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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Sudden death of 17-year-old 'unexplained'

POLICE say the sudden death of a 17-year-old man in Oban is being treated as unexplained and are continuing with their enquiries. Emergency services received a report of the sudden death of the teenager, named locally as Scott Goldie, in the early hours of Tuesday morning and attended an address in Scalpay Terrace. A police spokesman said a post mortem would be held in due course to determine the cause of death and a full report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Watersports centre fire started deliberately

AN INVESTIGATION into a blaze at Lochearnhead Watersports Centre has concluded the fire was started deliberately. Emergency services were called to centre at about 9.40pm last Saturday and following early enquiries Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire Service have begun an investigation. The premises - a busy tourist attraction in the Trossachs during the summer - were vacant at the time of the fire, having been closed over the winter. Any witnesses, or anyone with information about the fire should contact Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Bogus callers

A CRACKDOWN on bogus callers and rogue workmen is underway throughout the Highlands and Islands as part of a Police Scotland operation named Monarda-2. The operation will see additional roadside checks and patrols and follow ups to reports of suspect workmen.



All smiles at Dalmally daffodil tea

Kind-hearted pupils at Dalmally Primary School hosted a daffodil tea on April 2 and raised £170 for Marie Curie Cancer Care and Macmillan Cancer Support. The sun was shining for the children as they manned their Easter-themed daffodil, spring garden and home-baking stalls. The pupils wanted to fundraise for the two charities because of the remarkable work they do for people suffering from cancer. Sam Martin, Aoife McGuire and Corrin Rider are pictured showing off their colourful Easter bonnets in the school's daffodil garden. 16_115daffodil01

Top cop vows to make Argyll roads safer

ARGYLL'S top police officer has pledged to make the county's roads safer in the wake of two car crashes within a week in the area.



Both drivers escaped without serious injury after this head on collision on the A819 near to its Cladich junction. 16_115car01

One woman remains in hospital after a serious crash on the A83 near Furnace on Sunday afternoon and a man had to be airlifted following a head-on collision last Wednesday on the A819 near Dalmally. Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan, area commander for L Division (Argyll and West Dunbartonshire), plans to reinstate a dedicated road policing unit within Argyll - the county had nine fatalities on its roads last year - and he has already taken steps to increase patrols on the roads ahead of this summer season.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It is coming to that time of year when we see more motorists on the road - locals and visitors. Having just completed our local policing plan, 10 out of the 11 council wards within the division tell me that road policing is the main priority for this area. I had more people killed on roads last year than were killed through violence and more people seriously injured on the roads than were seriously injured through violence and that shows me what the priority is.' Explaining that, short term, more traffic police and unmarked cars from other divisions and the national trunk roads policing unit would patrol Argyll, he added: 'This is not about tickets and figures, it is about keeping people alive.' Long term, Chief Superintendent McEwan wants to create a 'bespoke road policing unit' for Argyll to target dangerous drivers but admitted this could not come into effect in time for this year's busy summer season. The plan reverses a decision taken prior to Chief Superintendent McEwan's tenure, to dismantle the road policing unit in Argyll and bring traffic police officers in to supplement the regular shift pattern. In a summary of the first year under Police Scotland, Argyll's area commander Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie said: 'With nine fatalities in our area last year road policing will be a priority and I am looking at ways of building on the existing partnerships that we have with key stakeholders, establishing a stand alone Road Policing Department with responsibility for policing our trunk roads in Oban, Campbeltown and Lochgilphead and the surrounding area.' The crash on the A83 on Sunday involved seven people and occurred when a Honda CRV vehicle and a Vauxhall Safira collided at 4pm on the road between Furnace and Auchindrain. Three occupants of the Honda and four occupants of the Vauxhall car were injured during the incident and were taken by road and air ambulance to hospitals in Lochgilphead, Oban and Glasgow. As *The Oban Times* went to press, a 40-year-old Argyll woman was still receiving care in hospital. Last Wednesday's head on collision involved a Seat and a Nissan on the A819 near to its Cladich junction. The driver of the Nissan was airlifted to the Southern General in Glasgow as a precaution and the Seat driver was taken by ambulance to Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban but was discharged after treatment there.

Oban mourns death of town stalwart

A COMMUNITY stalwart of Oban has died at the age of 88 after a short illness. James 'Larry' Forgiveve was involved in a plethora of community organisations, from drama to sport, and is best known throughout the Highlands as a talented shinty player. The former Oban Celtic player won three Camanachd Cup

medals in 1949, 1954 and 1960 and took great pride in refereeing the final of the same competition in 1967. He was also a past captain of Glencruitten Golf Club and played football for Oban Hearts. James was also an associate member of Oban Gaelic Choir and was a regular at Royal National Mòds. He was a

founding member of Oban Speakers Club, a past chairman of Oban Burns Club, an elder and Sunday school teacher at Oban Parish Church and a member of both Spotlight Musical Theatre Group and the church's dramatic club. Following his death last Saturday, the Forgiveve family said that James' wide interest in

local groups meant he rarely had a night in. Nephew Duncan Forgiveve said: 'He was always smiling. That's how we'll remember him. He was liked by everyone, young and old, and was one of Oban's great characters.' The funeral takes place today (Thursday) in Oban Parish Church at 10.30am.



James 'Larry' Forgiveve, who died last Saturday.

Publisher set to drop Kilbowie House deal

THE PUBLISHING company that has offered to buy the empty Kilbowie House in Oban has threatened to pull out of negotiations after learning the property could be re-advertised. Oban, Lorn and the Isles councillors were due to decide yesterday (Wednesday) whether to approve a recommendation by Argyll and Bute Council officers to re-advertise their property, on advice that 10 parties had expressed interest in the premises. But Swedish-based Bombadil Publishing claims it was told its joint bid with Deanway Development Ltd was the only one being considered by the council. Bombadil Publishing, which specialises in books written by young people, for young people, had struck a deal with Edinburgh firm Deanway Development to submit a joint bid for the Grade B listed former hostel on Gallanach Road. The proposal would see Deanway outline plans to build two or three homes on the land associated with the house, with the council set to benefit

from 60 per cent of the profits from the proceeds of sale. Bombadil, meanwhile, would repeat its offer of £2,080 for the building listed at £450,000, with revised surveys suggesting restoring the neglected building could cost close to £1million. Bombadil's chief executive Marianne Rugar Jarvstrat said: 'Apparently a report was given to the elected representatives suggesting that the house is re-advertised because of substantial interest in the house. 'Apparently 10 people have come forward wishing to buy the house. Incredible. 'It is incredible because I was told by the council at the end of March that we were the only interested party and our lawyer was told the same. 'Either the council withheld the truth from us and have strung us along, potentially stifling the growth of our company, or they are not telling the truth to the elected members, which is much worse. 'Either way, I am shocked and saddened. If

this deal does not go through, we will have to withdraw our offer. We have already waited since October.' Bombadil believed it could create up to 14 jobs at a new office in Kilbowie. The company's previous offer of £2,080, which represented 0.4 per cent of the council's asking price, was previously considered 'derisory' by Oban, Lorn and Isles Area Committee. Argyll and Bute Council could not comment on Bombadil's claims ahead of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee meeting, as the item has been marked as exempt from public. The reasons for exemption, the council said, were: 'The amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services,' and 'any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.'

Starting after Easter
New Adult Classes in Oban

- Computing for beginners and beyond - daytime and evening classes
- Computing for over 60's daytime class on Tuesday mornings
- Digital Photography, Tuesdays 5.30 - 7.30 from 29th April for 8 weeks
- Driving Theory Classes. Evening sessions
- ESOL (English for Speakers of other languages) Tuesdays 2 - 4 pm
- Creative Crafts Wednesday 10.30 - 12.30
- Hands on Art various classes
- Free confidential support for adults who are looking to improve their reading, writing and number skills
- Job Information Club Fridays 10 - 12 noon

For more information and to book please contact
Lorn Community Learning Centre, Willowview
Lower Soroba, Oban PA34 4SB
01631 567979/567974 or email us
patricia.slater@argyll-bute.gov.uk
laura.cumming@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute Council
Community Learning and Development
Fee waivers and senior discounts available.

Public Meeting

The Case for a **YES Vote**
Chairman Ian Hamilton QC
TONIGHT
Thurs 7.30pm
Corran Halls, Oban
Admission Free

TOMMY SHERIDAN

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Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NZ
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Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NZ
Tel/Fax 01631 564443

Nominate your Volunteer of the Year

ARGYLL Voluntary Action is calling for nominations for Volunteer of the Year, with the deadline of April 18 fast approaching.

The theme this year is 'The Age of Integration' and celebrates the increased role the third sector is playing in supporting the delivery of public services in partnership with health and social care partners.

Lead councillor for community and culture Councillor Robin Currie said: 'The work of volunteers is immeasurable and this award ceremony goes some way towards highlighting their hard work and tireless commitment.'

The categories are: Individual Volunteer of the Year, Young Volunteer of the Year, Voluntary/Community Group or Organisation of the Year, Social Enterprise Volunteer of the Year, Regional Timebank Heroes and Health Volunteer of the Year. The award ceremony will take place on Friday June 13 in the council chambers at Kilmory.

To make your nominations and to apply for tickets to the ceremony, go to argyllcommunities.org.

MG Alba wins top award at media festival

MG ALBA won a top award at the 35th Celtic Media Festival in Cornwall last week.

The Gaelic media service picked up 'Best App' for its Learn Gaelic app, which can be downloaded onto smart phones and tablets. The LearnGaelic Beginner's Course: Buntús Cainte app is the world's first tablet app for learners of Scottish and Irish Gaelic.

MG Alba teamed up with Irish social enterprise 32 Points Ltd to produce the package, which offers 60 lessons, more than 1,000 illustrations, 1,800 native speaker audio files and 1,800 test questions and learning games. Alan Esslemont, head of content at MG ALBA, said the award was 'fantastic news'.

