631 710394.

CAR ACCESSORIES

THULE ROOFBARS 1254 Rapid fit system for cars with factory fitted roof rails. Steel bars (853) with locks. Used but in good condition, £30 Telephone 01546 510282.

CD'S, DVD'S AND VIDEOS

DVD'S VARIOUS as new, all £3. Gimme Gimme, Thin Blue Line, Entertaining Mr Sloane, Tai Chi inc Cards & Booklet, Natural History British Isles, £3 Telephone 01631 710487.

DVD'S VARIOUS as new, all £3, Spaced 3 Disc edition, Idiot Abroad 2, Bill Bailey Dandelion Mind + Guide Orchestra, Stephen Merchant Hello Ladies. Telephone 01631 710487.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

JACKET jade green, size 16. Marks and Spencer, never worn, £20 Telephone 01631 564837.

LADIES ALL IN ONE SKI SUIT Nevica FS17 Chinook Sport, size 40L colour mid blue, £15 Telephone 01631 710487.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

17" LCD MONITOR Ryoku M7CNA, used but in good working condition. Complete with power & vga cables, £20 Telephone 01546 510282.

DELL DIMENSION 4550 PC tower + keyboard and Mouse, 80 GB hard drive, fresh copy of xp, good working order, £40 Telephone 01546 605251.

LAPTOP BAG Antler make, black material, suitable for 17" laptop, plenty of storage, additional shoulder strap, used once, £20 Telephone 01631 710487.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

COOKER Beko white cooker, approx 2 years old. Good condition, £49.99 Telephone 07818 505442 or 01631 567420.

FRIDGE FREEZER Almost new, fridge capacity 57 litre, freezer capacity 25 litre, size H85.5, W47.4, D51.6., £49.99 Telephone 01880 820586.

INDESIT TUMBLE DRYER white tumble dryer - full working order. Very good condition. Selling due to house move, £40 Telephone 01631 710159.

WASHING MACHINE Bosh 1200 spin washing machine, white. Good working order, £49.99 Telephone 07818 505442 or 01631 567420.

DOMESTIC PETS

COLLIE PUPS well reared, good natured and intelligent working parents. Both parents can be seen. Work or pets and good homes only. Telephone 01764 670597.

SPRINGADOR PUPPIES 5 bitches, 1 dog, work or pet, now ready, £200 leave message, will return call Telephone 01250 886302.

FIREWOOD

COMPRESSED BARK ECO LOGS 5 10kg packs (5 300mm logs). Excellent heat output. Long burn periods when used in good quality stove 5hrs+, £30 Telephone 07988 763254.

C O M P R E S S E D SAWDUSTBRIQUETTES 10 15kg Bags. Ideal for stoves or ranges. 3x heat output of seasoned softwood logs. Can deliver Mid Argyll, £40 Telephone 07988 763254.

FURNITURE

CHAIR swivel, black, on castors, as new, £30 Telephone 01631 570977.

COFFEE TABLE 38", octagonal, glass top, rattan bottom, excellent condition, £45 Telephone 01631 570977.

CORNER UNIT brown fabric left hand corner unit and chair 6 months old, does not suit room, £350 Telephone 01631 562272.

DESK grey, with shelf and drawer, 122cms x 69cms, as new, £45 Telephone 01631 570977.

DOUBLE BED white wooden double bed complete with mattress. Very good condition, £49.99 Telephone 07818 505442 or 01631 567420.

DUCAL PINE FURNITURE vgc, corner cabinet £100, Hi-Fi cabinet £85, corner TV unit £95, bureau £100, two seater sofa & chair £200. Telephone 01631 563404. IKEA VARDE LARGE

SIDEBBOARD free standing kitchen unit 3 drawers/2 shelves, birch. Buyer uplifts, £49.99 Telephone 01546 870611.

JODIE TUB CREAM CHAIR in excellent condition, look at page 1141 in the current Argos catalogue for a picture of the chair, £10 Telephone 01631 565143.

SIDEBBOARD in good condition. 1 cupboard, 3 drawers and cocktail cupboard. Size 6'8" x 28" x 17". Free for uplift. Telephone 01631 563272.

SOFA three seater brown leather sofa. Reasonable condition, £30 Telephone 07818 505442 or 01631 567420.

TOP QUALITY WOOD FRAMED CHAIR burnt gold upholstery cost new £425, must sell, £49.99 Telephone 01631 563272.

WOOD FRAMED CHAIR top quality, burnt gold upholstery cost new £425, must sell, £49.99 Telephone 01631 563272.

GARDEN

COMPOST TUMBLER Back porch compost tumbler this is small enough for a child to turn, and ideal for a small garden, £40 Telephone 01855 821519.

GARDEN EQUIPMENT FOR SALE Hayter Mower, petrol, Honda strimmer, petrol hedge cutters, lawn tractor and chipper for spares or repair. Telephone Details Phone 01838 200419.

GARDEN SHREDDER JC B electric garden shredder with collection bag must sell as space needed, £35 Telephone 01855 821519.

RIDE ON MOWER ALKO Ride-On 600 mower suitable for smaller lawns. Rear collection bag, 6hp 4 stroke engine, 3 fwd, 1 rev gears. North Connell, £150 Telephone 07899 878112.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

PEARLISED PAPER & CARD White, Baby Blue & Baby Pink colours available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

HOME FURNISHINGS MIRRORWARDROBE DOORS 2 x mirrored wardrobe doors, track & bottom guide rail. Each door 23cm - opening of 103cm. Gold anodised framed doors, £40 Telephone 01866 822529.

HOME OFFICE

COMPUTER/OFFICE DESK Computer/Office desk, 150cm x 75cm, beech finish. Excellent condition, £20 Telephone 01866 822529.

LEATHER COMPUTER CHAIRhighbackedLeather fronted "Executive" style computer chair. Rising, swivelling & rocking, excellent condition, £20 Telephone 01866 822529.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

MORTAR & PESTLE granite, bowl shaped, 5" high, 7" diameter, as new condition, £15 Telephone 01631 710487.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

GLOBETROTTER FLIGHT BAG excellent make, smart, black material, nice lining, additional shoulder strap, could be used for the office, £15 Telephone 01631 710487.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk.

MARINE

OUTBOARDS FOR SALE Honda 5hp 4 stroke S/S, Yamaha 4hp 4 stroke L/S, Mariner 4hp 2 stroke S/S, Scagull 4hp 2 stroke L/S, Campbeltown. Telephone 01586 553804.

MISCELLANEOUS

COAL SHUTTLE WITH BRUSH and black with brass trimmings, a shovel for shuttle and a brass and copper holder for large matches, £10 Telephone 01631 565143.

WIRELESS COLOUR PINHOLE CCTV cam, scart connection. Ideal for farmers, brand new still in box, £20 Telephone 07427 386955.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL Market your business effectively with professionally designed leaflets, posters and flyers from Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975. WEDDING STATIONERY Ranges to suit all tastes, bespoke designs from your ideas, paper and card for those making their own. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

TOYS AND GAMES

CLIMBING FRAME Little Tikes cube climbing frame and slide suitable for child age 2 until 4 well used but will last many more children yet, £45 Telephone 01855 821519.

WANTED

GOLD AND SILVER WANTED old silverware, two shillings, silver spoons, watches and much more, cash waiting. Telephone for an appointment at your convenience 07876 334572.

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

WANTED Copper, Brass, Lead, Zinc, Stainless Steel, All Alloys. All types of Cable, Household and Armoured. Best prices paid. Telephone 07770 724851 or 0800 959 6483.

Oban Times PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

Oban Times PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

Oban Times PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

PERSONALS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Peigi 15-4-2012 From Fiona Donnchadh Gilleasbaig

THANK YOU I would like to say a big thank you to Susan, Graham and their families for the lovely surprise birthday party. I would also like to thank family and friends for the many beautiful flowers, cards and gifts I received. Last I would like to thank Sarah and Sileas for their hard work entertaining us, also Colin, Joan and Staff for the lovely buffet. Thank You Mary

Mairi and Siobhan Would like to thank everyone for their lovely cards and gifts on their 21st birthday, also a special thanks to our mums, Johnnie boat, Peeds, Lou, Amanda and all who helped make our night special.

LOCAL services

plumbing services STEVE K Plumbing Plumbing, installation and repairs Bathroom fitting including floor and wall tiling. Distance no object • Tel: 07910 852421

scrap cars wanted E B GALL AUTOMOTIVE RECYCLING Wanted all scrap cars and vans, top money paid for Mercedes cars and vans and all 4 x 4's. Also catalytic converters. Yard 37B, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7HU. Tel: 01397 253334 Mob: 07596 701010 Scrap cars bought for cash Best prices for ferrous and non ferrous metals

funeral directors D & A MUNN LTD. FUNERAL DIRECTORS | EST. 1880 JOINERS AND BUILDERS BREADALBANE STREET, OBAN 24 hour Family run business Owned and run by Ian MacInnes and son. TELEPHONE: 01631 562562 WWW.MUNNS-OBAN.CO.UK

cleaning 1ST CHOICE CLEANING SPECIALISTS Carpets and upholstery cleaning at its best! All work guaranteed Telephone: 07815 036684 or 01631 720322 01631 720297 Evenings

caravans CARAVANS FOR SALE ON SITE CARAVANS from £8,950 OFF SITE CARAVANS from £1,095 Loch Awe Holiday Park 14 miles from Oban Ideal for temporary use * can be delivered to your location Contact us on 01866 822 666 lochaweholidaypark@btconnect.com www.argyllholidays.com

window blinds Chris Craft window blinds OBAN 01852 300174 FORT WILLIAM 01855 831480 FREE MEASURING / FREE ESTIMATES FREE FITTING / MADE IN SCOTLAND ALL BLINDS MADE TO MEASURE FREEPHONE 0800 371250 Check out our Customer Views at www.customers.chriscraft.co.uk

removals & storage MACQUEEN BROS LTD Removals/Storage & Self Storage Full range of packing materials Glangallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG Tel: (01631) 564848 www.macqueenbros.com

plumbing & heating We install and maintain plumbing systems We install and maintain all types of central heating We maintain all types of boilers We install underfloor heating systems J M Gillies Ltd Plumbing & Heating Contractors Unit 6 Tweedmill Soroba Road Oban, Argyll Tel: 01631 565636 Fax: 01631 564724 Email: information@jmgillies.co.uk

“The Oban Times offers unbeatable reach in Oban, being read by an outstanding 97% of the total population and 9044 more adults than its nearest competitor the Daily Record.” The Oban Times Tel: 01631 568000 email: adverts@obantimes.co.uk www.obantimes.co.uk

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications. 1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes. 2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement. 3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice. 4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person. 5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement. 6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose. 7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement. 8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose. 9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order. 10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance. 11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice. 12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, (01631) 568000 Fax (01631) 568001 — www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office

The Oban Times PREPAID ADVERTISING RATES Private Classifieds Lineage Rates Minimum charge £13.85 + VAT (up to 25 words) thereafter £2.70 per line Box Number Fee £5.50 (+VAT) Births, Engagements, Marriages, Deaths and Acknowledgments Minimum charge £12.80 (+VAT) thereafter £2.50 per line (+VAT) In Memoriam: Minimum charge £9.45 (+VAT) thereafter £2.00 per line (+VAT) Trade Classifieds: See Trade Classified Page for Rates Trade Display: £9.63 per single column centimetre Recruitment: £16.55 per single column centimetre Public Notices: £10.90 per single column centimetre Properties £10.50 per single column centimetre Private Accommodation to Let/Wanted £10.50 per single column centimeter (all rates exclusive of VAT) Personals: £7.42 per single column centimetre Payment: Pre-payment required for advertisements of less than £50 (excluding death notices) Please make cheques and postal orders payable to The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB www.obantimes.co.uk

A TOUCH OF SCOTLAND EVERY WEEK! The Oban Times SUBSCRIPTION RATES (one year) U.K.....£58.00 Rest of World£100.00 The Oban Times Ltd P.O. Box 1 Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB Scotland, UK www.obantimes.co.uk Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes

FREE 2012 Highland Tourist Maps



OUT NOW!

Available for FREE from tourist hot spots, Tourist Information Centres and most retailers. PLUS, download for free from www.scottishtouristmaps.co.uk

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk TURN YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS INTO CASH!



Visit the website at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk to input your details and not only will your ad appear online but will also appear in the Oban Times, The Campbeltown Courier, and The Argyllshire Advertiser ITEMS UNDER £50 ARE FREE alternatively you can fill in the form below and hand it in to any of our offices (details below)

PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE MONDAY 4.00pm NO MORE THAN 25 WORDS PLEASE ITEM: DESCRIPTION: PRICE: TELEPHONE: ONLY ONE ITEM PER COUPON FOR MULTIPLE ITEMS INPUT YOUR DETAILS ONLINE AT www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk YOUR LOCAL WEST HIGHLAND OFFICES: OBAN: The Oban Times, Lochaville Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB FORT WILLIAM: The Oban Times, Mores House, The Parade, Fort William PH33 8BA CAMPBELTOWN: The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 8AE LOCHGILPHEAD: Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8NB

“The Oban Times offers unbeatable reach in Oban, being read by an outstanding 97% of the total population and 9044 more adults than its nearest competitor the Daily Record.” The Oban Times Tel: 01631 568000 email: adverts@obantimes.co.uk www.obantimes.co.uk

BIRTHS

CAMPBELL - Duncan and Elaine (née Thomson), are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful son Findlay Lachlan on March 25, 2012. First grandchild for David and Carol, Taynuilt and third for Duncan and Liz, Dunbeg. Many thanks to all the Oban midwives.

MACLEOD

Robert Norman and Nicola (nee Cannon), Springbank, Tobermory are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Magnus Francis MacLeod on April 2, 2012. Special thanks to Professor Cameron and his team at the Southern General Hospital Maternity Unit.

PHILIPS - SHAW

Kenny and Jenna are proud to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter, Sophie Elise, born March 21, 2012. First granddaughter to Donald and Morna Shaw, Ardfern and the late Derek and Isa Philips, Ardshaig. Special thanks to all midwives at the Mid Argyll Maternity Unit for their care.

ENGAGEMENTS

KENNEDY -YACKIMINIE

Margaret MacFarlane Kennedy, Ards House, Connel is delighted to announce the engagement of her daughter Lucinda Frances to David James, younger son of Shirley and Colin Yackiminie, Aberdeen.

DEATHS

DAILLY - Nancy Dailly, April 7, 2012, aged 86, beloved wife of the late Thomas Dailly, beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral to take place on Thursday, April 12 from the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kinlochleven at 2pm followed by interment at Kinlochmore Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations towards an aspirating machine for Kinlochleven Surgery. Family would like to thank Dr Criss Ellis, Fr Francis Ferreggi, Home Carers and Nursing Staff.

KIRKPATRICK - Suddenly on April 5, at Lorn & Islands District Hospital, David Robert Kirkpatrick of Claddagh, Iona, loving husband of Norah, father of David and Ronald, grandad and great grandad. Special thanks to Dr Astill and Charlie MacDougall and to everyone for their help.

MCCLELLAN - Ronald (Ronnie), (Edinburgh, Tobermory/Tiree). Suddenly on Thursday, April 5, 2012, in hospital in Edinburgh after a series of illnesses, Ronnie, husband of the late Bette (née Spink), beloved father of Carol and John and grandfather of Emily, Hannah, Kirsty, Rachel and Ross. Funeral at Mortonhall Crematorium Main Chapel, Edinburgh, on Monday, April 16 at 1pm. Family flowers only please.

MCCLELLAN - Catherine. Unexpectedly, but peacefully, on Sunday March 18, 2012 at Islay Hospital, Catherine McClellan of 13 Mansefield Road, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay. Much loved mother of Alan and Elizabeth Anne, mother-in-law to Pamela and Allan and loving grandmother to Chelsea and Olivia. The funeral service was held at St John's Church, Port Ellen on Saturday, March 25 and she was peacefully laid to rest at Kilaughton Cemetery.

MCCOLL - Very suddenly but peaceful on April 7, 2012, Flora McColl in her 74th year, at home 13 Hillfoot, Tarbert, beloved wife of Robert (Bobby McColl). Funeral service in Tarbert. Date to be confirmed.

MCDADE - Sheila (née Douglas), Glasgow, Kirkcaldy, Portouark. Peacefully at Mosspark Nursing Home, Caol, on Friday, April 6, 2012, Sheila McDade, beloved wife of the late Frank McDade. Service at Kilchoan Parish Church on Thursday, April 12, at 1pm, thereafter to Kilchoan Cemetery. All welcome. Retiring collection in support of the Belford Hospital, For William.

ACKNOWLEDGE-MENTS

MACDONALD - Kenneth, Eileen and Susan would like to extend their sincere thanks for the sympathies expressed, donations received for Cancer Research and to all those who attended the service at St Margaret's and interment at Cille Choiril for their mother Kate.

MACDONALD - (Fort William). Lily's family would like to thank everyone for the cards they have received and the kind expressions of sympathy that have been extended to them by so many over the last couple of weeks. Sincere thanks to Fr MacKinnon for conducting the funeral mass in such a sensitive way and to all those who donated to the Macmillan Nurses. Thanks also to the staff of Mike McFall, Funeral Directors, particularly Jamie, for all his help and for the way he efficiently carried out his duties. Thanks also to all the staff at the West End Hotel for their hospitality following the funeral. Grateful thanks to all who attended the church and graveside at Cille Choiril. Finally, Lily's family would also like to extend a grateful thanks to the staff of Inverness House for their care and attention to Lily during her weekly visits over the last few years.