He added: 'We have worked very hard on this application and pride ourselves...with creating a learning tool as effective and rich as any app produced for major world languages.'

Fundraising day postponed

AN OPEN day at The Ark Hairdressing in Oban, held as part of Earth Month to raise money for Water Aid, has been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances.

The salon was set to donate a day's work this coming Sunday but has now postponed this to Sunday May 11.



Gerry Boyle was given a warm send off by pupils at staff at Strath of Appin Primary School after 31 years as head teacher. 15_115boyle01

Strath of Appin head teacher retires after 31 years

THIRTY one years after taking the reins at Strath of Appin Primary School, head teacher Gerry Boyle has stood down from the role of head teacher.

At a retirement party last Thursday in the school, Mr Boyle pointed out he had spent half of his life at the school and that his first primary seven pupils would now be 42 years old.

He said: 'When I first got the job I asked Christine King, my predecessor, how long she had been here and she replied: 'Twenty years, but you won't be here that long'. I thought I would be here for six or seven years but it is a hard place to leave.'

'I have had really good colleagues to work with and they make the place what it is. It has been a privilege being head teacher here.'

The outgoing head teacher received a personalised '31-year-old' bottle of whisky and, like every primary seven pupil who leaves the school, he was presented with his own memory book of his time there.

Mr Boyle will be succeeded in the interim by Christine MacLean before Marissa Melville takes over the role permanently in June.

Asked about the changes he has seen over three decades at the school, he told *The Oban Times*: 'It is remarkable

how much children are like their parents, and how much parents are like their children!'

Morag MacNeil, chairwoman of Strath of Appin Parent Council, said: 'I would like to thank Mr Boyle for the energy, support, encouragement and commitment he has given the children, school and parent council. There have been so many children that you have nurtured along the way and you have made a real difference to all their lives.'

Mr Boyle, who lives in North Connel, will spend his first summer in retirement as a volunteer at this summer's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Best of Argyll and the islands on show at VisitScotland Expo



Callum Ross, VisitScotland board member, vice chairman of Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative and owner of Loch Melfort Hotel and Restaurant joins members of the Argyll and the Islands Tourism Co-operative team at the VisitScotland Expo.

ARGYLL and the islands have been given the best exposure possible at last week's two-day VisitScotland Expo in Glasgow as the area's stand proved to be one of the hottest.

Nearly 1,000 companies from the UK and around the world descended on Glasgow's SECC to view the cream of what Scotland's tourism sector has to offer.

Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC) chairwoman Connie Lovel said: 'This is the third year running we have had space at the show and the feedback just keeps getting better and better. Our stand showcased some of the very best of Argyll and the Isles, so it's not surprising it generated a great deal of interest.'

'I'm confident we made a big enough impression on many of the VisitScotland expo visitors so that they'll make sure Argyll and the Isles is on their agenda in the future, even if they've

somehow managed to overlook it in the past.'

She added that the hard work over the last few years to promote the area seemed to be paying off with good feedback at the Expo.

'Many of our existing partners took the time to come and tell us that Argyll and the Isles is increasingly becoming an even better place to visit and to do business with, and that's exactly what we're trying to achieve,' said Connie.

Vice chairman Calum Ross added that they had been able to listen to ideas and suggestions on how to improve and meet visitors' wants and needs.

'I'd like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make sure we took maximum advantage of the various opportunities which the VisitScotland expo provides,' he said, adding: 'AITC is delighted with how it went, and we'll now return to preparing for what we hope will be a bumper tourist season.'

Runner on his marks for Skye challenge

AN ISLE of Skye ferry steward will set off from Armadale at 10am tomorrow morning on a non-stop 125-mile run round the island without sleep in aid of charity.

Alistair MacPherson - known locally as 'Ally K' - aims to reach Somerled Square in Portree around 9pm on Saturday, where his children Eilidh and Lewis will be holding the finishing tape.

The gruelling 35-hour challenge in aid of Cancer Research UK will take him from Sleat to Sligachan and on to Dunvegan, Portree, Uig and back to Portree via Staffin.

The CalMac worker has lost a stone to reach peak condition and reckons he will burn off 18,000 calories during the run - the equivalent of a week's food.

Ally, who works on the *MY Hebrides* on the Uig-Tarbert-Lochmaddy route, lived a typical pub musician's lifestyle until he caught the running bug a few years ago.

He ditched the booze and fags, and has been pounding the roads - and the ferry deck - in a punishing training regime to prepare himself.

Ally, 35, told *The Oban Times*: 'I'm quite well known on Skye because I play the pipes and accordion. Without being big-headed, if I told folk five years ago that I would be doing this they would never have believed me.'

'I started training in January and have run around 1,000 miles, about 100 miles a week on average. There's nothing else I can do now except go for it. My physical condition is fine.'

'My intention is to walk a lot of the hills and run all flats and downs. I'll feed up on jam sandwiches, tomato soup and bread, and electrolyte gels on the uphill sections.'

'My Wife Donna thinks I'm mad but she has been very supportive. She has even taken up jogging and is coming out do a few miles with me as well. The kids are quite proud of their dad for doing this.'

Ally, from Portree, was inspired by Skye athlete Donnie Campbell who in 2011 ran 184 miles from Milngavie to Portree in 44 hours to raise £6,000 for Skye Cancer Care.

Mull woman Caroline MacKay's 127-mile run round the island in 2012 in aid of coastal conservation also fired his imagination.

'I wanted to do something big,' Ally said. 'But it had to be on Skye so people could cheer me along the way. Without that it would be ten times harder.'

'Doing 125 miles in 35 hours will be tough - I'll only be stopping to change my socks every 20 miles and my shoes every 30 miles. And on Saturday I might need ice for my feet because they might swell up.'

Ally will have two support vans carrying food and gear, while medical back-up will also be on hand. Local runners will jog with Ally on sections along the way.

He said: 'Stephen Moran, the local GP in Dunvegan, will be on call this weekend. He and I will open the surgery if required - which I hope it won't be.'

'When you have people joining you and folk cheering you on going through the villages that will keep you going.'

He added: 'It's a lonely place out there but with the support of the people I don't foresee any problems.'

The only big unknown is the weather. Running in a howling gale and lashing rain would not be nice.'

To donate visit www.justgiving.com/allykrunksky

Mentor confident 'Ally K' can complete 125-miles

ALLY'S training mentor is Portree athlete Hugh Campbell, who has won the Portree half-marathon three times.

Hugh, 28, told *The Oban Times*: 'Ally has already raised £5,000 on his just giving page. He set a target of £8,000 but it will go higher than that. I told him this is a big challenge and you have to train like a professional athlete.'

'He has not been taking caffeine so when he takes it during the night he will get a bigger hit from it to keep him going.'

'He is feeling a wee bit nervous but that is completely natural because this is a huge challenge.'

'Going 125 miles round Skye

and its relentless hills will be tough. All we need now is the weather and I'm sure it will go well. Temperatures can be quite high in April so we need to make sure he gets plenty of fluids.'

Hugh added: 'Ally's children Eilidh and Lewis will be holding the tape at the finish. In the last couple of miles the thought of that will keep him going.'

'He is determined enough - he's done the mileage including some 20 and 30 mile-runs back-to-back. The main issue now is staying injury-free - an in-grown toe-nail could mess everything up. I am confident he will do it knowing the character of the man.'



'Ally K': ready for 125-mile challenge.



Eye to eye with John Wallace

Exciting Times

In April every year I head off to Chicago for the only optometric conference in the world specialising solely in corneal reshaping and myopia control. This area of my practice is hugely exciting. I can now, with confidence, tell my young patients and their parents it is possible to dramatically reduce any potential increase in myopia (short-sightedness). I have been practicing myopia control for over two years and recently have seen several youngsters who entered my myopia control programme right at the start.

examination every year. This is particularly true of youngsters aged nine to ten years and upwards. It is very obvious to a trained observer when a child is about to become myopic. These children are usually ideal candidates for entering a myopia control programme. My own anecdotal observations suggest they are the most successful in limiting any myopic development.

For children who are already myopic it is still possible to limit any future myopic development. In some articles recently published in the US even highly myopic children appear to benefit from a myopia control programmed intervention. My own anecdotal experience, and that of many of my myopia control colleagues, indicates it is possible to almost stop any further progression in these children's myopia. While it's always better to commence early treatment, children and adults with pre-existing myopia will still benefit from a myopia control programme.

As in all practices not all parents are willing or able to let their myopic children receive this vision saving treatment modality. When I check the vision of these spectacle wearing children, every year there is a significant increase in their myopia. On the other hand, the children who have entered my myopia control programme very rarely have any increase in their level of correction. In an ideal world all children should have an eye

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

Public gets say on Lews Castle restoration

THE PUBLIC is being invited to contribute their suggestions on restoring Lews Castle grounds at a drop-in session in Stornoway on April 19.

Draft proposals for the project, which is being developed by the Stornoway Trust and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, will be on display on the upper floor of the Woodlands Centre beside the castle green.

The event from 10.30am to 4.30pm will include presentations on the project and guided walks around the area.

An update on progress with the Lews Castle Museum and Archive project, currently under construction and scheduled to open in the summer of 2015, will also be given on the day.

Meanwhile, volunteers are needed for a range of tasks over the next few weeks including visitor surveys and a spring clean campaign round the castle.

Anyone wishing to help should contact tina.maclean@cne-siar.gov.uk.



Birthday charity challenge success

Edinburgh man Harry Taylor, who lives in Edinburgh but has a holiday house in Achnandarrach, Plockton, decided to cycle from the city to the Lochalsh village along with 10 of his friends to celebrate his 60th birthday. They raised more than £1,200 and are dividing it between Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers and Friends of Plockton Play Area. Above, Harry, fourth from right, and his fellow fundraisers arrive in Plockton after their cycle from Edinburgh.

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Magnolia coming into flower at Arduaine.

AN ARGYLL gardener has warned horticultural enthusiasts not to miss out on the early season that is already underway, thanks to a largely frost-free winter.

Maurice Wilkins, head gardener at Arduaine Gardens,

south of Kilmelford, says his rhododendrons and magnolias are coming into flower in profusion, far earlier than usual. 'It's going to be a very early season', said Maurice, 'so I'd encourage visitors not to leave it too late to come along.'

Museum lottery fund bid rejected

PLANS to expand Kilmartin Museum received a setback this week as a £3.9 million application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) was rejected.

But HLF has told museum bosses it may look more favourably on an application for a lesser sum of money and that a second application could be assessed within months. The news comes after the museum unveiled plans for a £6.9 million expansion

last year. More than doubling in size, the museum would have additional space to display artefacts found in Kilmartin Glen, a state of the art education room, temporary exhibition centre and larger café.

Kay Owen, development administrative officer at the museum, said: 'Feedback from the Heritage Lottery Fund is that they recognise the international significance of Argyll's heritage and the important role

that Kilmartin Museum plays in conserving and telling the story of this heritage. HLF praised the quality of the application but advised that due to very high demand for funds, proposals would need to offer better value for money in order to be competitive with other projects.'

The museum has been invited to submit another funding application in June but said a definitive date had not yet been set.

West Harris Trust celebrates £1m backing

PLANS for a social and economic hub to serve a remote Western Isles community have taken a giant leap forward thanks to a £1m grant.

Community landowners the West Harris Trust have been awarded £1,090,247 by the Big Lottery Fund to build a community enterprise centre at Rubha Romagaidh, Horgabost, featuring a hall and café as well as studio space aimed at the arts and media industries.

The hub will also include caravan hook-ups, polytunnels and a play area and

members of the trust, which manages land on the west side of the island, hope it will boost employment and tourism in the area.

The project will also provide infrastructure for six affordable houses to benefit existing residents and attract young families.

West Harris Trust chairman Murdo Mackay said: 'We're absolutely delighted to receive this funding. It was one of the crucial ones we applied for. We already have planning permission so everything seems to be falling into place now. We're calling it the enterprise centre because it's so much more

than a community hall. It will bring jobs and money into the area and will benefit the local community and tourists.'

Work on the centre is expected to begin in late summer and take between nine to 12 months.

Alan Dickson of Rural Design Ltd, the architects behind the plan, said: 'We are delighted to be involved in a this project. It is a very special part of the world and we really look forward to seeing the contribution the building will make to the West Harris community.'

Lorn Lines

CHILDREN exchanged news about their school with former pupils during a fund-raising bag-packing event at Oban's Tesco store.

Many of the school's youngsters, accompanied by a parent or carer took an hour at the busy tills on Saturday (March 29).

A great many past pupils enjoyed hearing what good things the money was to be used for and enjoyed seeing the pupils in their uniforms. Some even reminisced about the old, old St Columba's

Primary School in Glencruit-ten Road.

The children did a great job and were very helpful and kind leading to £326 being raised.

The school has many projects on the go with a few more up and coming and the money will be of great assistance.

The children and school would like to thank all the customers who kindly donated and to all the families who turned out to support the children on the day.



Jamie Wilson, Justin MacIver, Calan McGuigan, Sophie MacGregor and his sister Emma MacGregor take a wee break from their bag packing duties.

□□□



Children from Happy House Christian pre-school learned more about the culture of their Polish families by having a Polish day recently. They made flags and shakers, shared Polish snacks and listened to traditional songs and stories.

Appeal for car vandal witnesses

POLICE in Oban are keen to hear from witnesses to two incidents of vandalism in the town on Sunday night.

At 8.30pm police received a report of damage to the rear windscreen of a silver Vauxhall Corsa parked on George Street.

Around three hours later they received a call from a householder on Soroba Road who said a door to their property had been damaged.

Billy released from 'hellhole' Indian jail after six months

AFTER six months in a 'hellhole' Indian jail, getting out last Saturday was a 'surreal' experience for former soldier Billy Irving from Connel.

Waiting for him outside with a hug and a kiss was partner Yvonne MacHugh - who promptly whisked him off in a limo to the comfort of a hotel.

'The pair had huge smiles on their faces, I'm delighted for them,' said Billy's father, Jim, a former Appin policeman now living in France.

'He said it was surreal for him.'

Yvonne had made the surprise visit to India to meet Billy when he was finally released on bail on condition he remains in India.

Billy, 33, a former Campbelltown Grammar pupil, was among the 35 crew of an anti-piracy ship who have been held on charges of illegally entering Indian waters, possessing arms and ammunition and illegally procuring diesel.

The vessel, Seaman Guard Ohio, is owned by US marine security firm AdvanFort which denies all charges.

All of the crew have been

granted bail except the captain and security manager due to their senior status.

Legal moves are already underway to have the charges quashed, and Billy's family remain hopeful that will happen soon.

Jim Irving added: 'I've spoken to Billy and he's doing remarkably well considering what he and the others had to endure in that hellhole of a prison.'

Billy's best friend, Shaun McDaniel from Campbelltown, told The Oban Times: 'It's great

he's out. He has left a message of Facebook thanking everyone for their support. 'Hopefully, the charges will be quashed and he'll be home soon.'

The news of Billy's release from prison was celebrated by his team mates at Tainuit Shinty Club. Club manager Davie Thomson said: 'It has given the boys a huge lift. We've obviously spoken about Billy's situation a lot. The boys want to get a win this weekend against Oban Celtic to mark his release from jail.'

families of the detainees, Yvonne, 25, started a petition which gathered 147,000 signatures calling for the men's release. It was recently handed to Downing Street.

The International Organisation of Masters, Mates and Pilots (MMP) has said the crewmen and guards were being subjected to 'inhuman' conditions in prison.

Spokesman Captain James Staples said they were 'deprived of proper medical treatment, bathing facilities and adequate food'.



Billy Irving and partner Yvonne MacHugh before he joined the crew of Seaman Guard Ohio.

Oban producer in running for BAFTA

A DOCUMENTARY producer from Oban is in the running for a British Academy of Film and Television Arts award for her work on a film about John F Kennedy.

Lorraine McKechnie is producer of The Day Kennedy Died, which was this week nominated in the Arqiva British Academy Television Awards in the Single Documentary category. The film is narrated by Hollywood star Kevin Spacey. This year's ceremony will be held at the Theatre Royal, London, on May 18.

The other nominees for Single Documentary are 28 Up South Africa; The Murder Trial and The Unspeakable Crime: Rape.

Phone and watch stolen from changing rooms

AN IPHONE 5 and a diving watch have been reported stolen from changing rooms at Isle of Mull Rugby Club at Garmony on the island.

The items are thought to have a combined value of around £500 and were taken on Saturday March 15. Police Scotland, who received the report last Thursday, are keen to hear from anyone who may have information about the theft.



Stonemasons' breathtaking view from 'office'

Have you seen the view from my office? Stonemasons from Heritage Consolidation have had a spectacular view of Kerrera while waterproofing the tops of the walls at Dunollie Castle over the past fortnight as part of work to refurbish the ancestral home of the Clan MacDougall. It is believed the resealing work, using a mixture of lime and sand from Torosay on Mull, is the first full refurbishment ever undertaken on the structure. Keep an eye out for our feature on developments at Dunollie in a forthcoming edition of The Oban Times. 15_115dunollie02

Society tunes up for 70th annual concert

A PIANIST who joined the Oban Strathspey and Reel Society orchestra in 1950 and a 13-year-old debutant are just two of those taking part in the society's 70th annual concert this month.

Oban's strathspey and reel exponents are fine tuning their programme for the concert on April 26. Pianist Margaret Fletcher joined the orchestra in 1950 and is no stranger to public performance, whereas the youngest musician in the group, 13-year-old Ross MacLeish, is making his debut with the orchestra but is not in the least perturbed about joining the senior fiddlers. Other stalwarts in the orchestra include Pat Murphy, who not only plays his fiddle, but creates fiddles for many of the performers, and travelling from Glendaruel is accordionist Barbara MacNaughton who has been a regular since 1975.

Conductor Helen Jordan has assembled an intriguing programme of old favourites and new tunes including Bobby MacLeod's classic Jean's Reel and MacLeod's Oran Mor.

Mary Ann Kennedy's singing is sure to delight the audience, and the orchestra's rendering of Highland Cathedral is guaranteed to be memorable.

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Morvern Lines

IT IS not often people in Morvern complain about airborne dust, but this week car owners and gardeners awoke to find their vehicles and greenhouse roofs covered in a thin layer of the stuff.

This attractive red deposit did not come from Scotland's industrial belt, but from far away North Africa – the Sahara Desert to be precise. It was borne along by strong south, south-east winds and dropped on us by the recent heavy rain. So far there are no dhows or feluccas tied up alongside the Loch Aline pontoons and no camels grazing in the White Glen yet.

I NEVER cease to be amazed where local items turn up. The latest find comes from Columbia, the capital and largest city in South Carolina, in the USA.

It is an antique, silver watch fob in the form of a medallion. This handsome piece of art work shows a stallion, cow, sheep, pig and a cockerel, with farm implements in the background. It is inscribed: 'Mull and Morvern Agricultural Society 1929. Black faced sheep – best shearing top bred in district. Won by G Craig-Sellar Esq of Ardnornish.'

I know that at the time of the Clearances a number of families left Morvern for Carolina but I haven't heard of anyone with farming interests emigrating after 1929 which, incidentally, was the year Gerard Craig-Sellar died, so how did it get out there? Perhaps someone in Mull holds the society's records and could throw more light on the subject?



Right: The Mull and Morvern Agricultural Society 1929 medal which turned up in South Carolina.

APRIL Fool's Day, sometimes called All Fool's Day, is one of the most light-hearted days in the calendar. Its origins are uncertain but it is observed throughout the Western world.

Practices include sending someone on a fool's errand; looking for things that don't exist; playing pranks and trying to get people to believe ridiculous things.