MEMORIALS

CAMERON - In loving memory of Alexander (Alasdair), who passed away April 10, 2005, loving husband, dad and grandpa. Always remembered. - Ann, Sandy, Bernard, Sean and Natasha.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of a wonderful wife and mum, Linda, who died April 14, 2007. Loved and remembered every day. - William and William xx

CURRIE - 20th Anniversary In loving memory of Caroline, died April 17, 1992. Quietly today your memory we treasure Missing you always Forgetting you never. - Mum, Dad and all the family.

JOHNSTONE - In loving memory of Jimmy, dearly loved dad and papa, passed away April 13, 2009. Lovingly remembered. - Scott, Linda and Rachel, Gregor, Marion, Scott and James.

MACEWAN - Remembering with love today and everyday my dear husband, our father and grandfather, Callum, who died April 12, 2007. Precious memories how they linger. - Joan and family xx

MCCREGOR - In loving memory of our dear dad and papa Alastair, who died April 13, 1994 also remembering our dear mum and gran Jean, who died June 23, 2001. Gone are the days we used to share But in our hearts you are always there. - Alastair, Donnie, Lorna, John and families.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of our dearly missed parents and grandparents, Isabella, died April 15, 2011 and John, died March 11, 2006. Thank you for the years we shared The love you gave, the way you cared Deep in our hearts your memories are kept Too dearly loved to ever forget. - Donald John, Janette, Keith, Iain and Allan.

WILLIAMSON - James Stewart (Jimmy), Scrap Metal Merchant, died April 15, 1997. Always contented Always sincere A smile for all Who cared to be near. - Linda, Richard and family, Lochy Bridge.

MEMORIALS

Stokes Memorials
Serving Argyll and the Highlands & Islands for over 35 years
Established 1973 - Fraser, Downie, Master Sculptor
New and traditional memorials. Work carried out in any cemetery.
Additional lettering. Free estimates and advice.
Cleaning and renovations. House signs.
212/214 Argyll Street, Duntoon • Tel/Fax 01349 792162 • Email: info@stokesmemorials.co.uk

BEST FOR NEWS, VIEWS & PHOTOS
The Oban Times
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

CHARITY DONATIONS

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
West of Scotland Fundraising Office
1st Floor, Erskine House
North Avenue, Clydebank
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR
Tel 0808 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

CANCER RESEARCH UK
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK Scotland
Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court
Clydebank Business Park
Clydebank, G81 2LA

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
David Mudie (Treasurer)
Oban Hospice Ltd
The Croft
Kilmore

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE
Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
Mrs Lillian Kermode
Tynwald, Glenburn,
Soroba Road, Oban
01631 571009

FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 15 April 2012
2nd of Easter
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion..... 08.00
Sung Eucharist..... 10.15
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum,
Provost.
(01631) 562323
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Communion..... 11.00
St Columba,
Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist..... 08.00
Evensong..... 20.15

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, LOCHABER AND LORN MEETING.
Meeting for Worship on the Second Sunday of each month.
11am at Port Appin Public Hall.
All welcome.
Bring and share meal afterwards.

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 15 April 2012
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome



Church stalwart retires after 17 years

After 17 years as treasurer and property convener of both Dalavich and Kilchrenan Parish Churches, Andrew Rose has retired from the posts. As a thank you for all his hard work, he was presented with a Celtic Cross at the Kilchrenan Palm Sunday Service. Left to right: Rev R Brookes, Andrew Rose and Ann Urwin, Church Elder.



St John's Cathedral Easter Concert

Conductor Norman Nicholson led an astounding performance of Handel's Messiah by Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra at St John's Cathedral's Easter concert. The Sunday event attracted a full house. Louise Childs was soprano, Christopher Josey tenor and Simon Hannigan sang bass. 15_115orchestra1



Oban Feis Fiddlers during their performance at Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club's last concert of the winter season. 16_115fidd1

Winter session finishes on high note

OBAN Accordion and Fiddle Club rounded off the last night of its successful winter session with a series of rousing performances in front of a large audience. Chairman Michael Garvin welcomed the crowd and started the event by playing his accordion, on keyboard, Ewan MacDonald, Becky Hill, Ann Thomson and Clair Jordan. Playing fiddle was Joanie Garvin. All the local and visiting players' musical talents were much appreciated and were greeted by great applause from the audience. Michael introduced the guest artist, the Pentland Ceilidh Band, led by Colin Brown from Fife on his five row button key accordion. Derek Rae, Falkirk, was on piano accordion and on drums was Garry Kellow, Kinross. The guests played many tunes and sets, which were all thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. The chairman thanked both the local and guest artistes for a fantastic evening of music and Amanda and staff at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls for looking after the group all winter.

Busy agenda at final Muckairn Guild meeting of session

MUCKAIRN Church Guild members met in the church on April 2 for the final meeting of the session on the theme 'What does The Lord require of you'. Hymns 'Great is Thy Faithfulness' and 'Christ be Beside Me' were sung. Two playlets were read by Stella Huntingford, Marlene Stanners, Nan Inkster, Eleanor MacBain, Jessie Servant and Mary Scott. One was called 'An Invitation' and one called 'Computers - who needs them?'. Moral message
Both were amusing, but with a moral message. The AGM followed with the re-election of office bearers as follows: Convener/treasurer - Stella Huntingford; secretary - Marlene Stanners; press secretary - Mary Scott; committee - Ivy Smart. The Guild coffee morning is to be held in Taynuilt Village Hall on May 5 in aid of the Bethune Project.

Young carers treated to Mull summer trip

YOUNG carers from north Argyll will this summer be taken on a trip to Mull thanks to a £500 donation to the Roses Charitable Trust. Argyll and Bute Carers Network in Lochgilphead made the donation to help meet the costs of the trip which has, in previous years, been a huge boost to the young people who look after family members full time. Meanwhile, Roses Trust director, Andy Spink and his wife Gill will this weekend run the Lochaber Marathon in an effort to raise even more money to pay for trips away for similar groups. Manager Jane Sayer said: 'North Argyll Young Carers spent a week on Tiree last summer and have been taking part in regular adventure activities with the Roses Project ever since. They enjoyed it all so much they are now trying to raise enough money to spend a week on Mull this summer. The £500 is a tremendous boost.'

Brooch of Lorn to leave Scotland for first time

Charmstone selected by British Museum for flagship exhibition

THE BROOCH of Lorn will leave Scotland for the first time after being selected by the British Museum for its flagship Cultural Olympiad exhibition. Shakespeare: Staging the World runs from July 19 to November 25 and looks at the world through Shakespeare's plays, drawing in some of the most intriguing and glamour objects from throughout Europe. The Brooch joins only 17 other objects travelling from the National Museum of Scotland. It is only the second time the Brooch of Lorn has left the bank vault for public display and the first time it has ever left Scotland. Its relevance is that, while the original charmstone dates from around 1300 AD, it was reset in its elaborate Scottish silver and pearl setting in the late 16th century, contemporary with Shakespeare, and is of outstanding European craftsmanship. Catherine Gillies, curator of Dunollie's 1745 House which is the historic seat of Lorn and of the Clan MacDougall, said the selection of the brooch represented an 'outstanding opportunity' for tourism to the area. She said: 'Dunollie has other links with Shakespeare and the Elizabethans. The death of King Duncan, as later played out in 'MacBeth', was plotted at Dunollie; the Clan Chief made money from spying on the Spanish for Queen Elizabeth I. Our only sculpture is of this Chief in Elizabethan court dress. Argyll was therefore connected directly with the cosmopolitan city of London and the world of Shakespeare and the court. 'This is clearly an outstanding opportunity for raising the profile of Argyll's heritage in the wider market, linking into the national Cultural Olympiad, demonstrating the quality of our heritage and our connectivity to the wider world.'

Catherine further believes the selection of the brooch will reinforce the heritage brand of Argyll as unique, high quality and relevant to national themes. Valuable
In order to enable people to see the Brooch, which is so valuable it can only be displayed with national museum security or constant guard, the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust commissioned an exact replica around five years ago from Hamilton and Inches in Edinburgh. This replica alone is valued at £15,000. The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust is now developing a travelling exhibition of the replica brooch to accompany the Cultural Olympiad. Additional interpretation for the display is being designed, linking it to the British Museum and Shakespeare story. The exhibition is available for loan to local organisations. The Trust is also planning a Shakespeare event at Dunollie, including open-air theatre, the exhibition, talks and guided walks.



The Brooch of Lorn, which will leave Scotland for the first time to go on display at the British Museum's Cultural Olympiad exhibition.

Art gallery reaches 100 year milestone

A LOCHABER art gallery is celebrating 100 years since the business started up as a flooring firm in Glasgow back in 1912. F W Holroyd in North Ballachulish traces its origins back to 1912, when Fredrick William Holroyd set up shop in Virginia Arcade in Glasgow, the old spice market. In 1998 Jack married Sarah and the following year they moved to Lochaber to open a new gallery. Local artists
They also opened a small gallery in High Street, Fort William, where they sold work by artists exhibiting in the Glasgow gallery and talented local artists. The gallery grew and moved to bigger premises in North Ballachulish. The gallery is celebrating its centenary year with a series of exhibitions to run alongside works by regular gallery artists. Featured artist for April is Grace Cameron. The gallery will feature in May's Scottish Field.



F W Holroyd in North Ballachulish: celebrating 100 years.

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes



Coach Vince Lopez congratulates Lochaber's Chris Donnelly after his victory over Alec Mullen. 20_f15chris01



Sam MacLeod of Nether Lochaber ABC forces Sarunas Gestautas of Peterhead ABC to cover up. 20_f15sambox01



Igor Sliwinski stopped opponent Nathan Morrison of Peterhead ABC in a powerful display of boxing skills. 20_f15igorbox01



Liam Jordan went on the rampage against Chris Hogg of Wellmeadow ABC to win a unanimous decision. 20_f15liambox01

Phoenix boxing show proves a big hit with fans

Local boxers are punching way above their weight on the national scene

AROUND 400 boxing fans enjoyed a night of all-out action at Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club's show in the Nevis Centre on Saturday night.

No fewer than eight boxers from the home club appeared on the ten-bout bill, providing further evidence the local boys are punching way above their weight on the national scene.

Heavyweight Chris Donnelly topped the bill for Lochaber against the vastly more experienced Alec Mullen of Irvine Vinesburgh and came out with a unanimous points win. His classy display, with a powerful jab and a telling fight, earned him best senior boxer of the night trophy.

Light-welterweight Aidan Donnelly faced Darren Foster of Arbroath ABC in a real war of attrition and lost out in a water-tight split decision.

Neither man took a backward step throughout - but in the end the judges favoured Foster's

shorter counters over Donnelly's wider punches. Middleweight senior novice Scott Lawrie has been showing huge potential in



Lochaber's Kevin Aitchison was too strong for Billy Reilly of Irvine Vinesburgh ABC. 20_f15kevinbox01

the Fort William gym - and how that paid off against unbeaten prospect Ross Houston of Highland Boxing Academy.

In what was undoubtedly the

bout of the night, home fans roared on Lawrie as his power and accuracy began to tell towards the end of the second. With Houston on the ropes Scott unleashed a left hook to the ribs and Ross collapsed to the canvas - and just like that the contest was over and the host club had another winner.

Fizz-bomb
Liam Jordan - who will possibly compete at welterweight in future - had a middleweight bout against Wellmeadow ABC's southpaw Chris Hogg in an another fizz-bomb of a contest.

Ahead after the first, Jordan's cleaner more precise blows were taking effect on the Wellmeadow boxer and in the third Liam really turned the screw to force a standing count. No sooner had the ref given Hogg the mandatory eight-count the final bell sounded and Jordan claimed a landslide majority points win.

Igor Sliwinski - at just 15 a real prospect - faced Peterhead ABC's Scottish finalist Nathan

BOXING

Morrison. Igor has been working on improving his defence and Morrison could not pin down the elusive Fort William youngster. The last round was an excellent example of why big things are expected of Sliwinski as he forced the visibly hurt Morrison to take a standing count. Another right hand and left hook saw the referee stop the contest.

Elsewhere, James Aitchison narrowly lost to fellow Scotland squad member Colin Stewart of Byron ABC, whose power and aggression proved decisive.

Unanimous decision
James' brother Kevin, aged 12, deservedly won a unanimous decision over Billy Reilly of Irvine Vinesburgh ABC and picked up the young boxer of the night award.

Sam MacLeod of Kinlochleven-based Nether Lochaber ABC was unfortunate lose out to Sarunas Gestautas of Peterhead ABC.



Lochaber Phoenix favourite Scott Lawrie catches Ross Houston of Highland Boxing Academy with a body shot. 20_f15scottbox01

Fort suffer two heavy defeats in four days

FORT William will have to pick themselves up for the visit of Cove Rangers on Saturday after suffering two heavy defeats in four days last week.

Cove sit in second place in the Highland League and still harbour hopes of catching leaders Forres. The Aberdeen side beat Fort 6-0 in the reverse fixture back in August.

Fort manager Danny Conlon told The Oban Times his side will have to improve if they are to avoid another big loss.

He said: 'It'll be another hard game, Cove are a really good side. Hopefully we can shut the back door and a bit of confidence back. It's my job to lift the boys for the game, and we're certainly going to have to get our act together or we will be on the end of another heavy defeat.'

The Lochaberside's undersized squad will be bolstered by the return of Sean Grant and Lewis Campbell.

FOOTBALL

'We're working with a small squad here,' Conlon said. 'But my hands are tied - I've just got to try and work with the boys and try and improve them as players.'

Nairn County put on an impressive display of finishing to run out 9-0 winners at Claggan Park last Wednesday night, and Fraserburgh came away from Lochaber with a 6-1 victory four days later.

Penalty save
Fraserburgh were 3-0 up at half time despite Fort keeper Robbie Donaldson saving a penalty - the third time in succession he has kept out a spot kick. Logan Barker headed in a late consolation goal.

Conlon said the size of the defeats surprised him after some improved displays from his side.

He said: 'We've gone from two



Mark Gillespie arrives just too late to stop Scott Barbour rifling home Fraserburgh's first goal. 20_f15foot003

0-0 draws to two really heavy defeats. I'm putting it down to a bit of a blip, just a few bad games.'

Fort William u17s continued their good form with a hard fought 3-0 win away to AIness United.

Deadlock
Cameron Grant fired a 20 yard drive low into the bottom corner to break the deadlock in the 42nd minute, before a second half strike from Martin Munro and a lob from outside the box

by Kieran Viocey secured then win.
Quality
Manager John Matheson told The Oban Times: 'Overall, another strong and quality performance from this improving young team with Kieran Lopez and Calum Boyd in central defence forging a particularly strong partnership.'

A jackpot of £1,000 is up for grabs this week in Fort William FC's weekly lotto draw. Numbers last week were 7-9-10.

Lochaber Leisure round season off in style



Champs: Lochaber Leisure captain Stevie Martin accepts the trophy from Ali Young's grandchildren Caitlin and Aiden. 20_f20a01

INDOOR FOOTBALL

LEAGUE champions Lochaber Leisure rounded off the Ali Young Indoor Football season with a comfortable 3-0 win against bottom club Bayern Bru at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

The team, who finished 14 points clear of the chasing pack, were presented with the league trophy before the game.

TNF United sealed the runners up spot with a 4-1 win against HWEnergy No-Stars. Goon Squad's 8-4 victory over Livercaol saw them take third spot on goal difference from Achintore FC, who won 6-4 against Stroke City.

The night's other game saw 10th placed Granite House beat AA Young, who finished 11th, 3-2.



Iain Foggo and Mark Gillespie can't stop Graham Johnston firing in a shot. 20_f15foot002

Get ready for the season

If you haven't already ordered your promotional printing for the 2012 summer season then now is the time to do so.

Krisp Print offer excellent prices on medium to long run colour brochures and leaflets as well as short run digital printing. We also offer a professional design service to help you make a good first impression where it counts.

Campbelltown • T: 01586 554975
E: staff@krispprint.co.uk
Oban • T: 01631 568015
E: sales@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

WIN £700

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

A Gibb,
Soroba Road, Oban

A Michie,
Balnakeyle Road, Inverness

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name

Address

..... Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here

2012 Camanachd Cup Final will be played in Oban

Town's Mossfield Stadium described as 'excellent platform' for main event

OBAN'S Mossfield Stadium will once again host the final of shinty's premier cup competition, the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup. The Camanachd Association announced the venue on Tuesday and scheduled the match for Saturday, September 15. Mossfield last hosted shinty's premier event in 2009 where Fort William defeated Kyles Athletic with a dramatic last minute winner from Fort William's James Clark. Speaking of the announcement, Camanachd Association President Archie Robertson said: 'We are delighted that Oban will once again host the final of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup. Mossfield Stadium boasts some of the best facilities in the country and I am in no doubt that it will provide an excellent platform for shinty's most prestigious competition.' Donald MacVicar, Argyll and Bute Council's head of community and culture, said: 'The Camanachd Cup Final is a major event in the Scottish sporting calendar, and we're delighted that the Association

has decided to bring it back to Oban this year. It's a tremendous vote of confidence in the town, which I am sure will live up to its reputation as a top quality venue. 'The cup final showcases the very best that shinty has to offer and is always a wonderful advert for the game and a hit with locals and visitors alike. 'I'm obviously hoping that we have an Argyll and Bute team to cheer on the day - as we did the last time the event came to Oban - but it promises to be a fantastic occasion regardless of the teams who contest it.' The Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final will be broadcast live on BBC Scotland, Radio Scotland and Radio Nan Gaidheal as well as streamed online.