Full marks to Morvern Community Council and the editor of our local community newspaper who, between them, produced, right on cue, one of the best April Fool jokes for a long time.

This one is about a wooden shed/hut to be used for storing equipment for a one-week-in-the-year event. Obviously no ordinary shed. The 'Knock Byre', as it was to be called, attracted a £10,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund but it seems that wasn't enough because according to the leg-pull, another £5,000 would have to be found from one of the community's many piggy-banks.

However, we are told, for such a princely sum this bespoke shelter - which would no doubt benefit the local sheep and cattle for the remaining 51 weeks of the year - would be built of local timber. Hooray! Well done pranksters but you've been rumbled. Wait a minute though; this is a joke isn't it?

A FEW weeks ago caves featured in this column and attracted some interest. There is another with an interesting history which was omitted from the list.

It is called 'Mary MacFie's Cave' near the farm of Cameron on the south shore of Lochbuie on Mull.

Mary, who lived in the 1840s, was an eccentric and something of a recluse whose only companion was a dog called 'Sonachan'.

When he died she embalmed his body in extra-proof whisky and put it on a dry ledge a few yards away from the mouth of her cave where she could see it every day.

The animal, a mongrel about the size of an ordinary fox-terrier, was once blamed for stealing and eating some herring-net buoys made of sheep's bladders.

Mary resented the accusation and composed a Gaelic song clearing his name. The ditty became so popular at the time that the laird's wife, Mrs McLaine of Lochbuie, set it to dance music.

When Mary died she was buried alongside her father in the old burial ground at Laggan across the loch from her cave. For many years poor 'Sonachan's' body remained in its rocky tomb until it eventually disintegrated and disappeared when the unusual embalming process stopped.

A HUNDRED years ago this month, the death occurred in Morvern of James Dempster, aged 82, at Doirenamairt, on the north shores of Loch Arianas.

Mr Dempster was a shepherd on Ardnornish Estate for 52 years and the last surviving member of a large family. His ancestors were a long-lived race.

His father, David Dempster, lived to be a centenarian and was a shepherd at Glenhurich near Strontian, for more than 60 years.

He was born towards the end of the 18th century, lived throughout the whole of the 19th century and died after having lived during the first two years of the 20th century – a rare record to have lived in three centuries.

Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com.

Wife inspires sailor to pull on walking boots

A RENOWNED sailor will this month swap his lifejacket for walking boots as he embarks on the challenge of a lifetime in recognition of his wife and sailing companion.

Alistair Pratt, who works for several months of the year at Ardfern Yacht Centre, lost his wife Margot to cancer in September 2013 after completing a lifetime of sailing challenges together.

Now Alistair and the couple's beloved dog Tess will leave their yacht at home on the Isle of Lewis and walk the 230 miles to the family's former home, the Isle of Arran.

Explaining the inspiration behind the walk, which will raise cash for Macmillan Cancer Support, Alistair said: 'It was Margot's wish to have her ashes scattered on the beautiful Reef Beach on Lewis and on the dramatic summit of Goatfell. Our aim is to be on the top of Goatfell on May 26, which would have been Margot's 69th birthday. The main reason I want to do this walk is to remember Margot who for six years handled her illness so very well with such a positive and upbeat attitude.'

'I also want to repay Macmillan Cancer Support for all that they have done and for all the support and effort the Macmillan nurses put in.' Tess and Alistair



Alistair Pratt and his dog Tess will take on a 230-mile walk next month in memory of his wife Margot.

will set off on their three-week challenge from Reef Beach on May 1 and walk on islands Harris, Berneray, North Uist, Benbecula and South Uist. 'We'll then catch the ferry to Arran and walk from there via Ardfern on the Craignish Peninsula on to Skipness on the Mull of Kintyre, before taking the final ferry trip

to Lochranza on Arran,' Alistair said. The expedition will focus on old drovers roads and forestry tracks, while good friend David Wilkie, from Kilmelford, will drive the campervan that will provide accommodation throughout the trip.

Well-known in west coast sailing circles, experienced yachting

couple Alistair and Margot had completed three Atlantic passages as well as voyages around the north of Norway, Greenland, Iceland and the west coast of Scotland on their yacht.

A holder of the Tilman Medal for Sailing and Mountaineering in High Latitudes, Alistair retired from running an outdoor

activity centre on Arran. He now works part-time at Ardfern Yacht Centre. A charity hog roast will take place at Ardfern Yacht Centre on May 17 in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, as Alistair passes through Mid Argyll. Donations can be made on-line at www.macmillan.tributefunds.com.

Holiday break from traffic lights

TRAFFIC lights on the A82 at Glen Righ south of Fort William will be removed in time for Easter. Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) has announced.

The route has been down to one lane for the past month to allow contractors to stabilise a steep slope ahead of felling operations.

The commission says traffic management at Glen Righ will be lifted by tomorrow (Friday) and will not return until after the holiday period.

Alex MacLeod, who is managing the A82 project for the commission, said more than 15 tonnes of loose material had been removed using crowbars and rubble chutes.

Rockfall netting and rock bolts on some crags for additional protection have also been installed. He added: 'As usual the local people and road users have been very understanding and we'd like to thank them for their tolerance as we crack on with this job.'

Harvesting is currently ongoing on steep ground at Invermoriston as part of the work to complete the new Great Glen Way route. Traffic lights will not return to the Glen Righ site before April 28, an FCS spokesperson told *The Oban Times*.

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Oban Sheriff Court

AN OBAN man was fined £350 for possession of heroin when he appeared before Oban Sheriff Court last week.

David McCallum, aged 38, whose address was given as An Culltuin, Hazeldean Crescent, Oban, admitted the offence, which happened in the car park at Oban's Tesco store on November 30 last year.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said that plain-clothes police officers were dealing with a separate incident at the store when they saw two known drug-users loitering.

'The officers become suspicious and then saw the accused approach these people and then leave. He was stopped by the police and searched. They found two wraps of heroin containing a total of 0.8 grammes.'

The fiscal said this had a street value of £80 but McCallum's defence agent, Jane Thomson, told the court her client only paid £40 for the drugs.

She described his actions as: 'A blip on a Saturday night out.'

A DRUG addict admitted that his life is so 'chaotic' he is not capable of taking part in a rehabilitation scheme.

Colin Cornelius, aged 38, who could not give Oban Sheriff Court a permanent address, had previously admitted possession of heroin on McCaig Road, Oban, on October 7 last year.

In January, sentence was deferred for him to undergo social reports for assessment for the drug treatment and testing order (DTTO) scheme; he failed

to keep appointments and twice failed to turn up for court hearings.

His defence agent Jane Thomson told the court last week: 'There is not much more to say; he doesn't live in Oban any more, he does not have any permanent address and is not even in receipt of benefits. He comes to Oban to visit friends. The way his life is right now he admits his life is so chaotic he could not adhere to the rigours of a DTTO. He accepts that a sentence is all he can look at.'

Sheriff Douglas Small told him: 'You leave me no alternative but to give you a custodial sentence in this matter. 'You do have a record, you have been a frequent appearer in this court, no doubt because of your drug addiction.'

He sent Cornelius down for four months.

A MAN who admitted assaulting his partner after a night out by seizing her by the arms and pushing her, causing her to fall and strike her head, has had his sentence deferred to be of good behaviour.

Thirty-three-year-old Declan O'Rourke, of 14c Craigard Road, Oban, pled guilty to the charge at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

A first-time offender, O'Rourke recalled little of the night's events, said his defence agent, 'as he had drunk much more than he normally consumed.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I have been provided with a number of favourable references on your behalf. It seems to me

this incident occurred because you had far too much to drink.'

O'Rourke must return to court again on January 6 next year.

AN OBAN drug dealer had £475 seized at a proceeds of crime hearing at Oban Sheriff Court.

The money was found at his home during a police search when heroin with a potential street value of more than £9,000 was also discovered.

Robert David Lopez previously admitted being concerned in the supply of diamorphine, a class A drug, when 19 bags of heroin were found inside a rolled up carpet in the cellar at his home, 7a Longdale Crescent, Oban, on January 13.

Lopez, aged 24, was out on licence from prison at the time.

On March 4 Lopez was sent down for 545 days; part of the sentence he was serving while out on licence has been included in the calculation of his sentence. He forfeited the money at the hearing on Wednesday last week.

OBAN Sheriff Court was told of 'a piece of stupidity brought on by unaccustomed drunkenness' when a 17-year-old threatened younger teenagers in the town centre.

He approached them, was abusive and demanded cigarettes. He also pretended that he had a knife and would use it if they told anyone.

Luke Gordon, of 9 Nelson Road, Dalintart, Oban, admitted using threatening and abusive behaviour, shouting and swear-

ing and uttering threats of violence on October 4 last year.

He also admitted possessing cannabis when at Cruachan Terrace, Dunollie, on September 29. When searched by police 0.2g of herbal cannabis was discovered on him.

His defence agent Edward Thornton said Gordon had no recollection of the [town centre] incident, adding: 'It was a piece of stupidity brought on by unaccustomed drunkenness.'

Sheriff Douglas Small fined Gordon a total of £300.

AN OBAN woman with a history of drug abuse is being given the chance by Oban Sheriff Court to undertake a rehabilitation programme.

Linda Boa, aged 42, of Flat 3-2, 23 High Street, Oban, had previously pled guilty to being concerned in the supply of Diazepam, a class C drug, on November 28 last year at her home. She had her sentence deferred for social reports to see if she was a suitable candidate for a drug treatment and testing order.

When granting the order last week, Sheriff Douglas Small told her: 'You understand you have to do what your social worker tells you; it means you have to report to court as and when required.'

A GLASGOW pensioner came to Oban and went on a shoplifting spree, the town's sheriff court heard last week.

Frederick Loftus, aged 70, of Flat 1-2, 41 Lochgoyne Avenue, Glasgow, had previously admit-

ted four offences which all took place in shops around the town on March 5: he removed a quantity of bottles of spirits from a display at the Co-op and put them in his rucksack in an attempt to steal; he stole various items of children's clothing from The Factory Shop, toiletry items from Boots the Chemist and a quantity of cosmetics from Superdrug.