SHINTY

FORT WILLIAM welcome Glenurquhart to their temporary home at Canal Parks with their title credentials in rude health after their fine 2-0 win at Inveraray. Peter MacIntyre's men are becoming a potent mix of youth and experience with strong defence the foundation their solid early season form, which has seen Fort concede only two goals in four Orion Group Premiership games. Duncan Rodger's return will further strengthen the side against the Glen, who ground out a 1-0 win over Bute. MacIntyre told The Oban Times: 'I am a firm believer in building from the back - and that's what we have been trying to do. On Saturday we were without Duncan Rodger and Neil Robertson, but we still managed to keep a clean sheet. 'We played Glenurquhart in pre-season and beat them, but it was very tight. If we can repeat that on Saturday I would be delighted.'

Against Inveraray, a fine first half strike from ex-Ballachulish man Scott Henderson took his tally to three in two games while 19 year-old Ryan Campbell grabbed the clincher late on. Mark Grant (19) and Aaron MacPhee (16) also starred. MacIntyre is proud of how his young players have flourished alongside more experienced players such as Bryan Simpson, Gordy MacKinnon and Niall MacPhee. 'They have so much energy and enthusiasm,' he said.

LOVAT welcome high-flying Kinlochshiel to Balgait Park keen to get their campaign back on track following last weekend's narrow defeat at the hands of Kingussie. Coach Allan MacRae should be able to count on a full squad being available, although Martin Mainland picked up a knock and must be considered a doubt. Key to the game will be whether Lovat's rearguard can snuff out the threat from 'Shiel's potent forward line, which caused Kyles no end of woe last Saturday. MacRae told The Oban Times: 'Defence is one of our strengths, we are solid and adaptable at the back. It looks as though it will be a real battle between our defence and their attack. 'Although the loss against Kingussie was our first defeat, we are really needing to take something from the game on Saturday.'

Lovet were two goals down courtesy of a Ronald Ross double before they woke up in the last 10 minutes to give Kings a torrid time. Martin Bell pulled a goal back with five minutes left - but it was to no avail as Kings held out. MacRae said: 'We had a lot of pressure towards the end and a lot of corners, but we just could not get the equaliser. I think we deserved a draw over the piece.'

KYLES ATHLETIC welcome back defender Donald Irvine to the first team squad, after a lengthy absence, for the visit to Kilmallie on Saturday. The Lochaber side sit bottom of the Orion Group Premiership but Kyles will be taking nothing for granted following their humbling defeat to league new boys Kinlochshiel last weekend. Kyles trainer James Perlich said: 'We need to get a result on Saturday but we are aware that if you are in the premier league, you have deserved it. We have got to give Kilmallie respect. 'We knew Kinlochshiel would be dangerous last week but we struggled to adapt to the pitch and to their style of shinty. 'After their second goal went in it was as if we pressed the self-destruct button. 'That is a characteristic of a young team and as they get older they will learn how to deal with that pressure.'

KILMALLIE will seek to banish their early season woes by beating Kyles on Saturday to close the gap on the teams above them in the Orion Group Premiership. The Blues have accumulated but a single point in five matches so far, and after last weekend's results suddenly find themselves cast adrift at the bottom of the table. Two points behind Bute and three behind Glenurquhart, Kilmallie can't leave it much longer to get back to winning ways after the 7-2 drubbing at the hands of Newtonmore, where Michael Rodger's fine second half double was the only chink of light. Club chairman Hugh MacIntyre told The Oban Times: 'We did not play at all well and our defence was terrible. I felt sorry for our keeper - they were just thumping shots in at him from everywhere. 'We were missing Cammy (Liam Cameron) and Robbie MacFadzean, but there's no doubt Newtonmore are a strong side. 'Saturday's game is very important for us, we have to start getting going now. We can't let the gap get any wider.' Liam MacIntyre took a knock against Newtonmore but should be fit for the Kyles game, MacIntyre said.

KINGUSSIE will be looking to build on a 2-1 win against Lovat last week when they take on Bute this Saturday. After two defeats in a row, Kings got the away win after two goals from the returning Ronald Ross, who later limped off after suffering a foot injury. Manager Steven Borthwick said

Ross' foot was 'pretty badly swollen' after the game and the forward was a big doubt for this weekend. Borthwick told The Oban Times victory over Lovat was a significant moment for his side. He said: 'It was a very important win, especially against Lovat who were unbeaten in the league. We thought that it might be quite a precarious game, but it didn't really turn out like that. 'They started brightly but then we got on top and we didn't really look in any trouble until the last 10 minutes or so. It's not quite happening for us yet, but there's signs we're getting there. Borthwick said he was anticipating another tricky tie when his side travel south to face Bute this Saturday, despite the islanders' lack of goals so far this year. He said: 'It's always been their problem - they are very good defensively and in midfield but they have problems up front.'

NEWTONMORE manager Norman MacArthur has warned the rest of the Orion Premier League his side's best shinty is still to come - despite sitting on top of the division after six games. MacArthur told The Oban Times: 'We're not just 100 per cent yet but we're getting there. I think in another couple weeks of weeks we'll be back to our best. 'We're still conceding goals, but we're still scoring goals as well which is good. We've been making mistakes in the last few weeks and it's costing us goals.' MacArthur's men welcome Inveraray to The Eilan this Saturday. The 'More beat Inveraray 6-2 at Winterton Park just three weeks ago, but MacArthur said he was still expecting a tough game. 'It's all down to who they travel with,' he said. 'They've got a good enough team if they have their full squad available. But there's no easy games, everyone is going to take points off each other at some stage in the season.'

Newtonmore recorded a comfortable 7-2 win over Kilmallie last weekend, with goals in the first half from Danny MacRae, Chris Sellar and a brace from Glen MacKintosh. After the break MacRae got his second before two late goals from David Cheyne and John MacKenzie. It may be early days in the Orion Group Premiership, but **KINLOCHSHIEL** go to Lovat on Saturday fully aware that shinty observers increasingly consider their serious title contenders. Last weekend's 4-0 dismantling of Kyles surprised many - and raised hopes down Dornie way that 'Shiel are in

with a real shout of glory in their first season in the top flight. Right from the start, coach Johnston Gill has sought to dampen down what he would consider to be unrealistic expectations - but the win over Kyles could prove to be a pivotal moment. The week before, 'Shiel went down 6-2 to Kings in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup, while Kyles had fashioned a fine 3-3 draw at Newtonmore in the league - but the Lochalsh men turned that form on its head to record a fine victory. A Keith MacRae strike separated the teams at the break before a Finlay MacRae brace and a Duncan 'Ach' goal sealed the points. Gill told The Oban Times: 'We had to work hard for it - Kyles are a strong side. I was delighted with the result. Finlay MacRae was absolutely outstanding for us and Mark MacDonald was very strong in defence. Duncan 'Ach' came on and was outstanding for us as well. He added: 'Unfortunately, Gordy MacDonald looks as if he has a long term injury and Fraser MacVicar has played his last game for a while because of work commitments. 'Those two will be a big miss against Lovat, but we'll be looking to bring a couple of young players into the team.'

INVERARAY'S sparking run of form was halted by Fort William last Saturday at Winterton Park but the Royal Burgh will have to regain their composure immediately if they are to match high-flying Newtonmore at The Eilan this weekend. Manager John Smylie identified two or three missed chances that could have turned last weekend's match in Inveraray's favour and his forwards know they will have to be more accurate come Saturday. 'We had the majority of the play but we were not clinical enough,' said John. 'Against Newtonmore we have to take the chances when they come, as well as defending well.' John admitted he was happy with the start his team had made to the season, considering the difficult fixtures that they have had.

GLENURQUHART travel to Lochaber to take on Fort William on Saturday having halted their losing streak last weekend. Glen manager Fraser MacKenzie told The Oban Times the 1-0 win away to Bute was deserved after a good performance, with Lewis MacLennan scoring the game's only goal in the 73rd minute. He said: 'Our problem was that we've been quite dominant in games but we just couldn't get many shots on target.

'We knew Bute were going to be a hard team to break down. The idea was to keep at them and hopefully we could get the goals and that's how it happened. We had a penalty right at the death that their keeper saved, so we were quite disappointed not to win by more. 'That's put a few points between ourselves and Kilmallie so hopefully we can spring forward from here.' MacKenzie said the performances of Fort William's young players have impressed him this season, but he knows what to expect from the game. He said: 'We played them in pre-season and got a draw, and [co-manager] Drew McNeill knows a lot of the younger boys coming through so we have a bit of inside information.'

BUTE remain winless in this season's Orion Group Premiership, despite a solid start to the campaign. The islanders suffered only their second loss at the weekend in a tight match at Glenurquhart. This weekend sees a welcome home game for Bute, as they host Kingussie. **LOCHABER'S** attention moves to the Balliemore Cup this Saturday after they moved to the top of Marine Harvest North Division One with a 5-0 thrashing of Beaulieu last weekend. Michael Delaney's men will be favourites going into the game against Caberfeidh after their sparkling form at the start of the season, which has seen them score 18 goals and concede just three in their first four league games. Cabers are still waiting for their first league win, having only played twice this season. Lochaber knocked Beaulieu from the top spot after a comfortable away win. In-form Shaun Nicolson scored a hat trick with strikes in each half to move onto nine goals for the season. Ryan Toal and Ben Delaney also netted before half time as the Spean Bridge side's young forward line proved too much for Beaulieu to handle.

LOCHCARRON picked up their first league win of the Marine Harvest North Division One season with a 3-1 away victory at bottom club Strathglass last weekend. Andrew Mackenzie's men fell behind early on when Robert Geddes scored, but they struck back through a Mark Sproule goal in the 33rd minute. Lochcarron proved too strong for the hosts after the break and goals from Finlay Stark and Allan Mackenzie were enough to give them the win. The Battery Park side have



Oban Camanachd's Mattie Rippon tries an unorthodox method of blocking Glenorchy's Duncan Smith during last Saturday's Camanachd Cup preliminary round match held at Mossfield Stadium. The game ended in a 1-1 draw with the replay taking place this Saturday. Photo: John MacTavish.

a free weekend, with their next match due to be a visit of Inverness on April 21. **SKYE CAMANACHD** have no game this weekend following their win over Irish side Micheal Breathnach in the final of the Iomain Chalmille a Còig shinty/hurling tournament at Portree on Saturday. The two sides were level at 4-4 in the final of the Gaelic-only event at Paic nan Laoch, but Skye edged the second half to take victory 17-14. Captain Iain Nicolson scored 12 points and Ally MacDonald was also on the score sheet in a closely-fought match. Earlier, Skye comfortably beat fellow shinty side Alba 5-1 in the first of the semi finals, with doubles from Iain Nicolson and John MacKenzie as well as a David Grant strike. The all-hurling semi final between Glenorchy and Ulster side Fir Uladh was the first hurling match ever to take place on Skye. Marine Harvest North Division One contenders Skye paid a price for their win - Stewart Grant and Ally MacLeod are both likely to be missing for a number of weeks after picking up injuries.

The post-mortem into **OBAN CAMANACHD'S** frustrating draw with Glenorchy at Mossfield is underway this week, as they prepare for the replay in Dalmainy this Saturday. Camanachd co-manager Andrew Pearson said his side were so disappointed with their performance that they could have given their fans their gate money back. 'The boys are so disappointed in how they played and I am hoping that performance was a one off. They were all over the place. 'We said at full time that it was so bad, the spectators could have asked for their money back.' A Scott MacMillan goal on 25 minutes, after some good set-up play by teenager Malcolm Clark, was one of the rare moments of quality from the Oban men. Andrew will welcome back five players this weekend who were unavailable for last weekend's match but Matt Rippon will face suspension after he saw red when, like many of his teammates, he let frustration get the better of him. 'We have some boys to come back in and we'll be able to change the system about,' Andrew added.

GLENORCHY earned a Camanachd Cup preliminary round replay against the more fancied Oban Camanachd with a battling display at Mossfield. After conceding a first half goal, Glenorchy dug in and a clever free hit from Findlay Ross found Alex MacPherson in

space to fire home. The draw earned the Dalmainy men a home tie this weekend and Glenorchy will be more confident on home turf. **OBAN CELTIC'S** David Hamilton believes Inverness are now a better side than the team they beat on penalties in the Wylie Memorial Cup pre-season match. The two teams face off in the Balliemore Cup this Saturday and David said it would be a difficult match for his team. 'We played Inverness in the Wylie Cup but they have added a couple of good players since then,' he added. Last weekend's stalemate at Taynuilt saw Alan Duffy open the scoring after seven minutes but it was the performances of centre Neil Carmichael and defender Daniel Madej that stood out for Celtic. David said: 'The boys all played well but we need to be taking more of the chances we create. We had chances in the first half to bury the game.'

TAYNUILT have a welcome break from league duty this Saturday as they take on Strachur in the Balliemore Cup. The tangerines have struggled in front of goal this season and sit bottom of Marine Harvest South Division One. Manager Davy Thomson said: 'The cup will be a nice break for us because I think a few of the boys are struggling with their confidence and this takes the pressure off us a bit. We are a good side but we can't seem to convert chances. 'Strachur have a good young side too, so I'm looking forward to a good game.' Taynuilt debutant Fraser MacMillan scored a memorable 82nd minute equaliser to rescue a point for the home side after his team went a goal down to Oban Celtic last Saturday. The 16 year old came off the bench to lob the Oban Celtic goalkeeper Jack Hill just minutes after entering the fray.

Alex Cunningham scored **KILMORY'S** only goal against Glasgow Mid Argyll on Saturday, as the home side fell to their second defeat of the season. Kilmory are not scheduled to have a game this weekend. **LOCHSIDE ROVERS** lost their 100 per cent record this season after they were on the wrong end of a 4-1 scoreline against Kingussie in the Sutherland Cup. Daniel MacKinnon cancelled out a goal from Kingussie's Michael Clark but a Rory Borthwick hat trick gave the visitors the win. Lochside are back in league action this Saturday when they host Aberdeen.

Balliemore Cup Taynuilt v Strachur
Duncan Kelly
Inverness v Oban Celtic
John Matheson
Lochaber v Caberfeidh
Innes Wood
Aberdour v Glasgow MA
George O'Rourke



Results

Saturday 7 April
Orion Group Premiership
Glenurquhart 1 - 0 Bute
Inveraray 0 - 2 Fort William
Newtonmore 7 - 2 Kilmallie
Lovat 1 - 2 Kingussie
Kinlochshiel 4 - 0 Kyles Ath

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Beaulieu 0 - 5 Lochaber
Strathglass 1 - 3 Lochcarron

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Kilmory 1 - 3 Glasgow MA
Taynuilt 1 - 1 Oban Celtic
Strachur 2 - 1 Aberdeen

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Bute 2 - 1 Ballachulish

Sutherland Cup
Aberdour v Lochaber
Postponed
Beaulieu v Tayforth
Postponed
Kilmallie v Lochcarron
Inverness 0 - 12 Lovat
Kyles Athletic 3 - 2 Lochbroom
Lochside Rovers 1 - 4 Kingussie
Col Glen 1 - 3 Boleskine
Glenarry 2 - 1 Kinlochshiel
Glasgow MA 0 - 7 Fort William
Aberdeen Uni 0 - 7 Newtonmore
Strathglass 5 - 2 Inveraray

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Preliminary Round
Oban Cam 1 - 1 Glenorchy
Inverness 2 - 5 Caberfeidh

Fixtures

Saturday 14 April
(Throw-ups 2.30 unless stated)

Orion Group Premiership
Bute v Kingussie
Billy Witherspoon
Fort William v Glenurquhart
Colin MacDonald
Kilmallie v Kyles Athletic
Evan MacRae
Lovat v Kinlochshiel
Graham Cameron
Newtonmore v Inveraray
Deek Cameron

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Strathglass v Beaulieu
Graeme MacMillan

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Aberdeen Uni v Newtonmore
Neil Ferguson
Glenarry v Skye
Daniel MacRae
Glenurquhart v Fort William
Graham Irving
Kinlochshiel v Lovat
John MacLeod
Kingussie Lochaber
John Angus Gillies

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Boleskine v Kilmallie
Robert Morrison
Caberfeidh v Lochbroom
Callum Duff
Lochcarron v Inverness
John Sloggie
Strathglass v Beaulieu
Kevin Cheeseman
Strathspye v Lewis Camanachd
Al Hunter

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Glasgow MA v Ballachulish
Dunkie Kerr
Inveraray v Col Glen
Jim Innes Stats
Kyles Athletic v Ardnamurchan
Gus Campbell
Lochside Rovers v Aberdeen
Iain Kennedy
Tayforth v Bute
Eric Morrison Stats

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup - Replay
Glenorchy v Oban Camanachd
Robert Baxter

Balliemore Cup
Taynuilt v Strachur
Duncan Kelly
Inverness v Oban Celtic
John Matheson
Lochaber v Caberfeidh
Innes Wood
Aberdour v Glasgow MA
George O'Rourke



Daniel MacKinnon, who scored Lochside's goal, takes on the Kingussie defence during the Sutherland Cup tie at Ganavan. The Badenoch side won 4-1.