His case had been deferred until last week for a social work report.

'He seems to get some sort of buzz from this,' said Sheriff Douglas Small after reading the report.

Lotus' defence agent Gordon Seaton admitted: 'He does have a very unenviable record.'

Sheriff Small placed Loftus on a community payback order for 18 months; he must do 100 hours of unpaid work in the community and a supervision order is also attached.

A COUPLE taking their daughter to a hospital appointment in Glasgow were so shocked by another driver's actions they called the police.

As a result Daniel Penketh, an engineer based on Skye, lost his licence at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Penketh, aged 39, denied that he drove dangerously on the A85 between Fearnoch and Loch Awe village on October 10 last year, in the face of obvious and potential dangers.

Both the husband and wife, from Connell, gave evidence at the trial.

She told the court when Penketh overtook a log lorry: 'I put my head in my hands and said 'Oh my God'. I thought it was game over at that point.'

'Our whole family was in that one vehicle and there was a person driving a car like that. It was scary.'

Her husband told the court that when Penketh's Volvo came close behind them at Fearnoch and overtook his and two other cars it was 'a close call'.

They came up behind the Volvo near Cruachan Power Station behind a log lorry.

When Penketh overtook, the lorry and an oncoming car had to brake.

When they saw the car continue to overtake vehicles going into Loch Awe village they called the police.

Penketh, of Pienachorran, Braes, told the court he had held a driver's licence for 23 years and a motorcycle licence for 18 years.

'I believed I had enough time to complete the manoeuvres,' he told the court.

He added that he had not been overtaking dangerously; he had positioned his car and looked through bends to ensure the road ahead was clear before carrying out manoeuvres as he had been trained by a police motorcycle officer for his motorcycle test, using techniques recognised in the police road craft manual.

Finding Penketh guilty, Sheriff Douglas Small fined him £400, disqualified him from driving for one year and ordered he should retake his test.



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From left, wills executry registered paralegal Kellie Cooper and wills and executries clerks Mairi Macdonald hand over the MacPhee and Partners will month certificate to Lochaber Music Festival Association chairperson Lillian Macdonald and vice chairperson Margaret Sargent.

Music festival Will Aid fund boost

FORT William-based solicitors and estate agents MacPhee and Partners have chosen Lochaber Music Festival Association as the 2014 beneficiaries of its annual 'will month' initiative.

MacPhee's wills will donate their services to anyone making or adding to a will this month in return for clients making a donation to the association. All proceeds from the scheme will go to the organisation, which stages its annual festival in March with hundreds of local children and adults taking part. Lochaber Music Festival Association chairperson Lillian Macdonald said: 'We are very grateful to MacPhee and Partners for electing to support our charity in what is our 40th anniversary year.'

MacPhee's wills and executries clerk Mairi Macdonald said: 'Last year we assisted Care Lochaber which helps the elderly, so this year we are supporting the music festival which deals mostly with children.'

Lifeboat launched three times in nine hours

AFTER a relatively quiet start to the year, Oban Lifeboat was launched three times in just nine hours last week.

The lifeboat, accompanied by two paramedics, launched at 7.40pm last Thursday to evacuate a seriously ill, elderly man from the Isle of Mull to hospital in Oban.

Just three hours later she was launched to the aid of the yacht *Trekka* aground on rocks near Craobh Haven Marina with two people aboard.

After using her inflatable x-boat to inspect the damage, the lifeboat coxswain agreed with the yacht's crew to return next morning to help refloat the yacht on the rising tide.

However, by 4.30am the lifeboat was called back to the casualty, which now had engine problems and towed her to Craobh Haven Marina.

Bid4Oban meeting puts focus on events

BID4Oban is hosting a meeting in Oban's Corran Halls next week to find out how many events are going on in the Oban and Lorn area this year.

Any individual or organisation involved with running an event can attend the meeting on Wednesday April 16 at 6.30pm.

BID4Oban events manager Neil Mackay said this would be used to ensure events can offer a more inclusive and collaborative approach.

Mr Mackay and BID4Oban member Andrea Simpson attended the recent VisitScotland Tourism Expo as part of the Argyll and Isles Tourism Co-operative.

The pair met with cruise ship agents, transport companies and tour operators, encouraging interest in visiting Oban.

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Members of all three bands got together for an encore to finish off the successful night. Photographs by Kevin McGlynn.

One night, three bands, 750 people and £15,000 for charity



Skerryvore's Tíre brothers Martin, left, and Daniel Gillespie get into the party mood.

ONE NIGHT, three bands, an audience of 750 people and £15,000 raised - last Saturday's We'll Walk This Road Together concert was voted a unanimous success by everyone involved.

The charity concert in Oban's Corran Halls was organised by Oban couple Nonnie and Karen Macinnes and proved to be even more successful than the inaugural concert in September 2012.

Trad bands *Manran*, *Skerryvore* and Oban's own *Ceol an Aire* again took to the stage and worked the crowd up to a frenzy. The £15,000 raised will be divided between Cancer Research UK, Marie Curie Cancer Care's Highlands and Islands region and The Cherish Fund. Businesses in and around Oban covered the running costs through sponsorship, meaning any money made from ticket sales and a raffle went straight to charity.

Nonnie told *The Oban Times*: 'The bands were outstanding and



Organisers Karen and Nonnie Macinnes thank the crowd.

knew exactly what the night was all about. They all thoroughly enjoyed it too.

'I think everyone involved, from those helping to organise it to the people who bought a ticket, know what the concert is about. I think we are managing to reach the full age spectrum - we are not targeting a particular group of people - and there are not many events that create that level of awareness.' Although pleased with the

event's success, Nonnie ruled out hosting an annual concert.

Speaking on Tuesday, he said: 'It is a lot to ask local businesses to support running costs of around £8,000 every year. It might be the case that we do something every 18 months or two years but I can't think about that just now.'

Nonnie thanked the sponsors and everyone who helped put the concert together. 'The support was incredible,' he said.

Demand for more council action

Councillor claims more needs to be done to halt population decline

NOT ENOUGH is being done to reverse population decline in Argyll and Bute, according to a former lead councillor for economic development.

Kintyre councillor John Semple, who headed up economic development prior to changes to the council's administration last year, has this week claimed plans from the authority's economic development agency 'lack ambition'.

He also called on it to 'raise its game'. He said: 'I established an overarching aim for the council's economic development action plan which was to reverse population decline in the area.'

'The trouble with the plans from the new administration I have seen is that they lack ambition and look much like previous plans which failed to retain our young people or attract significant numbers of economically-active people to live here. The 10-year plans in development must be significantly different if they are going to have any impact on population decline. This may be the last opportunity to save many of our fragile communities.'

At last week's Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay Area Committee, Mr Semple proposed an addition to the local economic development action plan which would see the establishment of a forum.

Its aim would be to establish potential for international business and promote opportunities to that audience. He added: 'Many of the key

commercial enterprises which have developed here came about because of the ingenuity, expertise and local knowledge of our business community but yet, until now, the public sector does not engage fully with that community in the development of our economy.'

'A forum would focus on how, together, the business community and the council could encourage significant opportunities for employment in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay.' Council leader Dick Walsh said this week: 'The council is focused on taking all action we can to help grow our population, develop our economy and secure a prosperous future for the area. 'We are ambitious for our people and our area. This ambition must be founded on realistic actions and the recognition that the task of growing our population cannot be achieved by the council alone.'

This is being tackled through our Single Outcome Agreement which is a ten-year plan, developed with our partners, to grow our economy with a rising population. We are moving to area-based economic development action plans that prioritise the necessary key actions to stimulate sustainable growth in our communities. We are also planning a population summit to bring key local and national representatives together to focus on action needed to increase our population and full details will be announced shortly.'

Question and answer session

LOCHABER residents will have the chance to quiz cabinet secretary for rural affairs and the environment Richard Lochhead on Scottish independence at a question and answer session later this month.

Mr Lochhead will host the discussion in the Nevis Centre on April 22 along with Scotland's environment and climate change minister Paul Wheelhouse. Mr Lochhead said: 'I am delighted to be in Fort William to host the fifth of my public discussion sessions. It's crucial everyone who lives and works in Scotland considers and discusses with others the sort of country they want Scotland to be in the future.'

The session will start at 7.30pm. Places may be limited so to book a place go to www.scotreferendum.com/events or call 03002 442114.

Chamber debate

FORT William Chamber of Commerce will stage its next debate on Scottish independence next Friday - five months to the day before the referendum on September 18.

Guest speaker will be Liberal Democrat MP for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathpey and Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander.

The public event in the Alexandra Hotel runs from 7pm to 9pm.

Scottish secretary returns to Islay

SCOTTISH Secretary Alistair Carmichael is to return to his native Isle of Islay to host a question and answer session on UK Government policies.

The public meeting will be in Bowmore Hall on Tuesday April 22.

Kinlochleven mock vote favours union

KINLOCHLEVEN High School pupils have voted for Scotland to remain part of the United Kingdom in a mock independence referendum.

Asked the question 'Should Scotland be an independent country?', 51 to 56 pupils backed the Union by 93 votes to 57 on a 90 per cent turnout after a debate in the school on Friday.

Of pupils eligible to vote in the September 18 referendum, 43 said 'No' compared with 24 'Yes'.

Highlands and Islands MSP David Stewart, backed by pupils Callan McClymont and Mikey Harris, represented the Better Together campaign.

Skye Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson, supported by Owen Smith and Rowena MacIntosh, made the case for independence.

Speaking after the result, Mr Stewart said: 'The



David Stewart MSP with senior pupils Callan McClymont and Mikey Harris.

positive response from pupils today was a clear endorsement of the Better Together campaign and an acknowledgement that we get the best of both worlds as part of a strong and secure United

Kingdom with a successful devolved Scottish Parliament.'