League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	6	4	1	1	25	12	9
Kinlochshiel	5	3	1	1	14	9	7
Fort William	4	2	2	0	7	2	6
Kyles Athletic	5	2	1	2	15	13	5
Lovat	4	2	1	1	6	4	5
Inveraray	4	2	0	2	5	8	4
Kingussie	5	2	0	3	10	15	4
Glenurquhart	5	2	0	3	6	11	4
Bute	5	0	3	2	3	8	3
Kilmallie	5	0	1	4	7	16	1

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochaber	4	3	1	0	18	3	7
Beaulieu	5	3	1	1	13	12	7
Skye	4	3	0	1	11	11	6
Lochcarron	5	1	2	2	8	13	4
Inverness	4	0	2	2	5	9	2
Caberfeidh	2	0	1	1	4	5	1
Strathglass	4	0	1	3	8	14	1

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Camanachd	4	4	0	0	17	2	8
Glasgow MA	5	3	0	2	12	7	6
Glenorchy	3	3	0	0	7	2	6
Kilmory	5	1	2	2	10	11	4
Aberdour	5	2	0	3	6	14	4
Oban Celtic	4	1	1	2	4	7	3
Strachur	5	1	1	3	5	8	3
Taynuilt	5	0	2	3	4	14	2

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	5	5	0	0	24	4	10
Skye	4	3	1	0	12	4	7
Glengarry	5	3	0	2	11	7	6
Kinlochshiel	4	2	1	1	7	8	5
Aberdeen Uni	5	2	1	2	6	7	5
Glenurquhart	5	2	0	3	10	11	4
Kingussie	5	1	1	3	8	10	3
Fort William	3	1	0	2	2	4	2
Lovat	5	1	0	4	7	19	2
Lochaber	5	1	0	4	8	21	2

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochside Rovers	5	5	0	0	22	10	10
Kyles Athletic	4	3	0	1	15	5	6
Tayforth	5	3	0	2	14	8	6
Col Glen	5	3	0	2	16	11	6
Bute	4	2	0	2	13	9	4
Ballachulish	4	2	0	2	5	5	4
Inveraray	5	1	2	2	10	18	4
Ardnamurchan	4	1	1	2	11	6	3
Glasgow MA	5	1	0	4	4	29	2
Aberdour	5	0	1	4	2	11	1

Marine Harvest North Division 3							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beaulieu	5	5	0	0	27	3	10
Boleskine	5	4	1	0	21	5	9
Kilmallie	5	4	0	1	18	8	9
Lochbroom	5	4	0	1	14	5	8
Caberfeidh	5	2	0	3	9	13	4
Lochcarron	5	1	1	3	10	15	3
Lewis Camanachd	5	1	1	3	5	12	3
Strathglass	5	1	1	3	6	18	3
Strathspye	5	0	1	4	6	21	1
Inverness	5	0	1	4	2	18	1

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes, postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,
Burnbank, Burnside Street,
Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Knightswood see red as Taynuilt march on in cup

'The behaviour of some teams makes me wonder if we will re-enter the league next season'

**Wilson Cup
Taynuilt Amateurs 3
Knightswood 1**

TAYNUILT manager Stuart Reid has questioned the involvement of his side in next season's Central Scottish Welfare League after he witnessed a brutal encounter against Knightswood on Saturday.

Taynuilt won the first game of their cup double header against the Glasgow side with three goals inside the first 30 minutes.

But the match will be remembered more for the indiscipline shown by the visitors, rather than the good football played by the hosts at Glencruitten.

Knightswood resorted to kicking everything that moved, a tactic that lost them the match and three players to red cards.

Reid told The Oban Times: 'The behaviour of some teams in our league makes me wonder if it is really worthwhile and we will be considering if we are going to re-enter next season.'

'I was proud of the boys' conduct on Saturday, because not getting dragged into a retaliation is tough. They showed character to get the goals and stand tall.'

Taynuilt started well and the first goal came on 10 minutes; a poor clearance landed at the feet of Kris Gillies, who rounded the keeper and tapped home.

Beautiful pass

Taynuilt were soon 2-0 up with the best-worked goal of the match. Craig Campbell slipped a beautiful pass onto a well timed run from George McMillan, who fired the ball under the keeper

from a tight angle. Goalkeeper Ben Pollock never got tested in the first 20 minutes and was pretty much spectating with the Taynuilt defence of McPhee, MacDougall, Napier and Paterson playing well as a unit.

Netted

On the half hour it was 3-0 when Kris Gillies netted again for his 16th goal of the season.

With Knightswood becoming more frustrated referee John Scott had a difficult game on his hands but coped admirably against a tirade of abuse from the visitors.

In the second half Taynuilt's attack struggled to create anything as Knightswood continued to persistently foul. Meanwhile man of the match Paterson was marshalling the Taynuilt defence

FOOTBALL

well, causing more frustration among the visitors' ranks.

Against the run of play, Knightswood got a consolation goal when Paul Copeland poked home from close range at a corner.

However, as they realised they had lost the game, Knightswood lost their discipline and one horror tackle in particular saw Paterson taken to hospital as a precaution.

Taynuilt are due to travel to play Knightswood on April 21 in the CDL Cup quarter final.

This Saturday, they travel to Helensburgh to take on Kirk-michael in the semi-final of the Wilson Cup.



Taynuilt's Craig MacDougall clears his lines during last weekend's bad tempered match against Knightswood. 07_1515ay01

Saints seniors back on league duty

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints senior team get back to action after the Easter break with a home game against Rolls Royce EK.

The East Kilbride team are currently sitting on top of the Scottish Amateur League premier division with Saints in fourth place, but the Oban side are only three points behind and have played three fewer games.

Saints manager Iain Jackson said: 'Rolls Royce got promoted last season and according to reports are a very good side, but with home advantage we will be looking to pick up all three league points in our push to win the premier division championship again.'

'We won the title two years ago and got pipped by a single goal last season, so the boys are determined to try and win the league again this season, although there is still a long way to go with a lot of difficult fixtures remaining.'

Saturday's match will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off, referee in charge is Peter McCallum from Campbeltown.

Argyll area golf season kicks off

GOLF

THIS weekend sees the 2012 Argyll area golf season kick off with the annual matchplay championship taking place at Machrihanish.

The 16 qualifiers from last year's strokeplay will do battle over the weekend.

Several clubs are represented with players from Glencruitten, Machrihanish, Port Bannatyne, Millport, Blairmore and Strone and Rothsay taking part.

Four ex-winners in the shape of Stuart Campbell, George Reynolds, Ross Currie and Graham Bolton are in the field.

Draw: Allan McKie (Glencruitten) v Reeve Thomson (Machrihanish); John Jack (Millport) v David Graham (Mach'sh); Ross Currie (Mach'sh) v Robert MacIntyre (Glen); Alister McLean (Glen) v Graham Bolton (Rothsay); Oliver Armour (Mach'sh) v Sean Dunstaffnage (Glencruitten); Ian McGougan (Mach'sh) v Kenneth McCallum (Glen); Stuart Campbell (Mach'sh) v Stephen Renfrew (Port Bannatyne); George Reynolds (Rothsay) v Gordon Tyre (Blairmore and Strone).

Saints youths - results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

DUE to the Easter holidays there were no youth games played last weekend.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Blair Thistle; Under 14s no game; Under 15s no game; Under 16s v Argyll Athletic.

Taynuilt Golf Club

GOLF

CAPTAIN'S Prize first round and medal on April 8: 1 Allan Stewart, 61 (10); 2 Rob Graham, 62 (12); 3 Donald Cattanach 63 (7).

Ladies Charity Competition (Oban and Lorn Alzheimer's Association) on April 3: 1 Liz Mudie, 71 (34); 2 Grace Petrie, 74 (25); 3 Mairead Sim 75 (14).



Katrina Flannigan, wife of new president Gerry, is watched by members of Oban Bowling Club as she casts the first jack on Saturday to officially open the new season. 15_1515bow1

Teams prepare for 67-mile Kintyre Way Relay and Ultra

TEAMS of six will contend with a 67-mile course at this year's Kintyre Way Relay and the Kintyre Way Ultra on June 16.

In the relay race, along the scenic trail from Tarbert to Campbeltown, individuals will aim to reach change-over points at village halls along the way.

The Ultra, for serious long-distance enthusiasts, now offers a choice of three distances: 35½ miles starting in Tayinloan, 45 miles starting in Clachan, and 67 miles starting in Tarbert; all ending in Campbeltown.

This year's event sees entries from as far afield as Madrid (Spain) and Haarlem (Holland), as well as all over the UK.

Key contenders for the all-time record on the 67-mile course are Gary Morrison, winner of the 268-mile Spine Race on the Pennine Way in January this year, and Kenny Valentine from Edinburgh, who has done the West Highland Way race in 20 hours 33 min.

The Kintyre Way is well known as the most scenic long-distance race in Scotland, with its stunning views across the water to the mountains of Arran, Islay and Jura.

Runners also frequently comment on the warm, friendly welcome, and look forward to the refreshment stops at Clachan, Tayinloan and Carradale.

ULTRA RELAY

Event organiser Rob Reid said: 'An event like this depends heavily on support from local people acting as marshals, timekeepers, tea-makers, first-aiders and lift-givers, and we are very grateful for their support over the last few years.'

'Anyone able to spare an hour or two for any of these tasks on June 16 is strongly encouraged to get in touch now.'

The first Kintyre Way Relay took place on August 12, 2006, to mark the opening of the Kintyre Way.

Full details and online entry at www.kintyrewayrelay.co.uk

Lorne may not be relegated after all

**RBS West Division 2
Lenzie 29
Oban Lorne 3**

LUCKY Oban Lorne look to have been given a stay of execution after learning there may be no relegation from this season's RBS West Division 2.

A defeat to Lenzie last Saturday confirmed Oban's position as bottom of the table but they could begin next season in the same league, as speculation suggests the SRU will leave the new leagues structure in place.

However, Oban went into Saturday's game believing a win was required to avoid the drop and called up the experienced Colin Thwaites and Scotland

under-17 captain Magnus Bradbury.

It was Oban who made the better start to the game and found themselves with a long period of pressure in the Lenzie 22.

Stand-off Thwaites was impressing, keeping the pressure on the hosts but Oban could not break down the steady home defence who managed to clear their lines.

Lenzie scored with their first chance of the game.

Two Lenzie players broke free from the blindside of a ruck from around halfway to score.

Angus MacCallum hit back with a penalty for Oban before the hosts scored their second try

of the afternoon to extend their lead to 12-3 and a further successful penalty attempt put them 15-3 ahead at half time.

Oban were undone in defence on another two occasions in the second half, conceding a further 14 points.

Both tries were from a result of Oban giving away silly penalties and the home side running at the line from the tap and go.

Lenzie were now into their stride and looked to extend their lead further on a few occasions.

Oban had a late chance with winger Craig Wright making a dart for the line but in the end Oban never looked like converting any of their pressure into

RUGBY

points, backing up the fact that the team are the lowest scorers in the league this season.

Oban will look to put this season behind them and put their focus on the sevens season.

The club have confirmed that the 1st XV will be competing in the Mull 7s (May 19), Islay Beach Rugby (June 9) and will be hosting their own sevens on May 12 at Glencruitten.

Oban Mini Rugby will be restarting on Sunday, April 22 at the clubhouse. There will be no training on April 29, as the team will be taking part in the Taynuilt Dalriada festival.

Gerry wins Bunessan Easter Sunday race

A MULL man has won this year's Bunessan Easter Sunday road race, which was run in overcast but largely dry conditions.

The main event follows a figure of eight route around Bunessan village and the course has been measured at approximately 11km (just a little under seven miles).

Winner of the senior male event was Gerry Kangley of Tobermory in a time of 42:32. Cameron McKeller of Oban followed up his third place in the recent Atlantis Oban 10K with first place in the male veteran category (MV40) in a time of 46:10 and he was also second overall.

Alastair Hall of Oban won the men's super veteran category (MV50) and was third overall in 47:34.

First secondary school student home was Adam Docherty (15 years) in 55:52.

Winner of the women's senior event was Claire Hopkins of Edinburgh in a time of 51:31. Oban's Isabella Perriot was first female veteran (FV35) and second overall in 55:00.

The junior runners follow the first loop of the figure of eight course, which is a distance of approximately 1.6 miles. This event was particularly well supported with more than 30 children competing.

Ten-year-old William Burke, on the island for a family christening and holiday, won this event in an impressive time of 14:34, well ahead of second placed runner Sam Holden who finished in 17:12. William was awarded the trophy for boys under 13. Byron Lawson was

third overall in 17:52 and winner of the trophy for boys under 10. The under-10 girl's trophy went to Katie Edmundson who completed the course in 19:40.

The 'Loopy Run' was introduced three years ago for those runners who prefer a slightly shorter distance than the full 11 km.

ATHLETICS

Winner of this event was Jill Weatherall in at time of 49:56 and first local woman was Alison Fisher in 52:56.

Bill MacCallum MBE was the official timekeeper and also handed out the awards at the prizegiving.

Tennis season starts up

TENNIS

OBAN Tennis Club is serving up the first competition of the 2012 tennis season this Sunday with the first round of the Oban Tennis Club Superset Monthly Series.

The competition begins at noon, with singles and doubles competitions for men and women. The knockout matches will consist of one set.

Superset competitions will be

held on the third Sunday of each month from April to August.

Ranking points

Players will earn ranking points for each tournament they play and the top four singles players and doubles teams go through to the Superset Finals in September.

Weather

Thursday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate northerly
Temperatures 3°C to 9°C

Friday Sunny intervals with scattered showers
Winds moderate northerly
Temperatures 1°C to 8°C.

Weekend Light rain showers

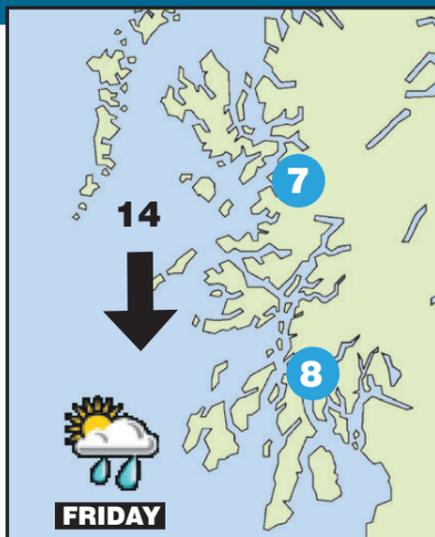
Outlook Winds moderate north, north easterly
Temperatures 0°C to 8°C.

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 12, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.39 0.9 09.17 3.1 16.02 1.1 21.54 3.2	
Fri	04.40 1.2 10.23 2.8 17.07 1.3 23.18 3.0	
Sat	05.52 1.5 12.41 2.6 18.25 1.5 *** **	
Sun	01.13 3.0 07.21 1.5 14.39 2.7 19.53 1.4	
Mon	02.30 3.1 08.46 1.5 15.37 2.9 21.03 1.3	
Tues	03.20 3.3 09.40 1.3 15.55 3.1 21.54 1.1	
Wed	03.56 3.4 10.19 1.2 16.16 3.3 22.36 1.1	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS



website: www.northwestmarine.co.uk
Address: 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG
Ph: 01631 565740 Fax: 01631 565780
email: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk

The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

The Oban Times

FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8090

Thursday 12 April, 2012

www.obantimes.co.uk

77 pence

Final token inside

hotel break giveaway

See page 9 for token 4 along with full details on how to enter this fantastic competition

SPRING PROPERTY REVIEW

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



MacPhee & Partners Solicitors and Estate Agents

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

No progress on new Gaelic school plans

PLANS for a new Gaelic primary school in Fort William will not be looked at until after next month's council elections after they failed to be progressed at the final full council meeting in Inverness last week.

The preferred site for the new school is at the Blar Mhor, but suggestions the costs of peat clearing could spiral mean the new council could consider a possible relocation to a site at Ardgor Road in Caol, where peat has already been cleared.

The proposed timescale for completion of the Gaelic school, part of the multi-million pound Greater Fort William schools project, is 2014.

Marine 'aliens' in spotlight at society meeting

LOCHABER Natural History Society will meet in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, next Wednesday at 7.30pm to hear a talk from Dr Elizabeth Cook of the Scottish Marine Institute entitled 'Marine Aliens - the Silent Invasion'. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Museum hosts World War II week of events

THE WESTER Ross-based Russian Arctic Convoy Museum project is holding a World War II week from May 7-12.

A series of events are planned, including the chance for visitors to have 'hands on' sessions with a German 'Enigma' machine. The daring capture of one of the machines from a Nazi U-boat allowed British intelligence staff to break its codes, helping to win the war.

Dr Mark Baldwin, a world expert on code-breaking, is the keynote speaker at the event. He is bringing his Enigma machine with him when he lectures on 'Enigma and Bletchley Park'.

Loch Ewe was the assembly point for a series of danger-fraught Arctic convoys to the Soviet Union from 1941-45.



Packing a punch: Lochaber Phoenix heavyweight Chris Donnelly, right, was one of the stars at the club's home show. 20_f13christobox1

Boxing club night packs a punch

LOCHABER boxing fans were treated to a night of non-stop action at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Saturday night as no fewer than nine local boxers took to the ring against opponents from across Scotland.

An estimated 400 people packed into the popular venue to cheer on their favourites

and were treated to some high-quality boxing. Lochaber Phoenix ABC's home show was another resounding success - and provided further evidence that the club is punching above its weight on the national scene. Local heavyweight Chris Donnelly topped the bill against Ayrshire's Alec Mullen - and

came out the victor in a bruising contest. Middleweight senior novice Scott Lawrie posted another sensational performance - and provided the bout of the night when he stopped Ross Houston of Highland Boxing Academy. See boxing show report and photos, back page.

MacArthur Stewart taken over by new group of lawyers

WELL-known Fort William solicitors and estate agents MacArthur Stewart has ceased trading and been taken over by a new group of lawyers.

The High Street company, which also has offices in Oban,

Tobermory and Lochgilphead, will now trade as Dewar, Murray and Webb.

Leading the changeover are believed to be David Dewar and Craig Murray in Fort William, and Sandy Murray in Oban.

As *The Oban Times* went to press, it was unclear what the implications, if any, will be for staff across the new group. It is understood The Fort William office employs between five and six people.

Fort West end re-vamp kick-starts regeneration

THE £8MILLION Grand Hotel re-development appears to have kick-started a wider scale regeneration of the west end of Fort William with the nearby Station Bar set to re-open this summer.

Dale Monk, who owns the Crofter Bar and the Maryburgh Inn on the High Street, has bought the popular bar which closed last year.

With work on the new hotel and retail development continuing, Mr Monk said he expects to get the keys to the Station Bar at the end of the month and after some refurbishments is planning to open by the end of June.

Mr Monk told *The Oban Times* the new development made the west end of the town a more attractive prospect.

He said: 'Yes, it was one of the factors. I wanted exposure to that end of the High Street.'

'But even if Wetherspoons hadn't been coming to that end of town, it was too good

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

an opportunity to turn down. Certainly the regeneration of the High Street is helping from the aesthetic point of view, people are not greeted by a derelict hotel anymore.

'And anything that can increase the town's image can only be better for the High Street.'

Local councillor Donald Cameron said he was happy with the 'rapid progress' being made. He said: 'The jobs created will mean more young people can remain in the area and I am sure Lochaber residents will respond by making the developments viable.'

'The revamp of the streetscape using Scottish Government and Highland Council money and the investment from the business community will bring this part of town back to life.'

'The police station and old school sites will afford further

opportunities and we should be optimistic for the future. We are certainly more fortunate than many other towns who are finding it difficult in coming out of recession.'

The Scottish Crafts and Whisky Centre which lies across the road from the new development has been empty for the past few months.

Local rumours had suggested the property had been bought by Onich man Paul Morgan, but he told *The Oban Times* there was no truth to this suggestion.

The project to replace the former McTavish's Kitchens, destroyed by fire and the neighbouring Grand Hotel is expected to be ready to open by August.

It will see health and beauty retailer Superdrug, outdoor clothing shop Cotswold Outdoor and a JD Wetherspoon restaurant/pub move into a property, with a 60-room Travelodge on the upper floors.

Event set to showcase Lochaber's wildlife and geology to the world

A WEEK-long event designed to promote Lochaber's wildlife and geology to the world will get underway on June 1.

The Wild Lochaber Festival showpiece will be a festival fair on June 2-3 to showcase the incredible variety of Lochaber's natural environment and provide comprehensive information on the area's biodiversity.

Local operators providing wildlife tours and landscape activities will attend the event along with government and professional bodies.

Local Lochaber marketing groups, including accommodation and food providers, will be supporting the festival.

A series of events throughout festival week will show visitors and locals the best areas to view wildlife and the dramatic landscapes of Lochaber Geopark.

Local schools will also submit entries for a photography competition, which will be on display and judged during festival week.

Scottish Natural Heritage are providing grant funding for Wild Lochaber two years, which will be matched by local businesses, further grant applications and sponsorship.

As part of the overall Wild Lochaber project, a series of self-guiding trails will be developed.

Further plans to create wildlife hides form part of the initiative's longer term strategy.

More patients being cared for at home following closure of Belhaven ward

THE FUTURE of a former Fort William hospital unit controversially closed last month came under the spotlight at a closed-doors meeting at Fort William Health Centre on Monday night.

Councillors, NHS representatives and local campaigners met privately to discuss the closure of the Belhaven Ward as part of plans to look after more patients in their own homes.

Inpatient beds from the ward were moved to Belford Hospital

in 2010, with the outpatient service ceasing last month as part of the budget savings exercise.

Health campaigner Colin Neilson told *The Oban Times* after the meeting he felt NHS Highland had not been open enough about their decision-making. He said: 'They should come out and tell the people why they are doing this. They have now promised to hold a public meeting about it.'

'The Belhaven was a super wee place. I was on the health council when we closed Glencoe Hospital when it had 13 beds. The Belhaven had 27 beds, so that's now 40 beds less in the area. It's not very fair and I don't think we should take it.'

NHS Highland's Gill McVicar said Monday's meeting had been 'very useful'. She said: 'We explained that we are able to care for more people at home now as we are developing rehabilitation approaches in the community. There are also opportunities to work in a more integrated way with social work

and care at home. This has all meant that we are less reliant on hospital beds.'

'The money from the closure of Glencoe Hospital has been invested locally. We have enhanced community teams and are working closely with local care homes. And the consultants in Belford Hospital are now operating virtual wards with GPs and community nurses.'

The Belhaven Ward's closure will be discussed at a public meeting at Fort William Health Centre next Thursday at 2pm.

Tiny Skye ferry hit by £15,000 repair bill

A TINY community-run ferry between Skye and the mainland has been hit with a shock £15,000 bill after inspectors ordered urgent repairs to its only vessel.

The Skye Ferry was gearing up to open for Easter - but had to postpone sailings after a Maritime and Coastguard Agency inspection last Tuesday.

The company was told that its boat, the *MV Glenachulish*, could not ply the route until repairs were carried out.

Hundreds of passengers - many local - were left disappointed amid claims that road signs informing the public that the ferry was off were put up days late.

The news came as a shock to the company interest company running the summer season ferry between Glenelg and Kylesha. The six-car capacity 41-year-old turntable ferry - the oldest of its kind still operating anywhere - had already been granted a five-year operating licence the previous winter. The boat had also been providing

a lifeline service across Loch Carron for six weeks until March 23 while the A890 was closed for repairs. The *MV Glenachulish* is currently beached at Kishorn while welding jobs on internal bulkheads are carried out.

Once that work is complete, a temporary operating licence can be issued for the ferry to begin work.

The loss of valuable Easter business and the unexpected repair bill caught Skye Ferry director Clive Pearson unawares.

He told the *Oban Times*: 'My estimate is that this has cost us between £10,000 and £15,000 over the past 10 days - that is 10 to 15 percent of our entire annual turnover. This came as a complete surprise - the boat is in the same condition as when we bought her. The faults they picked up were not included in our report for our five-year certificate, which we got in February 2011.'

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

'It has been a real problem for us, particularly because we were at Strome for so long. If we had our MCA inspection in February as usual, that would not have been a problem.'

'We have missed Easter - which is a big period for us and many of our loyal customers.'

'We hope to be up and running within a week to 10 days. We hope that our customers will bear with us.'

An MCA spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'The MCA has been working with the owner to ensure the vessel is safe to operate.'

'The MCA main office in Glasgow is waiting for the paperwork to come through. Subject to approval, a short term licence will be issued until October, when minor repairs on the vessel can be carried out.'

Portree amateur photographer Billy Duncan, 47, a Skye Ferry season ticket holder, was 'dismayed' by the MCA's stance. He said: 'Shame on the officials who have ruined an Easter treat for many hundreds of tourists and locals.'

University of the Highlands and Islands West Highland College Ollthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar

Study at your local university

Ionnsaich aig an oilthigh ionadail agad

Apply now | Cuir a-steach an-dràsta:

www.ThinkUHI.com

0845 272 3600

Leven Homes Ltd.

Professional building and construction services

- New builds
- General building work
- Garage and loft conversions
- Renovations
- Extensions

Leven Decorating Now offering a full decorating service

- Ames Taping
- Coving

Leven Electrical Services

All domestic and commercial electrical installation work

- Inspection and testing
- Portable appliance testing
- Emergency lighting and fire alarms
- Maintenance
- Surveys and reports

Local and Professional • Telephone: 01855 831900 • Mobile: 07771 666140 • Email: levenhomes@btinternet.com

NEVIS CYCLES
SALES | SERVICING | HIRE | ADVICE

BIKE HIRE
Full day rates starting from £20
Discounts for groups and multiple days

Call for details on our delivery service

01397 705555
01631 566033
www.neviscycles.com

Teenager admits breaking in to primary school

A TEENAGER has admitted carrying out the break-in at Fort William Primary School last year which saw money stolen, windows smashed and children's work set on fire.

Jacob Payne, of 2 Brown Court, Fort William, pleaded guilty to breaking into the school, smashing a number of windows, setting fire to a painting inside and stealing a quantity of money on September 28.

The 16-year-old also admitted breaking into the school on April 20 and forcing open a lockfast canteen and stealing money.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing until May 8 for reports.

Man sent threatening text messages

A MAN has admitted repeatedly sending threatening texts to a man and a woman in Caol for a month last year.

Andrew Brotherton, aged 34, of 1 Lyndsay Avenue, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire pled guilty to sending messages which were grossly offensive, or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character between October 6 and November 5 at 5 Glenloy Street, Caol.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing at Fort William Sheriff Court until May 8 for reports.

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal service changes

THE CROWN Office and Procurator Fiscal Service in the west Highlands has been incorporated into the newly created North of Scotland region.

David Harvie has been appointed as Senior Procurator Fiscal for the area, which includes the Highlands and Islands, Tayside and Grampian.

Mr Harvie said: 'We will continue to work closely with Northern, Grampian and Tayside Constabularies to ensure that justice is delivered swiftly and effectively and that our communities remain safe places to live.'

People carrier crashes into loch

A CAR carrying seven people crashed into a loch on the Isle of Lewis on Monday afternoon, leaving two occupants with head and face injuries.

The people carrier left the A859 a mile north of Lusken-tyre road end, which police said was badly affected by surface water, and landed on its side in a small loch. Stornoway Coastguard helicopter took the injured people to Western Isles Hospital.

Agreement on next stage of Gaelic plan

HIGHLAND Council has agreed the second phase of its Gaelic language plan for the next four years.

The plan, which aims to increase Gaelic usage, was agreed at a council meeting in Inverness and will now be submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for ratification in the very near future.

Councillors meet to decide on new whisky distillery

HIGHLAND councillors will meet in Ardnamurchan this week to discuss whether or not to give the go-ahead for a proposed new whisky distillery.

South Highland planning committee will visit the site of the proposed plant at Glenbeg, between Glenborrodale and Kilchoan, on Tuesday before making a decision later in the day.

Adelphi Distillery Ltd's application for a fine malt plant and visitor centre has won support from many local people, including



Kinlochleven youngsters Connor and Courtney MacGregor help clean their mum's car. 20_f15wash01

Fundraising car wash helps Upper Achintore bloom

A FUNDRAISING car wash at Fort William Fire Station raised cash to help Upper Achintore bloom this summer.

The event, organised by Upper Achintore Regeneration Group (UARG), offered

drivers the chance to get their car washed and rinsed with the powerful fire engine hoses - and made £44. The cash will go towards compost and plants to fill 12 whisky barrels donated by Ben Nevis Distillery. UARG has

already placed the planters around the Fort William housing scheme. Secretary Ken Johnston said of the 'successful' day: 'It's all part of our project to regenerate the area.'

Stamp price hike hits trust newsletter delivery

A MASSIVE planned rise in the price of second-class stamps has forced the National Trust for Scotland-owned Balmacara Estate to stop posting out its twice-yearly newsletter to all local households.

The move, which follows Royal Mail's announcement of a 14p increase to 50p, would see the cost of sending out over 700

copies jump to more than £375 - a hike of £105 per circulation.

Email addresses

The estate has been encouraging readers to provide email addresses so the newsletter can be sent electronically - but recognises not everyone has email access.

Estate manager Iain Turnbull said: 'We

apologise for this reduced service but as financial times are hard we need to review our expenditure from time to time.

'A total cost of more than £750 per year is simply too great for our current budget.'

Anyone wishing to continue receiving hard copies of the newsletter can contact 0844 493 223.



Loch Aline's pontoon development opened to great acclaim last July: now shore-based facilities will be built. 20_f15pontoon03

Onshore services boost for Loch Aline pontoons

MORVERN has received an Easter boost with news that onshore services are to be built to service Loch Aline's pontoon development.

Funding with a total value of £200,000 has been secured for a building incorporating toilet and shower facilities, a laundrette and an office for Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC) staff.

The pontoons, on the west side of Lochaline and just a five minute stroll from the village, opened in July last year. Author Alexander McCall Smith was among the dignitaries attending

the ceremony. The new facilities should be up and running by the end of 2012.

In the meantime, temporary showers and toilets will be in place for the start of the 2012 yachting season.

MCDC development officer Lilia Dobrokhodova told *The Oban Times*: 'This is a logical continuation of the pontoon project which hopefully will bring more people to the village as well as providing a better service.'

'We did a survey of yachties coming to Loch Aline last year after the pontoons opened to

ask what other facilities they would like to see. The majority said toilet, shower and laundry facilities - people when they are travelling find those services to be very useful.'

'They don't like using their own toilets and showers on the boats because of water pollution - they don't want to get rid of dirty water where they are staying.'

Funding for the onshore services has come from Highlands LEADER and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. MCDC is contributing five per cent of the costs.

Drivers warned to expect long delays

DRIVERS in Fort William are being warned to expect long delays as work gets underway to remodel the Lochybridge junction between the A82 and the A830 Road to the Isles.

Work to expand the junction into a two-lane roundabout starts on Monday and is expected to last five weeks. Verge and footway work has been performed on land at the Ben Nevis Distillery in recent weeks.

Traffic lights, which will be manually controlled during peak times to minimise congestion, will be in place until the junction is ready to re-open, and the pedestrian crossing will be removed with a temporary crossing point put in place. Traffic will be restricted to a single lane through the junction during the works.

A spokesperson for Perth-based contractors I and H Brown

told *The Oban Times* the works were unavoidable and delays 'inevitable'.

Carriageway

He said: 'The upgrade works require the excavation and reconstruction of significant areas of existing carriageway, together with new drainage, kerbing and lighting.'

'For practical and safety reasons, this work cannot be carried out without imposing

restrictions on existing road users for a short period.

'The new roundabout should ease traffic congestion at this busy location for many years to come.'

Miller Developments is carrying out the roundabout upgrade under an agreed community benefit package associated with its Blar Mhor development, which includes a Tesco superstore.

Federation calls for ferry clarification

THE SCOTTISH Crofting Federation has written to the Scottish Government asking for urgent clarification of their proposed 'replacement' for the present vehicle ferry service between West Ardnamurchan and Tobermory.

The government draft ferries plan proposes a passenger only service between the two ports - a move Ardnamurchan people in particular are fiercely resisting.

The plan document stated

the scaled-down service would 'continue to meet the needs of the local community' - a claim the local branch of the SCF also disputes.

West Ardnamurchan SCF member Davie Ferguson, one of the leaders of the campaign to maintain the existing service, said local crofters doubted any savings would be made should the downgrade be implemented.

Mr Ferguson told the Oban Times: 'At the moment

Caledonian MacBrayne do not have any passenger only vessels in their fleet.'

'If this is the case, do the Government intend for them to charter a passenger only vessel for this run, or buy one?'

'Can they tell us what the costs are that would be associated with this?'

'Even if they can secure such a vessel, there are doubts as to whether it will be able to use the berthing facilities at Kilchoan.

That's because in recent years the Government has spent a small fortune on the slipway at Kilchoan to improve its suitability for the roll-on-roll-off vessels - there are still divers working there at the moment.'

'The water level at the side of the slipway is now very shallow and I suspect they are going to have great difficulty with the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers if they are not using a ro-ro ferry.'

Council leader to hold tug talks with Prime Minister

HIGHLAND Council leader Michael Foxley is to meet with Prime Minister David Cameron to discuss the possible reinstatement of emergency tugs.

Councillor Foxley gave a presentation at a council meeting to highlight some of the work done by the tug boats. The council gave the campaign unanimous backing.

Councillor Foxley said: 'It is vital we retain this crucial service in the Highlands and Islands to safeguard our shipping and coastline. We need to keep the pressure on the Government to make urgent progress.'

betterhomes
Invest In The Best!

Scotland's Premier Home Improvement Specialist

Contact Us Now for our Special Offers!

OFFER 1
WINDOWS & DOORS
FREE DOOR when you purchase a full house of windows and doors

OFFER 2
ROOFLINE
FREE GUTTERING AND DOWNPIPES when you purchase your fascia and soffit
Limited Time Only, Subject to Availability, Terms apply

GLASGOW | T. 0141 774 4000
E. enquiries@betterhomesgroup.com www.betterhomesgroup.com
Unit 2A, Burntbroom Court Queenslie Industrial Estate, Glasgow G33 4JB

Bonhams 1793

Forthcoming Sales
An invitation to consign

Our specialists will be travelling in your area the week commencing 23 April offering free valuations with a view to selling in our forthcoming auctions.