Mr Thompson said: 'A lot of pupils voted 'yes' to Scotland's independence, and although today's result went in favour of the Better Together campaign, I believe that the final result is all to play for and that on September 18, the people of Scotland will vote 'yes' and once again, Scotland will be an independent nation.'

Head teacher John McGillp - on his last day at Kinlochleven before taking over as head teacher at Coltness Academy in Wishaw after the Easter holidays - said: 'It is excellent to see as many young people getting involved in the democratic process as there has been today.'

The mock referendum was organised by the school pupil council in partnership with election officials at The Highland Council and Highland Youth Voice.

Teenager tried to bite and scratch police officers

A FORT William teenager has admitted attempting to bite, scratch and struggle with three police officers.

Jamie Brydon, of 13 Perth Place, admitted lashing and kicking out at the officers and refusing treatment at hospital.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard the 17-year-old's parents called police on December 17 last year when they became concerned that he had overdozed.

Procurator fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'When the officers arrived he was being physically restrained by relatives.'

'He was throwing out his legs and they had to fit a leg strap but he was attempting to bite and scratch officers and shouting.'

'An ambulance was called but the ambulance wouldn't take him due to his violent and aggressive behaviour and asked the police to take him.'

'He was taken to hospital and they tried to treat him but he wasn't being co-operative and police had to keep him as calm as possible.'

Defending solicitor Stephen Kennedy told the court: 'He is getting help. His mother and step father are very supportive but also very concerned about his welfare.'

Sheriff Richard Davidson deferred sentencing until April 29 for a social work report.

Cash boost for playpark and exhibition

TWO COMMUNITY causes have been granted £250 each by Oban Community Council.

Council members agreed at their previous meeting on March 31 to award the grants to Oban Community Playpark Fund and an exhibition of former pupils organised by Oban High School teacher Val Hamilton.

The playpark fund aims to raise £140,000 from within the community to replace equipment at the condemned community playpark outside Atlantis Leisure.

Teacher Val Hamilton, who has taught in the Oban area since the 1970s, is inviting around 40 former art pupils to exhibit in the town to mark her retirement this summer.

Banned driver tried to drive home from court

A BALLACHULISH man was told he was not living in 'cloud cuckoo land' after he attempted to drive home from court on the same day as he was disqualified from driving.

Rory MacLauchlan of The Sidings, Old Railways Goods Yard, had received a 12-month driving ban at Fort William Sheriff Court on February 4.

But the 20-year-old then tried to drive back to the village immediately afterwards only to be stopped by police on the A82, the court heard last week.

Defending solicitor Clare Russell said

the hotel worker did not realise the ban was immediate. Sheriff Richard Davidson replied: 'His address is stated as Ballachulish not cloud cuckoo land.'

He told MacLauchlan: 'You have no one but yourself to blame, you were told very plainly you were disqualified, this nonsense about not understanding is just that, nonsense.'

MacLauchlan admitted the charge at a previous hearing but sentencing was deferred for a social work report.

Sheriff Davidson imposed a 32-month driving ban and ordered him to carry out 130 hours of unpaid work in the community.

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Scottish transport awards

JURA

AN ARTIST who was inspired by the Isle of Jura will return there to showcase his latest work.

Edinburgh's Martin M Davidson has a show in Craighouse from April 13 to 26.

In November 2012, Martin had an exhibition in Cérêt, France, in the foothills of the Pyrenees, a small town in which Picasso and Braques lived from 1909 to 1912 and through them saw the establishment of Cérêt as a hub of artistic creativity.

At the opening of his exhibition Layers, he decided to follow this work with a challenge to exhibit on the Isle of Jura and show work that reflected his feelings towards the island. He said: 'In 2013 I made two short visits to Jura and was readily struck by the island's inspiring potential.'

'Apart from the captivating landscape and wildlife, there is also the link with George Orwell, battling with health issues but determined to finish his novel Nineteen Eighty-Four.'

KILLIN

EASTER Saturday, April 19, is the date for the annual community auction in the McLaren Hall, Killin.

Many interesting items have already been donated and more promised so there will be something for everyone.

There are angling lots including rods, waistcoats and a fleece jacket and selections of china, porcelain, pottery and glassware. There is a wine and beer bar and the kitchen will be providing snacks, soup and sandwiches during the day.

Proceeds will be distributed to local organisations and charities.

LADIES of Killin SWRI met in the Lesser McLaren Hall last Thursday evening for the last meeting of this session.

Andy Fleming, a local policeman, who is also a volunteer with Killin Mountain Rescue and a volunteer with Search and Rescue Dogs Association (SARDA), brought along Dugal, his flat-haired black Labrador and gave an interesting outline of the work involved with SARDA.

The annual meeting followed a break for refreshments.



Kirsty Morrison from Ferguson Transport and Shipping presents the high visibility vests to head teacher Kate MacGillivray and some of the P7 pupils.

Transport firm presents village pupils with new high visibility vests

SPEAN Bridge Primary School pupils will be safer walking and cycling to school after local firm Ferguson Transport and Shipping presented them with high visibility vests.

The company has supported the 'be safe, be seen' cause for several years and will continue to provide new vests when required.

Managing director Alasdair Ferguson said: 'Spean Bridge was home to Ferguson Transport's head office for 36 years and is still one of the

SPEAN BRIDGE

villages that our lorries travel through on a daily basis, either heading on the A82 trunk road or the A86 road which runs alongside the primary school.

'We are keen to support and improve road safety wherever we can and would encourage children in the habit of wearing high visibility clothing.'



Barcaldine Primary School youngsters put on brave faces after their Victorian classroom re-enactment.

Youngsters take step back in time at museum visit

CHILDREN at Barcaldine Primary School have been researching the Victoria era and had a fantastic day visiting the Victorian School Museum in Glasgow.

They were given the chance to walk around the museum and see where the children went to class and it brought to life what they had been learning in the classroom.

In the afternoon, the

BARCALDINE

children were treated to a strict Victorian-style classroom re-enactment and there were some scary moments when the teacher got angry and took out the belt but they put on their brave faces and enjoyed learning to write the way the Victorians did.

PORT ELLEN

TWO BUDDING Islay poets will have the chance to hear their pieces of work read at the Scottish National Gallery in Edinburgh after being named runners-up in a competition run by the gallery.

The competition called Inspired? Get writing! is for children and adults and competitors choose a piece of art that inspires them to write in poetry or prose.

Port Ellen Primary School pupils Abbie Morris, primary six, and Asher Borthwick, primary seven, were chosen as runners up from more than 700 entries from across the globe.

Abbie's poem, The Ghost Fiddler, is inspired by a photo of Aly Bain by David Williams, while Asher's entry, a poem called Old Defence based on a painting of Inverloch Castle by Horatio McCulloch, received a special merit.

Both have been invited to attend an awards ceremony in the gallery on April 17.

ARROCHAR

THE THREE Villages Hall will welcome Dunbartonshire Concert Band for a programme of wide-ranging music and foot-tapping melodies on April 27 from 2pm.

Conducted by Robert Baxter, the band will perform a selection of music including Percy Grainger's Children's March and Franco Cesarini's Old Russian Romances.

Atmospheric music from the soundtrack of the Walt Disney/Pixar film 'Brave' will fit in well with the awe-inspiring local landscape of Arrochar.

Dunbartonshire Concert

Band was formed in 1973 and celebrated its 40th anniversary last year.

The prize-winning community band, consisting of 50 players, plays a wide range of music from light classical to show music at venues throughout the west of Scotland.

GLENELG



P7 pupil Kirsty MacKinnon was a model at the Fairtrade Fashion Show.

GLENELG Primary School's recent Fairtrade Fashion Show in Glenelg Community Hall proved a big hit with all ages - both on and off the catwalk.

Both children and adults modelled, with someone from every decade up to 80 strutting their stuff before an enthusiastic audience.

The children performed a whole school dance and started the evening off with a sketch showing how Fairtrade benefits farmers by giving them a fair price for their products.

The event was supported by the parent council and the local Co-op which donated Fairtrade products for the raffle and refreshments.



Members of Tiree's Duke of Edinburgh group braved the weather on their two-day expedition.

MEMBERS of Tiree's Duke of Edinburgh Group survived their first outdoor practice expedition last weekend.

Over the winter months, the group had learned the theory of rural skills, first aid and land respect but it was finally time to put it all into practice and get outdoors. They walked for two days over hills and long

TIREE

stretches of beach and headland, covering a distance of 30 kilometres.

After a night camping, they finished on Sunday at Gott Bay Pier and are now preparing for their next expedition on May 24.



Joanna, Tommy and Rosie MacEachen closed the Arisaig Post Office doors for the last time after 30 years' service.

THE ARISAIG community turned out in force to show their appreciation to the MacEachen family who have run the village Post Office for 30 years.

The tiny office closed its doors for the last time as a new Post Office Local has opened in the Spar shop.

To mark the occasion more than 200 people enjoyed afternoon tea in Astley Hall, followed by presentations and toasts to Tommy and Rosie MacEachen and their daughter Joanna who took over from her parents 10 years ago.

Thanks were also made to Tommy's sister, Morag MacKenzie, who has assisted

ARISAIG

the family with the newsagent side of their business.

The history of the Arisaig postal service - which can be traced back to 1802 - was researched and an exhibition and booklet put together which were on display during the afternoon. The exhibition has now moved to the Arisaig Land, Sea & Islands Centre, where it will be on display for the next few weeks.

The booklet, which contains photographs and newspaper cuttings, will be available for sale there.



Mark Unsworth and wife Helga celebrate the award.

Photographer celebrates

FOR THE second year running Islay photographer Mark Unsworth has been placed in the commended gallery of the Food Photographer of the Year, sponsored by Pink Lady Apples.

Mark, of Islay Studios, was successful against competition from more than 6,000 images submitted worldwide.