Items of interest include: jewellery, silver, paintings, books, furniture, works of art, clocks, rugs, ceramics, glass, whisky, arms and armour and Asian and sporting art.

Enquiries & Appointments
0141 223 8866
susan.bouwens@bonhams.com

Anne Redpath (1895-1965)
Poppies and Daisies (detail)
£50,000 - 70,000 to be sold on 19 April

International Auctioneers and Valuers - bonhams.com/glasgow

business gateway

Build your own business website

Learn from scratch how to build and manage an attractive and effective website for your business.

This FREE workshop will show you how simple it is to develop your own business website and keep it up to date yourself. It is ideal for businesses that don't have their own website yet, or for those who do but want to take control of managing it themselves. No prior knowledge or skills other than basic web browsing and text editing skills are required to use this simple but powerful website building tool.

Dunoon - Wednesday 18 April 2012 - 10am-3.30pm
Inveraray - Tuesday 8 May 2012 - 10am-3.30pm
Oban - Thursday 10 May 2012 - 10am-3.30pm

Social media for business

Social media can boost your business. This FREE workshop shows how you can use social networks to best effect for your business as well as the pitfalls to avoid. It will help you make informed choices about which social networks to engage with and how to evaluate success.

Dunoon - Thursday 19 April 2012 - 9.30am-12.30pm
Inveraray - Wednesday 9 May 2012 - 9.30am-12.30pm
Oban - Friday 11 May 2012 - 9.30am-12.30pm

Planning to start your own business?

Develop your ideas into a practical and effective plan to launch your business.

Key elements covered during this FREE 2 day workshop include:

- Getting the marketing right for your business. This workshop will help you to understand your competitors, identify your customers and understand the things you need to cover for effective marketing.
- Developing a realistic, working business plan. This workshop shows you how to create your own robust business plan.
- Good financial management. This workshop will help you manage a profit and loss account, produce a cashflow statement, understand working capital, identify the main sources of finance and understand the different legal structures of a business.

Dunoon - Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 April 2012 - 9.30am-4.30pm
Lochgilphead - Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 May 2012 - 9.30am-4.30pm
Oban - Thursday 31 May and Friday 1 June 2012 - 9.30am-4.30pm

HM Revenue and Customs - Becoming Self Employed

This FREE workshop is an introduction to becoming self-employed and covers tax, National Insurance, VAT, record keeping and when to pay, partnerships and Online services.

The course aims to give you the knowledge to:

- register your self-employment
- setup and maintain business records
- know what National Insurance to pay
- know what expenses you can claim
- know which pages of your Self Assessment Tax Return you need to complete

Oban - Thursday 24 May 2012 - 1.30-4.30pm

Places are limited so we advise you to book early. For more information or to book please call the Business Gateway team on 01546 605459 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

FW

Eigg gains power from the Lottery

THE ISLE of Muck has been handed a £1m Easter present from the Big Lottery Fund to end decades of electricity rationing.

The £978,840 to Isle of Muck Community Enterprise Ltd from the Growing Community Assets Programme will mean islanders can look forward to round-the-clock power for the first time. The cash means small-scale hydro and wind schemes can be built to provide the 38 permanent residents with green electricity. Until now, power from diesel generators was rationed to nine hours per day. Output is so small that islanders have to stagger times for showers and washing machines. The move is seen as vital for Muck's ability to retain and grow its population. Local MSP Dave Thompson welcomed the news. He said: 'I would hope this will also lead to further investment in the island, which in turn would lead to more jobs on the island further securing the future of the people and families who live there.'

Ballachulish hears of vandalism

BALLACHULISH parents and children are clearing broken glass from the swing park on Sundays after local youths' excesses the night before, Ballachulish Community Council has heard.

Police are going to monitor the vandalism - but chairman Mel MacAskill put the issue in context. He said: 'Compared to other places, Ballachulish is quite lucky with its vandalism. It's only wee things, but broken glass in the park can be quite dangerous.'

Concert in Caol

A CONCERT will be held in Caol Community Centre on Friday April 20 in aid of the Nevis Radio Transmitter Appeal.

The 'Nevis Radio Band Aid Concert' will feature local bands including Shine, the Cach Mor Ceilidh Band and Wonderland performing on two stages from 7pm to 1am.

All bands, artists, venue and organisers are giving their time for free. Tickets are available from Caol Community Centre, Mountain Warehouse, Nevis Radio and the Ice Factor.



Aspiring fiddlers Lorna Linfield, aged 12, Kaitrin Edmond, aged 11, and Johnny Soe-Paing, aged 10, during their class. 20_f15feis01



Some of the children learned how to bang out a tune on the button box. 20_f15feis02

'Amazing' success for Fèis Lochabair

AROUND 140 aspiring musicians from across Lochaber came to Fort William for Fèis Lochabair - the annual teaching festival of traditional Gaelic music, song, dance and drama for young people.

The fèis gave kids from the age of eight upwards the chance to get tuition from some of the top traditional musicians in the Highlands, with tutors including Allan MacDonald, Angus Grant, Archie MacAllister, Neil Sinclair and Ross Martin. Classes were also put on for children aged five to seven and pre-school youngsters.

Among the classes available during the fèis, which ran from Monday to Friday, were clarsach, button box, chanter and bag pipes. The children move around the school throughout each day getting lessons on each instrument, with some older pupils getting one-to-one tuition.

A group of 15 pre-school children learned, recorded and performed the song 'Aon Latha Breagha Bha Eun Muigh' (One Lovely Day There was a Bird Out). At the end of the week, the youngsters performed a ceilidh in the school to show their tutors, families and friends what they had learned during the fèis.

Fèis Lochabair committee member Deirdre MacDonald said the week-long event had been a great success. She told *The Oban Times*: 'The turnout was very good. We had 91 kids in the main fèis, 34 in the 5-7 year old group and 15 for the nursery classes. The children have just been brilliant. They have all been having a ball.'

Deirdre interrupted her young learners' Gaelic word hunt to see what they thought of their week of activities. One said it had been 'brilliant', while another described it as 'absolutely amazing'.



Above - The pre-school group learned and performed a Gaelic action song during the Fèis. 20_feis05



Right - Clarsach classes proved as popular as ever with youngsters at the Fèis. 20_f15feis04

Below - The children were treated to chanter lessons from well-known piper Allan MacDonald. 20_f15feis03



www.highlandhospice.org/3cchallenge

CAIRNGORM



CHALLENGE



**CANOE
CLIMB
CYCLE**

Saturday 25th August 2012



SKYE'S THE LIMIT

Highland Hospice

37 MILES ON FOOT AND BIKE

JOIN US FOR AN AMAZING BIATHLON

Saturday 8th, September, 2012

Sport Ecosse Events

www.highlandhospice.org/skyesthelimit

Highland Hospice 25 Years Working Hard to Care for You

For further information on these challenges, please contact Amanda Burt on 01463 227913 or a.burt@highlandhospice.org.uk

FW

Oban Hospice pledge to spend more

THE DIRECTOR of Oban Hospice Ltd has stated an intention to spend more, as it was announced the group's fundraising arm has brought in nearly £400,000.

At the company's annual meeting on Monday, out-going treasurer David Mudie said the hospice, which supports palliative care in Oban, Lorn and the Isles, was on a strong financial footing.

He highlighted the total income received from Friends of Oban Hospice had amounted to £387,360 over five to six years.

Director Dr Mac Armstrong said: 'We are committed to spending as much as we have been raising and that is a tremendous thing; we are no longer stuffing money away in the bank.'

Body found in Cardingmill Bay

THE BODY of a man was found in Cardingmill Bay, Oban, on Tuesday morning after a search resumed from the previous night.

Police have named the man as 55-year-old Robert Campbell, who has family in Oban.

A yacht owner alerted the emergency services after spotting the body in the bay, just before 9am on Tuesday, and Oban Lifeboat brought it ashore.

Although there seem to be no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death, police enquiries are continuing and witnesses who may have seen Mr Campbell near Dunollie Point on Monday night are asked to contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500.

Rugby player hit by police van

A RUGBY player was in a critical but stable condition as The Oban Times went to press after being struck by a police van in Brodick, Isle of Arran.

Daniel Gallagher was airlifted to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow after the collision at around 10pm on Saturday.

The 22-year-old had travelled to Arran to take part in the island's rugby sevens tournament.

NEWSDESK
01397 703003



Brave Oban teenager hands out eggs to hospital children

Oban's own Easter Bunny, Louise MacDonald, brought a large helping of Easter cheer to children in Yorkhill's Schiehallion Ward on Sunday - in the form of 100 chocolate eggs. For Louise, 13, the fun-filled day marked the end of a mixed month, during which she was nominated for a national award for her bravery and generosity, before undergoing surgery. She quickly bounced back though, keen to bring a smile to those children forced to spend Easter indoors. For the full story, see page seven.

Windfarm protest groups boycott meetings following anonymous threats

WINDFARM protest groups have boycotted public meetings after receiving anonymous threats on internet forums, *The Oban Times* has learned.

People Against Clachan Turbines (PACT) was due to attend a windfarm debate in Oban Community Fire Station - but pulled out over the alleged blog abuse. Debate organiser Richard Wesley said: 'It was more intimidation than threats. One or two people got rather personal and the names of some PACT members were mentioned.'

According to Mr Wesley, two local websites are acting as a forum for nasty comments. He said: 'This has split the island of Seil, it has caused a lot of bad feeling because their names had

been mentioned. The problem with both forums is people use pseudonyms so people can say things they wouldn't usually say if their names were there.'

Speakers at the debate commented on the absence of PACT. Christine Metcalfe, from Avich and Kilchrean Community Council, said: 'Other speakers initially booked to take part have felt too intimidated by both anonymous and other recent postings on forums and websites to join in this debate. It is certainly a widely held view that if the courage is absent for the writer to add his or her name to comments made within such mediums when publicly aiming criticism of others, those comments are best left unsaid.'

Airport costs taxpayer £2.9m

OBAN Airport has cost the taxpayer nearly £2.9million in running costs alone over the past four years, latest figures show.

The news comes after *The Oban Times* revealed Argyll and Bute Council was taking some £73,000 each year since 2006 from parking fees collected in the town to subsidise the facility.

The local authority maintains the airport is run as a public service, rather than a profit making enterprise, so it does not record figures in terms of profit and loss.

The airport cost £729,903 to run in 2008/09, £744,689 in 2009/10 and £768,279 in 2010/11. For the financial year to April 2012, the council spent £645,498

running the airport. While it once employed 14 people, staff numbers have fallen to 11.

The authority says there were 1,418 flights between Oban and 238 other destinations in the last financial year.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Oban Airport is a very important asset providing connectivity to the local, public and private sectors.'

'A marketing strategy for the airport has recently been developed with partners and other stakeholders and it is expected that this will be tendered and awarded during the early part of this financial year.'

'This will be a two-year marketing and development strategic plan which will not

only seek to encourage growth in the [private] sector, but also in all other sectors at the airport.'

Original estimates for the upgrade of the Connel airfield, together with new provision at Coll and Colonsay, was put at £4.5million.

But the price more than doubled - with Oban Airport responsible for the bulk of the additional costs, costing a reported £9million alone. When originally proposed, the council said the airport would create somewhere between 100 to 400 jobs and support up to 200 jobs through the creation of new business.

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

Pool staff save boy, 8, from drowning

Quick-thinking lifeguard resuscitates youngster

STAFF at an Oban's Atlantis Leisure have been praised after an eight-year-old boy was saved from drowning in the centre's swimming pool.

Lifeguard Kevin Keen resuscitated the lifeless youngster after pulling him from the bottom of the deep end during the centre's family fun session on Monday morning.

Fellow lifeguards assisted him and other staff members cleared the area, as the centre's emergency procedure kicked into action.

Atlantis Leisure assistant manager Kyle Dods, who explained his pool staff attend weekly training sessions, paid tribute to the quick thinking of the lifeguards, adding: 'Their training just kicked in. We overstaffed the poolside that day and had five lifeguards on duty because of the number of people in the water. They did everything they should have done. I'm very proud of them.'

'When the boy regained consciousness he was obviously in a bit of distress but we made him comfortable and a retired doctor, who was at the pool, was also on hand.'

The young casualty, who was on holiday in Oban with his family, was taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital but was discharged after a short time. The boy, who was seemingly unaccompanied, was spotted struggling to resurface by a fellow lifeguard. Kevin then dived in to haul the boy to safety before performing 'rescue breaths' to restart his breathing.

An alarm was sounded to bring



Lifesaver: Kevin Keen.

all staff to the poolside, the pool was emptied and members of the public were ushered from the area.

Kevin, aged 20, said: 'It was the most terrifying moment of my life.'

'If it hadn't been for my training I would have panicked but I knew exactly what I had to do.'

'Instinct and adrenalin kick in and before I knew it, the boy was coming round.'

'I was in shock afterwards but on reflection I was just glad he was okay. It was back to work as normal the next day.'

Atlantis Leisure chairman Neil Matheson said: 'Obviously situations like this are worrying and the staff were all a bit shaken but we do a lot of training with our lifeguards for a reason. 'The level of incidents like this at Atlantis are incredibly low but if something does go wrong you need to be able to act quickly, which is exactly what our staff did.'

10 Years Ago

Those Were The Days
The Oban Times



Thursday, April 11, 2002

Fleming ward - 'mistake made'

SENIOR members of staff at Oban's Lorn and Islands District General Hospital have admitted mistakes have been made regarding the proposed name change to the Malcie Fleming ward.

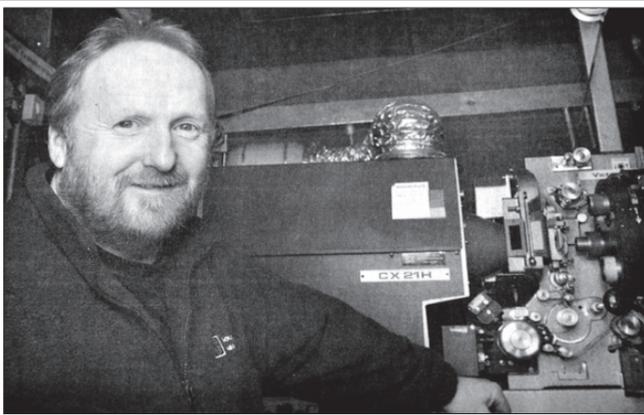
At a meeting of North/Mid Argyll Health Forum, a member resigned over the furore saying the name change was a 'fait accompli'.

The ward was named in honour of Malcie Fleming's 40 years of service as a porter

at the Dalintart hospital, Oban. There has been a lot of ill feeling in Oban over the proposal to change the name to the Cruachan ward.

Malcie's widow Peggy is a resident of the ward and a spokesman said the family had been consulted and Mrs Fleming had given her approval.

But at the forum meeting on Monday, Adam McCracken spoke out on behalf of the Nelson and Fleming family saying they were both unhappy.



Iain MacColl in the projection room of the Screen Machine.

Screen Machine summer tour success

THE SCREEN Machine's summer tour to the West Highlands is a great success.

On Islay the mobile cinema

sold out, organised extra showings and even then still had to turn away customers.

On Mull last week its three

film programme was also playing to packed houses eager to see Lord of the Rings, Ocean's 11 or Monsters Inc.

Former Gigha laird convicted for hiring 'hit man'

A FORMER millionaire laird of the Isle of Gigha has been convicted of attempting to hire a hit man to kill the mother of his child and her lover.

Malcolm Huntley Potier, 50, who owned Gigha more than a

decade ago, has been warned by a judge in Sydney, Australia, that he faces a lengthy jail sentence.

Convicted

Potier was convicted last October of soliciting to murder his estranged Scottish partner

and her Australian boyfriend.

He was arrested last year in Sydney after snatching his two-year-old daughter from her mother and was then found to have entered Australia on a false passport.

Housing association wants to buy Mull schoolhouse

ULVA Ferry schoolhouse on Mull could soon be a home again if a proposal by West Highland Housing Association is accepted by Argyll and Bute Council.

The schoolhouse is one of four properties the association is seeking to buy.

The other properties are at Lochdonhead, Mull and Balemartine and Ruaig, Tiree. All the properties have been empty for between two to four years.

No price details have been released. Many in the community at Ulva Ferry have been annoyed that the schoolhouse has stood empty for so long.

Mull community councillor Bert Leitch said teachers and other individuals have asked to rent the house in the past two years but were always turned down.

He said about a year ago a move was staved to get the house back into the community.

Mr Leitch said the housing association became involved and the Scottish Land Fund was approached for help.

He said there were people in the area waiting for decent accommodation and if the bid was accepted it would be the first house in the locality that would be let by the public sector - but hopefully not the last.

He said: 'There are people that want to come to this area but there is just no accommodation for them. We badly need people with young families in this area. This house has sat empty for so long and the leader of Argyll and Bute Council talks about 'best value'.'

'They have lost more than two years rent for allowing it to stand empty.'



Silurian, which was used to film part of the BBC's Blue Planet series.

New boat for Mull trust

A 64-FOOT motor sailing vessel has joined the ranks of the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust on Mull as part of a three-year project to monitor whales and dolphins.