His picture was taken in the

ISLAY

cellars of Moët and Chandon, which belong to the same parent company as Ardbeg Distillery on Islay. Judges in the competition included TV presenter Julia Bradbury and David Loftus, photographer for Jamie Oliver.



KILCHUIMEN

The P1/2 class at Kilchuimen Primary School, left, have been busy making up fairytales as part of their latest project.

The children made Jack's beanstalk, rebuilt the Friendly Dragon's castle and revamped their story corner. Other activities included a puppet show for parents and carers, making wands and making their own castle outdoors.

Contractor in place to complete new school project

HIGHLAND Council has appointed contractors to deliver the third and final project in its £36.5 million programme to provide new primary schools for the Fort William area.

The £14.6m scheme, which will start in May, will see Keir Construction demolish the existing Caol Primary School and Caol Community Centre and replace them with two new buildings.

The first, a joint campus accommodating a new eight-classroom Caol primary and a six-classroom school combining the existing Fort William and Lochside RC primaries, will have nursery classrooms and an internal 'street'

to link the schools together. The second building will house a new community centre along with Caol library, Caol youth centre and a Room 13 youth café.

A state-of-the-art biomass energy centre will heat both facilities, while a new car park and multi-use games area also form part of the development.

Councillor Alasdair Christie, chairman of the education, children and adult services committee, said: 'This is another major investment as we strive to provide our communities with a learning environment fit for the 21st century. We look forward to working with Kier and the successful

delivery of this important project at Caol.' Brian McQuade, managing director of Kier Construction's Scottish business, held out the prospect of local jobs. He said: 'This is a significant investment into the Fort William economy and we look forward to working with the local community and providing additional employment opportunities, including apprenticeships, for suppliers and subcontractors based here.'

Work on a new merged Upper Achintore-Fort William primary is already underway, while construction of a new stand-alone Gaelic school at Adugar Road in Caol is expected to start imminently.



State-of-the-art: an artist's impression of how the new joint campus building will look once finished.



Iona pupils sock it to charity

Children at Iona Primary School enjoyed wearing silly socks to school to help raise awareness of Down's Syndrome Scotland. There was an array of odd socks, long socks and silly socks at the event which coincided with Down's Syndrome Awareness Week (March 17 - 23) and International Down's Syndrome Day.



Sport Relief fun at Ardgour

Ardgour Primary School pupils and staff dressed as their favourite athletes for charity. Each person made a donation and £63 was raised for Sport Relief.

Staff hone skills on shore workshops

HIGHLAND Council rangers and National Trust for Scotland nature conservation staff honed their species identification skills on the foreshore at Ashaig, near Broadford, and Plockton last week.

The two-day workshop, funded by the Highland Seashore Biodiversity Project introduced the team to the surveying aspects of the initiative.

Leading them in this was internationally respected marine biologist Mike Kendall.

At Ashaig beach, the group, which regularly leads guided activities on the seashore, followed the retreating tide down to the kelp

and gathered a list of species including peanut worms, sea gherkins, small starfish, brittle stars, butterflyfish and more.

The next day the group explored the shores of Plockton, where in a hidden cove between the skerries of the lighthouse, the tide had pulled out so far the group could walk from island to island. A rich diversity of life was again on show. Peter Cunningham of Wester Ross Fisheries Trust went snorkelling and pulled out some huge finds, including common sea urchins, horse mussels, flame shells and a bootlace worm, which needed six people to hold it at full length.



Among the kelp at Ashaig, left to right: Rule Anderson, Gavin Skipper, Angus MacIntyre, Jenny Grant, Paul Castle, Peter Cunningham, Andy Summers, John Philips and Mike Kendall.

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Curtain up on national drama final

PLOCKTON Amateur Dramatic Society is through to the national final of the Scottish Community Drama Association One Act Festival after winning the Highland Division heat. The cast of 10 wowed judges with their performance of their play 'Two' in Nairn at the weekend and will take the production to East Kilbride for the Scottish final on April 26. The winner will be awarded a place at the British Final Festival of One Act Plays in June. Director Gill James said: 'We've been to the Scottish final before but it still feels really good. More so because it's great for us to have a cast of 10 in a play, we're not a big club at all. We're hugely supported in the village, it really is a community thing.'

Mallaig centre marks 20 years with free entry

MALLAIG Heritage Centre is celebrating its 20th anniversary this month by offering free admission to visitors. Almost 120,000 people have browsed displays telling the fishing port's story since the museum opened its doors on April 21 1994, with fishing, the lifeboat and the railway taking pride of place. The Knoydart Clearance, Rhu, Morar Village and other aspects of West Lochaber also feature regularly. Curator Malcolm Poole said: 'This year will be a busy one for the centre, with new displays planned about the railway dormitory, sport and games and World War I.'

Western Isles grant delight

THREE Western Isles organisations have won substantial Community Spaces Scotland grants from the Big Lottery. On Lewis, Back Football and Recreation Club got £193,750 for a new synthetic pitch and indoor equipment, while Breasclate Community Association was awarded £225,545 for a play park and eco-garden. Elsewhere, Barra Children's Centre received £176,799 to build an extension to create more space for nursery classes, community activities and community health services.

Council and MSP clash over trains

ONE OF the reasons given for changing transport arrangements for Oban High School pupils in east Lorn has been described as 'nonsensical' by the Education Minister. Argyll and Bute Council plans to transport pupils from the Glenorchy area, Taynuilt and Connel by train after this summer, coinciding with an increase in the number of train journeys coming into Oban. At a meeting in Dalmailly Community Centre last Friday, organised by parents of the Glenorchy children, campaigners produced a quote by a council employee from a previous public meeting stating the reasons for the changes were 'two fold: political to support the enhanced train service; financially to save cost. Also to introduce flexibility and address changing educational needs'. Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell responded at the meeting by saying: 'I am minister for education and I have never heard educational reasons called in support of a change in transport. It seems nonsensical to me - otherwise we would be changing to train all over Scotland which just isn't the case.' For more on the Glenorchy parents' campaign see next week's Oban Times.

Young Lochaber architects wanted

YOUNG local architects have just over two weeks to submit design ideas for a new viewpoint at Neptune's Staircase at Banavie. A competition is calling for a structure that celebrates the view of Ben Nevis from the spectacular flight of eight locks on the Caledonian Canal. Aspiring designers have until April 28 to submit applications to the Scenic Routes contest, run by Scottish Canals. The winner will have the chance to work with consultants to see the project through. Jan MacLugash of Kilmallie Community Council, whose home will overlook the new structure, urged young Lochaber architects to put their names forward. She said: 'This could be a good thing if an appropriate design is submitted - but wouldn't like to see an ugly construction blighting the scenic staircase.' More information and an application pack can be found at scottishcanals.co.uk

Plantation group on course after hitting Big Lottery cash jackpot



Plantation residents celebrate the Big Lottery award with Councillor Brian Murphy, fourth from left. 20_f15planny01

Residents' dream of transforming Cow Hill into sports area to become reality

A COMMUNITY group's dream to transform an abandoned golf course above Fort William into a sports and recreation area is to become reality after their project scooped a cash jackpot. Plantation Community Association (PCA) has battled for three years to give the 13-acre site on Cow Hill a makeover to provide local people with opportunities for healthy exercise. Currently a rusting swing park stands in one small corner with the rest a wilderness of gorse bushes and long grass crisscrossed by rough paths. Planning approval to improve the play park, build a mini mountain bike track and an adult fitness trail, together with a new path network, was secured from Highland Council in November. Benches and picnic tables at viewpoints, tree planting and interpretation panels depicting local wildlife will also feature.

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

big manky mess.' Thanking everyone who had helped with the project bid, Ms MacKenzie added: 'I don't care if folk come from Mallaig or Acharacle - they are welcome. 'Have you seen the views from up here? This is not just for Plantation - it is for everybody.' **Determination** Local councillor Brian Murphy said: 'The project has been driven by the Plantation Community Association from the outset, and it has been interesting to watch the determination with which they have tackled the many challenges that a project of this size throws up. 'I have watched them grow in ability, self-confidence and self-esteem over the last few years. That is something which wasn't part of the bid but is nevertheless a really positive outcome. 'This funding will enable the provision of a network of new paths, an adult fitness trail and mini mountain bike track for children as well as much needed new and innovative play equipment for the play area. 'I look forward now to watching them bring this exciting project to fruition.' The PCA committee is inviting anyone interested in discussing the project to their next meeting in the community hall at 4 Young Place on April 24 at 7pm.

Ballachulish red deer stag saved from bullet

AN ELDERLY red deer stag will not be shot despite fresh calls for it to be killed, according to the chairman of Ballachulish Community Council. Affectionately-named Tarquin has frequented a croft at the back pier of Ballachulish for two years and recently became the centre of a social networking campaign to save him after it was suggested he posed a danger to locals and should be culled. In recent weeks the furs had died down and the beast was

By EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

often seen roaming the field with other stags and hinds. But Ballachulish Community Council sought further advice from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) after a village resident claimed Tarquin chased her dog and should be destroyed on public safety grounds. Community council chairman Kevin Smith said: 'It is my view, and the majority of the

community seem to agree, that it should be left alone. 'We have been advised that the stags will lose their antlers in the next few weeks and are likely to leave by themselves. None of the stags have been sighted in the last week so they may have disappeared already. 'It's unfortunate to hear that someone would still like it to be killed - but the community council have eye witnesses that said it was the dog chasing the stag and it was off its lead.

'I think the stag got a fright and jumped between the owner and the dog but it shouldn't have been off the lead. I haven't heard of it happening to anyone else and I've had no complaints from the rest of the community.' Mr Smith stated that it would be unsafe to attempt to shoot the stag in the village - a view echoed by SNH. Lochaber reserve manager Derrick Warner said: 'If the local community are happy for the animal to remain there and

the land owner is not concerned then there's no reason from our point of view for it to be shot. 'If the community are concerned they would need to go to the landowner who would then make an application for it to be shot out of season. 'If there's a proposition to shoot the stag in a residential area we would need to evaluate the safety of that. If there was a risk that someone could be injured through a stray shot then that would be unacceptable.'



Clear view: trees have been removed along the famous Glenfinnan viaduct.

Tree-clearing gives visitors true view of Glenfinnan

VISITORS to Glenfinnan are enjoying much better views of the famous railway viaduct after major tree-clearing operations. The work was financed by The Friends of the West Highland Lines (FWHL) along with Glenfinnan Station Museum, Highland Council and West Coast Railway Company, which operates the summer steam train from Fort William to Mallaig. The viaduct,

now known all over the world thanks to the Harry Potter movies, is the major attraction on the world's most scenic train ride. FWHL have also been heavily involved with the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority (NPA) and Network Rail in clearing trees south of Arrochar and Tarbet to give passengers improved views along the route. Meanwhile, FWHL has had

'constructive discussions' on the future operation of the West Highland lines with the five franchisees bidding for the ScotRail network contract worth £1.2 billion. Suggested improvements include new and improved trains with air conditioning, a toilet for each coach, automatic inside doors and more at-table seating. The society also met with the three bidders for the fifteen-

year Caledonian Sleeper train franchise. The new franchisees are due to commence in 2015. FWHL chairman Doug Carmichael said partnerships will be set up with local community groups, Argyll and Bute Council and Highland Council to 'improve various aspects of the West Highland Lines between Helensburgh and Fort William, Mallaig and Oban.'

Argyll arts funding welcomed

A NEWLY-formed arts partnership on the Isle of Mull is set to inspire Argyll's next creative talents, thanks to a grant of £400,000 from Creative Scotland. Comar, an amalgamation of Mull Theatre and An Tobar formed less than a year ago, will use the money to create a Youth Arts Hub, increasing access to youth arts across a range of art forms. The money is part of a £3.1m package rolled out across Scotland as part of Scotland's National Youth Arts Strategy, Time To Shine, and will be used to create a network of regional Youth Arts Hubs across the country. Comar will work in partnership with youth and arts groups in the county to

deliver the Youth Arts Hub for Argyll and Bute. The Hub will work towards a 10-year vision for the sector to make Argyll and Bute a more inspirational place for young people. Comar chairman Norman Quirk said: 'This grant is a terrific vote of confidence in us and puts us on the map as one of the leading arts organisations in Scotland, let alone Argyll. 'The future is with youth and we are very excited about that.' Youth Arts Hub partners in Argyll include Cove Park, Dunoon Burgh Halls; Armtap Argyll; ArtsQwest; The Touring Network; Argyll College; Argyll and Bute Council and CNTV.



Alan Reid MP

Alan Reid will hold a surgery in Oban on Wednesday 16 April 2014 at the Corran Halls, Oban between 3.30pm & 4.30pm.

To make an appointment, please phone Alan Reid's office (01369-704840)

Islay welcomes Royal visitor

ISLAY had a Royal visit last weekend when whisky enthusiast HRH Prince Albert of Monaco landed at Islay Airport last Saturday. The monarch and his party flew in on a seaplane from Loch Lomond and joined whisky writer Charles MacLean, a fellow patron of the Monte Carlo Whisky Society, in sampling drams from the nine distilleries on Islay and Jura over the weekend. Mr MacLean, from Edinburgh, said: 'Last year

he expressed a desire to go to Talisker and said that the following year he wanted to go to Islay. 'The weekend was a huge success and the prince enjoyed travelling to Laphroaig, Lagavulin and Ardbeg by bicycle. 'The Islay malts are gratefully admired and we were handsomely looked after.' Asked what the prince's favourite malt was, Mr MacLean replied: 'He appreciated them all.'



Photo courtesy of www.islayinfo.com.

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Mechanic ordered to carry out unpaid work

A FORT William mechanic has been ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work in the community after admitting throwing at table two men in a High Street takeaway.

Cameron MacInnes of 51 Castle Drive, Lochyside, also tried to punch the men in Abi's Kebabs on December 23 last year. The 19-year-old pled guilty to the charge at a previous hearing a Fort William Sheriff Court but sentencing was deferred for a social work report. Sheriff Richard Davidson also issued a 12-month supervision order on MacInnes. He said: 'This was a serious offence. Fortunately him throwing the table did not injure anyone but it was an act of gross stupidity.'

New prescription project trial

A PIONEERING project which aims to reduce errors in prescribing medicines in Scottish hospitals is to be trialled in the NHS Highland and Western Isles board areas.

The easy to use national prescribing and administration chart will be used by medical and other staff. The chart, developed by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE) and Healthcare Improvement Scotland, follows research showing that around seven per cent of prescriptions written in hospitals were either for the wrong drug or dosage.



Re-enactors carried out a speed march from Achnacarry House to the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge. 20_f15commando02
Inset: War veteran Alex Ferguson, 87, laid a wreath in memory of fallen soldiers. 20_f15commando04

Remembering the fallen at Spean memorial

AN 87-year-old war veteran visited Spean Bridge Commando Memorial to lay a wreath in memory of fallen soldiers as part of a commemorative ceremony on Saturday.

Ex-special forces soldier Alex Ferguson took part in the annual event and visited Achnacarry House where he trained during World War Two in 1942.

Re-enactors from living history groups in the UK, Poland and America donned war time uniforms also visited the old training site before marching the six miles to the

memorial with Fort William army cadets. A short ceremony was led by Rev Adrian Varwell who also laid a wreath.

Mr Ferguson, from Edinburgh, said: 'Things like this make people remember what people gave, that's why it's so important. This represents my life and I was one of the lucky ones who had a life after.'

The walk ended at Spean Bridge train station to represent the seven-mile speed march to and from Achnacarry that prospective Commandos would undertake

during the war carrying full kit and weapons.

Organiser Paul MacDonald said: 'Everything went really well and it was great to have the local cadets there, we always wanted to involve the cadets because they are the next generation.'

'We researched the history a lot so it meant we could explain the history to the young ones and give them some experience of what being a soldier training there would have been like.'

Ballachulish man drove at local woman

'He reversed fast towards me'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by EMMA CRICHTON
crichton@obantimes.co.uk

A BALLACHULISH man has been found guilty of dangerous driving and driving without due care and attention after he reversed his car twice at a local woman outside her home.

Alison Wylie if she and her husband got on with Chisholm, who owns a number of properties in the street, Mrs Michie said he 'had been giving my family a hard time for two years.'

Ray Chisholm, known as Tony, of Allanbreck, Lettermore, denied the charges of July 10 and 11 last year but was convicted after three days of evidence at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Prosecution witness Sandra Michie described how 45 year-old Chisholm drove his Audi Estate at her as she was walking back to her house at Lochside Cottages on July 10.

She said: 'As soon as I started walking back he reversed fast towards me and stopped a few inches away.'

Mrs Michie phoned the police and made a statement but said the following evening Chisholm reversed his second car, a Polo, at her when she was in her garden with family.

She said: 'I never had a problem with him then a couple of years ago the relationship changed - but I don't know why.'

Asked by procurator fiscal

Manoeuvring
Giving evidence, Chisholm denied reversing at Mrs Michie and claimed she had deliberately walked towards his car when he was manoeuvring on the first night.

He said: 'She [Mrs Michie] was up on the grass when I turned my car, when I started to reverse it was clear then she started to walk briskly towards me but I was still about two metres away from her.'

Chisholm's wife Mairi MacCallum, who was in the

car on both evenings, denied suggestions that Chisholm had reversed fast and almost struck Mrs Michie in the second incident.

She said: 'It didn't happen like that, absolutely not. There was nobody in the vicinity when Tony did the manoeuvre, there was absolutely no one around.'

Summing up, Sheriff Richard Davidson said: 'On the one hand there is no evidence to say why the Michies would come to the Crown and make this up.'

'But then on the other hand I have no evidence to say why Mr Chisholm would drive at her.'

'I accept the evidence that you [Chisholm] deliberately drove in reverse towards Mrs Michie facing her in a position of danger.'

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

Chisholm was found not guilty of a separate charge of behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by allegedly gesturing with his middle finger at Mr and Mrs Michie on November 25 last year.



Left to right: Marine Harvest Blar Mhor and Mallaig operations manager Chris Wilk, Andy Jackson, who set up the station in 2004, harvest planning manager Tony Boyd and business support manager Steve Bracken.

Marine Harvest's delight at reaching ten year milestone

SALMON farmers and processors Marine Harvest marked another milestone on Friday when it celebrated the 10th anniversary of its harvest station in Mallaig.

Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest Scotland, said: 'The changes we've seen in the decade since the harvest station opened are remarkable.'

Opened in 2004, the plant revolutionised the company's operations by allowing it to deliver salmon to market faster and fresher than before.

'In the last couple of years we've embarked on an £80 million expansion to meet the continuing growth in demand for farmed salmon.'

It handles fish collected live from farms along the west coast by well-boat before the salmon are transported to the firm's Blar Mhor plant in Fort William for processing and on to customers around the world.

'We've also worked hard over the years to develop an industry that is sustainable.'

'We've reduced waste, created more environmentally friendly packaging and improved feed conversion ratios and we are constantly striving to keep making improvements.'

Staff held a tour of the facility and well-boat to mark the occasion, followed by a lunch in Mallaig Community Hall.

In the decade since it opened the station has harvested almost 91 million salmon.

Harris Tweed in New York spotlight

A NEW campaign was launched in New York on Monday to promote Harris Tweed as the world's most sustainable fabric.

and Esquire magazine fashion director, Nick Sullivan.

At an event in the Glasgow Caledonian University campus in the city, Harris Tweed Hebrides chairman Brian Wilson said the fabric 'ticks every box of sustainability'.

Mr Wilson said: 'I doubt if there is another brand in the world with the fame of Harris Tweed which rests on the skills of so few people located within a single community.'

Mr Wilson and Harris Tweed creative director Mark Hogarth were joined at the launch by Doug Shriver, senior fabric specialist with Brooks Brothers, who