The Silurian, which was used to film part of the BBC's Blue Planet series, arrived in Tobermory Bay on Friday.

It will be used over the next three years, with a skipper, marine ranger and education officer on board, to visit schools and communities throughout Argyll and the islands, while monitoring areas in between.



Left to right: Murn Cameron, 5, Patrick Mackinnon, 6, Clare Mackinnon, 4, and Erin Cameron, 4, at Oban's Jack and Jill Playgroup fundraising coffee morning at Glencruitten Church Hall.



Egg expedition for Lochaber teenagers

TEENAGERS from Caol Youth Centre and Kinlochleven and Lochaber high schools spent last weekend on Eigg as part of their Duke of Edinburgh course. The youngsters are pictured at Fort William Railway station.

Oban shinty teams fined £500

TWO FEUDING Oban shinty teams have each been given £500 fines, suspended until June 2004, following the abandonment of a league fixture at which a brawl broke out.

Oban Celtic and Lochside Rovers met in a South Division One league tie at Ganavan last February when referee Robert MacMillan of Paisley was forced to abandon the match after 82 minutes when fists and shinty sticks flew in the middle of the park between several opposing players.

The ruling body of the sport, The Camanachd Association, met at Fort William last week and issued hefty suspended fines.

The committee also warned that the town rivals

must be on their best behaviour over the next two seasons or face further immediate action.

It was the sport's disciplinary committee's ruling that the conduct of the players from Oban Celtic reserves and Lochside Rovers had brought the game of shinty into disrepute and that, in addition to the suspended fines, each club should have two league points deducted from their current league totals.

The abandoned match will now be rescheduled on a date still to be confirmed.

Lochside Rovers had been winning the abandoned league tie 3-1 when violence erupted without warning.

Lorn Lines

MEMBERS and their wives gathered in the Regent Hotel, Oban, for Oban Photographic Club's end-of-season buffet on Monday April 2.

After the excellent buffet prepared and served by the Regent's chef, the trophies, won by members over the winter, were presented by club secretary Katy Weir.



Left to right: Ronnie MacKillop, Stephen Lawson, Jim Kirkpatrick and Hugh Wilson. Missing from the line-up was John Douglas.

RESIDENTS in Oban's Ardconnell Road had a rude awakening when workmen began examining the town's sewer network from the street - at 3.30am.

Scottish Water has confirmed the work, carried out on March 28, was done by sub-contractors who were surveying the sewer network on behalf of the water company.

One resident said: 'I was so angry. I was wakened by hammering and clattering and when I opened the window there was a lorry and three or four men working at the top of Ardconnell Road.'

'When I asked them what they thought they were doing disturbing folk at this time a voice replied that this work could not be done when the road was busy. I have lived here for 48 years and never found the road too busy.'

A spokesman for Scottish Water said the sub-contractors had elected to carry out a time when there was reduced traffic and when the water flow was low.

As a result of this incident, Scottish Water has altered the sub-contractor's working hours to between 6pm and 10pm.



Kirsty Macdonald unleashes the ducks at the Black Lynn on Sunday, starting the annual duck race in earnest. 15_115duckrace6

IT MAY have been raining cats and dogs, but that didn't put the crowds off from going to see the annual Duck Race at Oban's Black Lynn on Sunday.

Quackers it may be, but there was nothing fowl about this race, which saw masses of multicoloured rubber ducks dropped into the stream in a race to be the first to exit into the bay.

The ducks were released by Kirsty Macdonald, daughter of the late councillor Donald Macdonald, who presided over last year's event.

It may have taken a few seconds for the ducks to drop - shedding their feathers as they went - but once away, there was no stopping them.

This year's event raised £920 for Bid4Oban, which organisers said was remarkable given conditions on the day.

Warning of record high midge numbers

MIDGE numbers could be heading for a record high on the west coast after an unusually mild spring.

Worse - they seem to be living for longer and longer as the climate becomes warmer and wetter.

According to Dr Alison Blackwell of the Scottish Midge Forecast Service, normally the mild winter wouldn't have much of an impact of midge numbers.

But the warm start to the year - coupled with last weekend's rain storms - means the tiny pests are likely to start their breeding season early.

And Dr Blackwell didn't have too many words of comfort to offer when asked how future weather trends would effect midge numbers.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'They do seem to be extending their season, because there were

contacting our Facebook page to say they've been bitten.'

Only the female midges bite and need the blood to mature their eggs. The males, on the other hand, feed exclusively on nectar. The more female midges bite, the more eggs they can lay, said Dr Blackwell. Midges usually produce two generations a year - so the more they breed now, the larger the second generation could be. Beleaguered

hikers, though, can outwit the insects by choosing when and where they walk.

'Midges prefer low light conditions,' Dr Blackwell said. 'Sheltered areas, then, are their preference. They don't like high winds either. They tend to be most active in the early mornings and evenings.'

Midgeforecast.co.uk provides updated information on the midge threat.

Police files

THE WINDOW of a moving car in Glenshellach Road was smashed after a young boy threw a stone at the vehicle.

The incident happened between 6.30pm and 7.15pm last Thursday and Oban Police are seeking any information from the public.

The boy who threw the stone is described as aged between eight to 10 years, with blonde hair. He was wearing a light blue tracksuit top and bottoms.

The boy was in a group of six and police say they are concerned about a number of incidents of stone throwing at vehicles in Glenshellach Road and Davaar Gardens.

Oban Police chief inspector Brian Auld said: 'Throwing stones at moving vehicles is particularly dangerous, so we plan to go into schools to reinforce that message.'

TWO MEN, aged 18 and 20, have been charged with conducting themselves in a disorderly manner following a fight in Rockfield Road, Tobermory.

The incident happened at around 5am on Sunday.

A 48-YEAR-old man has been charged with driving a vehicle at 52mph in a 30mph zone through Kilmiver.

The incident occurred at 2.20pm on April 3. That same afternoon another driver was issued with a conditional offer.

A DRIVER has had his car seized after being charged for driving with no insurance.

The 24-year-old man was stopped in Combe Street at 7.50pm on Monday.

CONNEL village clean-up appeal

CONNEL Community Council is appealing for volunteers to come out and help clean the village.

The community clean up starts at 6pm on Monday from the village hall. Gloves, pick up sticks and rubbish bags will be provided.

Brave teenager spreads cheer

Louise hands out Easter eggs days after undergoing brain surgery

A BIG-HEARTED Oban teenager has delivered 100 Easter eggs to children in Yorkhill's Schiehallion Ward - just days after undergoing brain surgery.

Louise MacDonald dressed up as the Easter Bunny to deliver the chocolate treats - 80 bought with her own money and 20 donated by family friend, Nicola Robertson.

The fun-filled day at the hospital marked the end of a mixed few weeks for the bubbly girl, who turns 14 next month.

Her bravery, generosity, infectious sense of humour in the face of neurofibromatosis - a genetic condition causing spontaneous tumour growth in her body - saw her recently shortlisted for the Young Scot Readers' Award.

But just a few days after receiving the news, Louise was undergoing surgery in Glasgow to drain excess fluid from her brain. Earlier attempts to insert a shunt into her skull had failed to correct the problem.

Finally leaving hospital last week, Louise immediately made preparations for Easter and, donning a bunny costume, returned to Schiehallion to bring seasonal cheer to the children in the ward.

Speaking after a very 'hoppy' Sunday, Louise, from Nelson Road, told *The Oban Times*: 'I

EXCLUSIVE REPORT

STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

handed out 100 Easter eggs and everyone was like 'it's a rabbit!'

'It was really good fun and I ended up being given £15 towards doing it again next year. I wasn't even asking for money. There was one kid who ate their Easter egg straight away. It was an awesome day, but I was quite tired afterwards and my head was sore as well.'

Being nominated for the Young Scot award caught Louise by surprise - and she admits to being nervous about the finals ceremony at the Glasgow Hilton Hotel on April 26.

'I don't know why I've been nominated,' she said. 'I think it's because of the Easter eggs and selection boxes. Mum says its for bravery as well.'

'It was amazing when we found out I was in the final three. I was off school because I wasn't well when we got the phone call. When mum told me I just screamed and was bouncing up and down.'

And if she wins? 'I'll probably scream so loud everyone will be deaf!' said Louise. 'I'm not worried about winning though, it's amazing to have been nominated.'



HM THE Queen has answered a plea from Appin residents to help fix the village's landmark Jubilee Bridge. Resident Mike Rayworth, who heads up the bridge sub committee of Appin Community Council, wrote to Her Majesty's Private Secretary after learning the bridge was built in 1897 to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The community council has now received an undisclosed sum towards the repair. Whilst the iconic bridge can still be used, urgent repair work is required and any individuals or groups who can help with funding can contact Appin Community Council. On the bridge, from left, are: Appin Youth Club members Ross MacDonald, Darius Scorgie, Conner Kerr, Aimee MacDonald and community council chairwoman Alison MacCorquodale. 16_115bridge02

Hooligans jailed for hostel rampage

THREE young men have been given time after their 'high spirited behaviour' turned into a wrecking spree in a youth hostel.

Oban Sheriff Court heard Andrew Aitken, Robert Campsie and David Costello discharged fire extinguishers, barricaded doors and removed batteries from smoke alarms at Oban Youth Hostel in December.

The hooligans caused £1,128 in damage to the recently refurbished premises on the Corran Esplanade.

After hearing their antics left two rooms uninhabitable, Sheriff Ruth Anderson sent all three down.

Aitken, 21, a local fish farm worker of 33 Forestry Cottages, Eredine, got six months.

Gordon McNab, defending, said jail would mean Aitken losing his job and home, and would have 'disastrous consequences on his life.'

Sheriff Anderson sentenced Campsie and Costello, both 19, to eight months in a young offenders' institution.

A fourth man, Conor Webster, aged 19, was remanded in custody pending a further court appearance on April 18.

Charity stall cashes in despite supermarket snub

LOCAL fundraisers for Macmillan Cancer Support (MCS) raised £1,700 for the charity with a stall at Oban's Co-operative - despite a last-minute snub from another supermarket.

Volunteers had originally intended to sell raffle tickets over Easter weekend from the *The Oban Times* caravan in Tesco's car park - but the supermarket withdrew permission at the last minute, saying it would be too busy.

MCS organiser Jim Heward, said: 'As a member of the Oban committee for Macmillan Cancer Support, I was horrified to find that, at short notice, Tesco refused this worthy charity permission to sell raffle tickets from its car park over the Easter weekend. My committee colleagues had gone to a lot

of trouble to prepare a team of volunteers to staff the stall over the weekend. In spite of Tesco's attitude, we managed to raise £1,689 over Friday and Saturday and we are very grateful to the Co-operative for their support and the store's customers, who were very generous.

'We're also grateful for those that donated prizes to the raffle, it was very much appreciated.'

First prize was a painting by Robert McCulloch, while second was a ferry ticket from Oban to Castlebay, donated by CalMac.

Other prizes included £100 from the MacQueen Brothers, a taster session from Pieroth Wines, and a dinner for two at the Manor House Hotel.

Tesco did not respond to repeated Oban Times' requests for a comment.

Marathon run round Mull raises £3,000 for charities

A FORMER Tobermory High School pupil successfully completed the equivalent of five marathons on Mull last weekend.

Caroline McKay, originally from the Ross of Mull, took on the challenge to raise money to support the work of The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and RSPB Scotland.

Starting at 7am on Friday, she was supported by friends and

Cash-strapped 'Gers owe council for pitch hire

THE FINANCIAL troubles at Rangers Football Club have implications for Argyll and Bute Council, after it was revealed the club owes the council money for the hire of football pitches.

A report by the club's administrators Duff and Phelps, which breaks down Rangers Football Club's debts, indicates the club has an outstanding bill of £406,80 owed to the council's financial services department.

Argyll and Bute Council confirmed the bill was for the hire of football pitches at Hermitage Academy in Helensburgh.

Got a story? call the newsdesk on 01397 703003



"Cùrsa sònraichte math airson daoine de gach aois is gach eòlas."

"Cothrom math coinneachadh ri daoine a tha sàs anns a' ghnìomhachas agus sgilean ùra is cudthromach ionnsachadh"

DIPLÒMA ANNS NA MEADHANAN GÀIDHLIG

Chaidh an cùrsa seo a dhealbhadh airson luchd-trèanaidh ullachadh airson saoghal craolaidh an latha an-diugh. Tha oileanaich air an trèanadh ann an suidheachadh Gàidhlig agus ann an dòighean a' ghnìomhachais, a' toirt dhaibh an cothrom teisteanas aig ard-ìre a chosnadh agus aig an aon àm eòlas faighinn air dreuchdan eadar-dhealaichte anns na meadhanan.

Tha oileanaich a' faighinn bogadh anns na sgilean bunaiteach a tha deatamach airson a bhith ag obair anns nameadhanan fhad 's a tha iad cuideachd a' leasachadh nan sgilean cànan aca. As dèidh bliadhna aig a' Colaiste cuiridh oileanaich seachad bliadhna a' trèanadh anns a' ghnìomhachas.

Ceann-là airson iarrtas: Dihaoine 8 An t-Ògmhios 2012

Airson foirm-iarrtais cuiribh fios gu:

01471 888336

sm00cni@uhi.ac.uk

www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

Lost Ben Cruachan walkers rescued

TWO DISORIENTATED walkers were promptly taken off Ben Cruachan Ridge after rescuers used their phone's GPS to find them.

Oban Mountain Rescue Team and Strathclyde Police Mountain Rescue Team were mobilised to help trace the 32-year-old woman and 35-year-old man at 8.50pm on Saturday.

Ross Lilley, member of Oban Mountain Rescue Team, said: 'We sent them a link to a website on their phone and that immediately allows us to see where they are, using the phone's GPS.'

Rescuers confirmed the pair had been well equipped for the climb up to Cruachan peak and along the ridge but had simply gotten disorientated in the dark and decided to 'stay put' until help arrived.

The mountain rescue teams arrived at the climbers just before midnight. Everyone was off the hill by 2am.

FREE MEASURE & DESIGN SERVICE



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

Expert advice on the perfect fitted kitchen from Howdens Joinery.

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

One of our designers will help you choose from our range of over 40 different styles. Our products are only available to you through your builder or professional fitter, because we believe that the best way to install a fully fitted and perfectly working kitchen is to use an expert. Our designers will explain how to find a builder and will be on hand throughout should you need more advice. We are a UK manufacturer and have over 500 depots nationwide, which means local convenience, support and knowledge.

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

FREE TRIVET WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR KITCHEN PLANNED

Tel: 01631 567083 Fax: 01631 567141 Email: oban@howdens.com

Howdens Joinery Co. Standard Drive Oban PA34 4DN

Dept opening hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-12 noon

To find your nearest depot and to request a brochure call 0800 6888 167 or visit www.howdens.com

Approved fitters of

CR SMITH

home sweeter home

VELUX

gauge.joinery

windows

CR Smith PVC Windows, Fully Guaranteed, Professionally Fitted

5 Windows 1 Front Door 1 Back Door - from only £2500 Fitted

PVC Front Door - from only £450 Fitted

Velux Trained Installers - Kitchens Supplied and Fitted

www.gauge.uk.net

Call now for a free quote and full colour brochure

07756 514660 01631 570455

Knightswood see red as Taynuilt march on in cup

'The behaviour of some teams makes me wonder if we will re-enter the league next season'

Wilson Cup
**Taynuilt Amateurs 3
Knightswood 1**
TAYNUILT manager Stuart Reid has questioned the involvement of his side in next season's Central Scottish Welfare League after he witnessed a brutal encounter against Knightswood on Saturday.
Taynuilt won the first game of their cup double header against the Glasgow side with three goals inside the first 30 minutes.
But the match will be remembered more for the indiscipline shown by the visitors, rather than the good football played by the hosts at Glencruitten.
Knightswood resorted to kicking everything that moved, a tactic that lost them the match and three players to red cards.

Reid told The Oban Times: 'The behaviour of some teams in our league makes me wonder if it is really worthwhile and we will be considering if we are going to re-enter next season.'
'I was proud of the boys' conduct on Saturday, because not getting dragged into a retaliation is tough. They showed character to get the goals and stand tall.'
Taynuilt started well and the first goal came on 10 minutes; a poor clearance landed at the feet of Kris Gillies, who rounded the keeper and tapped home.
Beautiful pass
Taynuilt were soon 2-0 up with the best-worked goal of the match. Craig Campbell slipped a beautiful pass onto a well timed run from George McMillan, who fired the ball under the keeper

from a tight angle. Goalkeeper Ben Pollock never got tested in the first 20 minutes and was pretty much spectating with the Taynuilt defence of McPhee, MacDougall, Napier and Paterson playing well as a unit.
Netted
On the half hour it was 3-0 when Kris Gillies netted again for his 16th goal of the season.
With Knightswood becoming more frustrated referee John Scott had a difficult game on his hands but coped admirably against a tirade of abuse from the visitors.
In the second half Taynuilt's attack struggled to create anything as Knightswood continued to persistently foul. Meanwhile man of the match Paterson was marshalling the Taynuilt defence

FOOTBALL
well, causing more frustration among the visitors' ranks.
Against the run of play, Knightswood got a consolation goal when Paul Copeland poked home from close range at a corner.
However, as they realised they had lost the game, Knightswood lost their discipline and one horror tackle in particular saw Paterson taken to hospital as a precaution.
Taynuilt are due to travel to play Knightswood on April 21 in the CDL Cup quarter final.
This Saturday, they travel to Helensburgh to take on Kirk Michael in the semi-final of the Wilson Cup.



Taynuilt's Craig MacDougall clears his lines during last weekend's bad tempered match against Knightswood. 07.115tay01

Saints seniors back on league duty

FOOTBALL
OBAN Saints senior team get back to action after the Easter break with a home game against Rolls Royce EK.
The East Kilbride team are currently sitting on top of the Scottish Amateur League premier division with Saints in fourth place, but the Oban side are only three points behind and have played three fewer games.
Saints manager Iain Jackson said: 'Rolls Royce got promoted last season and according to reports are a very good side, but with home advantage we will be looking to pick up all three league points in our push to win the premier division championship again.'
'We won the title two years ago and got pipped by a single goal last season, so the boys are determined to try and win the league again this season, although there is still a long way to go with a lot of difficult fixtures remaining.'
Saturday's match will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off, referee in charge is Peter McCallum from Campbelltown.

Argyll area golf season kicks off

GOLF
THIS weekend sees the 2012 Argyll area golf season kick off with the annual matchplay championship taking place at Machrihanish.

The 16 qualifiers from last year's strokeplay will do battle over the weekend.
Several clubs are represented with players from Glencruitten, Machrihanish, Port Bannatyne, Millport, Blairmore and Strone and Rothays taking part.
Four ex-winners in the shape of Stuart Campbell, George Reynolds, Ross Currie and Graham Bolton are in the field.
Draw: Allan McKie (Glencruitten) v Reeve Thomson (Machrihanish); John Jack (Millport) v David Graham (Mach'sh); Ross Currie (Mach'sh) v Robert MacIntyre (Glen); Alister McLean (Glen) v Graham Bolton (Rothays); Oliver Armour (Mach'sh) v Sean Dunstafnaghe (Glencruitten); Ian McGougan (Mach'sh) v Kenneth McCallum (Glen); Stuart Campbell (Mach'sh) v Stephen Renfrew (Port Bannatyne); George Reynolds (Rothays) v Gordon Tyre (Blairmore and Strone).

Saints youths - results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL
DUE to the Easter holidays there were no youth games played last weekend.
This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Blair Thistle; Under 14s no game; Under 15s no game; Under 16s v Argyll Athletic.

Taynuilt Golf Club

GOLF
CAPTAIN'S Prize first round and medal on April 8: 1 Allan Stewart, 61 (10); 2 Rob Graham, 62 (12); 3 Donald Cattanaich 63 (7).
Ladies Charity Competition (Oban and Lorn Alzheimer's Association) on April 3: 1 Liz Mudie, 71 (34); 2 Grace Petrie 74 (25); 3 Mairead Sim 75 (14).

Lorne may not be relegated after all

RUGBY
RBS West Division 2
**Lenzie 29
Oban Lorne 3**
LUCKY Oban Lorne look to have been given a stay of execution after learning there may be no relegation from this season's RBS West Division 2.
A defeat to Lenzie last Saturday confirmed Oban's position as bottom of the table but they could begin next season in the same league, as speculation suggests the SRU will leave the new leagues structure in place.
However, Oban went into Saturday's game believing a win was required to avoid the drop and called up the experienced Colin Thwaites and Scotland

under-17 captain Magnus Bradbury.
It was Oban who made the better start to the game and found themselves with a long period of pressure in the Lenzie 22.
Stand-off Thwaites was impressive, keeping the pressure on the hosts but Oban could not break down the steady home defence who managed to clear their lines.
Lenzie scored with their first chance of the game.
Two Lenzie players broke free from the blindside of a ruck from around halfway to score.
Angus MacCallum hit back with a penalty for Oban before the hosts scored their second try

of the afternoon to extend their lead to 12-3 and a further successful penalty attempt put them 15-3 ahead at half time.
Oban were undone in defence on another two occasions in the second half, conceding a further 14 points.
Both tries were from a result of Oban giving away silly penalties and the home side running at the line from the tap and go.
Lenzie were now into their stride and looked to extend their lead further on a few occasions.
Oban had a late chance with winger Craig Wright making a dart for the line but in the end Oban never looked like converting any of their pressure into

points, backing up the fact that the team are the lowest scorers in the league this season.
Oban will look to put this season behind them and put their focus on the sevens season. The club have confirmed that the 1st XV will be competing in the Mull 7s (May 19), Islay Beach Rugby (June 9) and will be hosting their own sevens on May 12 at Glencruitten.
Oban Mini Rugby will be restarting on Sunday, April 22 at the clubhouse. There will be no training on April 29, as the team will be taking part in the Taynuilt Dalriada festival.



Katrina Flannigan, wife of new president Gerry, is watched by members of Oban Bowling Club as she casts the first jack on Saturday to officially open the new season. 15.115bow11

Teams prepare for 67-mile Kintyre Way Relay and Ultra

TEAMS of six will contend with a 67-mile course at this year's Kintyre Way Relay and the Kintyre Way Ultra on June 16.
In the relay race, along the scenic trail from Tarbert to Campbelltown, individuals will aim to reach change-over points at village halls along the way.
The Ultra, for serious long-distance enthusiasts, now offers a choice of three distances: 35½ miles starting in Tayinloan, 45 miles starting in Clachan, and 67 miles starting in Tarbert; all ending in Campbelltown.
This year's event sees entries from as far afield as Madrid (Spain) and Haarlem (Holland), as well as all over the UK.

Key contenders for the all-time record on the 67-mile course are Gary Morrison, winner of the 268-mile Spine Race on the Pennine Way in January this year, and Kenny Valentine from Edinburgh, who has done the West Highland Way race in 20 hours 33 min.
The Kintyre Way is well known as the most scenic long-distance race in Scotland, with its stunning views across the water to the mountains of Arran, Islay and Jura.
Runners also frequently comment on the warm, friendly welcome, and look forward to the refreshment stops at Clachan, Tayinloan and Carradale.

ULTRA RELAY
Event organiser Rob Reid said: 'An event like this depends heavily on support from local people acting as marshals, timekeepers, tea-makers, first-aiders and lift-givers, and we are very grateful for their support over the last few years.'
'Anyone able to spare an hour or two for any of these tasks on June 16 is strongly encouraged to get in touch now.'
The first Kintyre Way Relay took place on August 12, 2006, to mark the opening of the Kintyre Way.
Full details and online entry at www.kintyrewayrelay.co.uk

Gerry wins Bunessan Easter Sunday race

A MULL man has won this year's Bunessan Easter Sunday road race, which was run in overcast but largely dry conditions.
The main event follows a figure of eight route around Bunessan village and the course has been measured at approximately 11km (just a little under seven miles).
Winner of the senior male event was Gerry Kangley of Tobermory in a time of 42:32. Cameron McKeller of Oban followed up his third place in the recent Atlantis Oban 10K with first place in the male veteran category (MV40) in a time of 46:10 and he was also second overall.
Alastair Hall of Oban won the men's super veteran category (MV50) and was third overall in 47:34.

First secondary school student home was Adam Docherty (15 years) in 55:52.
Winner of the women's senior event was Claire Hopkins of Edinburgh in a time of 51:31. Oban's Isabella Perriot was first female veteran (FV35) and second overall in 55:00.
The junior runners follow the first loop of the figure of eight course, which is a distance of approximately 1.6 miles. This event was particularly well supported with more than 30 children competing.
Ten-year-old William Burke, on the island for a family christening and holiday, won this event in an impressive time of 14:34, well ahead of second placed runner Sam Holden who finished in 17:12. William was awarded the trophy for boys under 13. Byron Lawson was

third overall in 17:52 and winner of the trophy for boys under 10. The under-10 girl's trophy went to Katie Edmundson who completed the course in 19:40.
The 'Loopy Run' was introduced three years ago for those runners who prefer a slightly shorter distance than the full 11 km.
OBAN Tennis Club is serving up the first competition of the 2012 tennis season this Sunday with the first round of the Oban Tennis Club Superset Monthly Series.
The competition begins at noon, with singles and doubles competitions for men and women. The knockout matches will consist of one set.
Superset competitions will be

ATHLETICS
Winner of this event was Jill Weatherall in at time of 49:56 and first local woman was Alison Fisher in 52:56.
Bill MacCallum MBE was the official timekeeper and also handed out the awards at the prizegiving.
TENNIS
Players will earn ranking points for each tournament they play and the top four singles players and doubles teams go through to the Superset Finals in September.

Get ready for the season

If you haven't already ordered your promotional printing for the 2012 summer season then now is the time to do so.

Krisp Print offer excellent prices on medium to long run colour brochures and leaflets as well as short run digital printing. We also offer a professional design service to help you make a good first impression where it counts.

Campbelltown • T: 01586 554975
E: staff@krispprint.co.uk
Oban • T: 01631 568015
E: sales@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.
If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.
The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.
If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.
Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

WIN £700

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

A Gibb, Soroba Road, Oban
A Michie, Balnakeyle Road, Inverness

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name

Address

..... Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes,
postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,
Burnbank, Burnside Street,
Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk



Coach Vince Lopez congratulates Lochaber's Chris Donnelly after his victory over Alec Mullen. 20_f15chris01



Sam MacLeod of Nether Lochaber ABC forces Sarunas Gestautas of Peterhead ABC to cover up. 20_f15samb01



Igor Sliwinski stopped opponent Nathan Morrison of Peterhead ABC in a powerful display of boxing skills. 20_f15igor01



Liam Jordan went on the rampage against Chris Hogg of Wellmeadow ABC to win a unanimous decision. 20_f15liam01

Phoenix boxing show proves a big hit with fans

Local boxers are punching way above their weight on the national scene

AROUND 400 boxing fans enjoyed a night of all-out action at Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club's show in the Nevis Centre on Saturday night.

No fewer than eight boxers from the home club appeared on the ten-bout bill, providing further evidence the local boys are punching way above their weight on the national scene.

Heavyweight Chris Donnelly topped the bill for Lochaber against the vastly more experienced Alec Mullen of Irvine Vinesburgh and came out with a unanimous points win. His classy display, with a powerful jab a telling factor, earned him best senior boxer of the night trophy.



Lochaber's Kevin Aitchison was too strong for Billy Reilly of Irvine Vinesburgh ABC. 20_f15kevin01

Attrition
Light-welterweight Aidan Donnelly faced Darren Foster of Arbroath ABC in a real war of attrition and lost out in a wafer-thin split decision.

Neither man took a backward step throughout - but in the end the judges favoured Foster's

shorter counters over Donnelly's wider punches. Middleweight senior novice Scott Lawrie has been showing huge potential in

the Fort William gym - and how that paid off against unbeaten prospect Ross Houston of Highland Boxing Academy.

In what was undoubtedly the

bout of the night, home fans roared on Lawrie as his power and accuracy began to tell towards the end of the second. With Houston on the ropes Scott unleashed a left hook to the ribs and Ross collapsed to the canvas - and just like that the contest was over and the host club had another winner.

Fizz-bomb
Liam Jordan - who will possibly compete at welterweight in future - had a middleweight bout against Wellmeadow ABC's southpaw Chris Hogg in another fizz-bomb of a contest.

Ahead after the first, Jordan's cleaner more precise blows were taking effect on the Wellmeadow boxer and in the third Liam really turned the screw to force a standing count. No sooner had the ref given Hogg the mandatory eight-count the final bell sounded and Jordan claimed a landslide majority points win.

Igor Sliwinski - at just 15 a real prospect - faced Peterhead ABC's Scottish finalist Nathan

BOXING

Morrison. Igor has been working on improving his defence and Morrison could not pin down the elusive Fort William youngster. The last round was an excellent example of why big things are expected of Sliwinski as he forced the visibly hurt Morrison to take a standing count. Another right hand and left hook saw the referee stop the contest.

Elsewhere, James Aitchison narrowly lost to fellow Scotland squad member Colin Stewart of Byron ABC, whose power and aggression proved decisive.

Unanimous decision
James' brother Kevin, aged 12, deservedly won a unanimous decision over Billy Reilly of Irvine Vinesburgh ABC and picked up the young boxer of the night award.

Sam MacLeod of Kinlochleven-based Nether Lochaber ABC was unfortunate lose out to Sarunas Gestautas of Peterhead ABC.



Lochaber Phoenix favourite Scott Lawrie catches Ross Houston of Highland Boxing Academy with a body shot. 20_f15scott01

Fort suffer two heavy defeats in four days

FORT William will have to pick themselves up for the visit of Cove Rangers on Saturday after suffering two heavy defeats in four days last week.

Cove sit in second place in the Highland League and still harbour hopes of catching leaders Forres. The Aberdeen side beat Fort 6-0 in the reverse fixture back in August.

Fort manager Danny Conlon told The Oban Times his side will have to improve if they are to avoid another big loss.

He said: 'It'll be another hard game, Cove are a really good side. Hopefully we can shut the back door and a bit of confidence back. It's my job to lift the boys for the game, and we're certainly going to have to get our act together or we will be on the end of another heavy defeat.'

The Lochaber side's undersized squad will be bolstered by the return of Sean Grant and Lewis Campbell.

FOOTBALL

'We're working with a small squad here,' Conlon said. 'But my hands are tied - I've just got to try and work with the boys and try and improve them as players.'

Nairn County put on an impressive display of finishing to run out 9-0 winners at Claggan Park last Wednesday night, and Fraserburgh came away from Lochaber with a 6-1 victory four days later.

Penalty save

Fraserburgh were 3-0 up at half time despite Fort keeper Robbie Donaldson saving a penalty - the third time in succession he has kept out a spot kick. Logan Barker headed in a late consolation goal.

Conlon said the size of the defeats surprised him after some improved displays from his side.

He said: 'We've gone from two



Mark Gillespie arrives just too late to stop Scott Barbour rifling home Fraserburgh's first goal. 20_f15foot03

0-0 draws to two really heavy defeats. I'm putting it down to a bit of a blip, just a few bad games.'

Fort William u17s continued their good form with a hard fought 3-0 win away to Alness United.

Deadlock

Cameron Grant fired a 20 yard drive low into the bottom corner to break the deadlock in the 42nd minute, before a second half strike from Martin Munro and a lob from outside the box

by Kieran Voicsey secured then win.

Quality

Manager John Matheson told The Oban Times: 'Overall, another strong and quality performance from this improving young team with Kieran Lopez and Calum Boyd in central defence forging a particularly strong partnership.'

A jackpot of £1,000 is up for grabs this week in Fort William FC's weekly lotto draw. Numbers last week were 7-9-10.

Lochaber Leisure round season off in style



Champs: Lochaber Leisure captain Stevie Martin accepts the trophy from Ali Young's grandchildren Caitlin and Aiden. 20_f20ali01

INDOOR FOOTBALL

LEAGUE champions Lochaber Leisure rounded off the Ali Young Indoor Football season with a comfortable 3-0 win against bottom club Bayern Bru at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

The team, who finished 14 points clear of the chasing pack, were presented with the league trophy before the game.

TNF United sealed the runners up spot with a 4-1 win against HWEnergy No-Stars. Goon Squad's 8-4 victory over Livercaol saw them take third spot on goal difference from Achintore FC, who won 6-4 against Stroke City.

The night's other game saw 10th placed Granite House beat AA Young, who finished 11th, 3-2.



Iain Foggo and Mark Gillespie can't stop Graham Johnston firing in a shot. 20_f15foot02

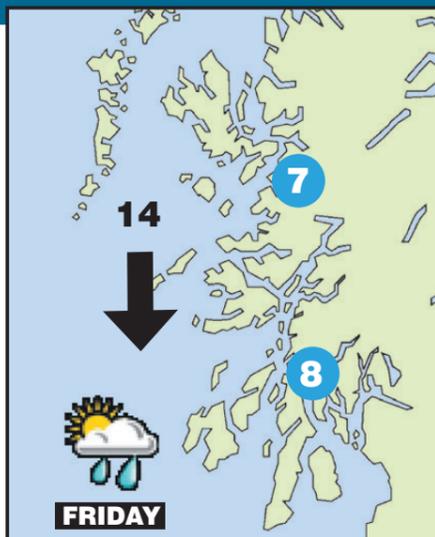
Weather

Thursday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate northerly
Temperatures 3°C to 9°C

Friday Sunny intervals with scattered showers
Winds moderate northerly
Temperatures 1°C to 8°C.

Weekend Light rain showers
Outlook Winds moderate north, north easterly
Temperatures 0°C to 8°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 12, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.39 0.9 09.17 3.1 16.02 1.1 21.54 3.2	
Fri	04.40 1.2 10.23 2.8 17.07 1.3 23.18 3.0	
Sat	05.52 1.5 12.41 2.6 18.25 1.5 *** **	
Sun	01.13 3.0 07.21 1.5 14.39 2.7 19.53 1.4	
Mon	02.30 3.1 08.46 1.5 15.37 2.9 21.03 1.3	
Tues	03.20 3.3 09.40 1.3 15.55 3.1 21.54 1.1	
Wed	03.56 3.4 10.19 1.2 16.16 3.3 22.36 1.1	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with



website: www.northwestmarine.co.uk
Address: 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG
Ph: 01631 565740 Fax: 01631 565780
email: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk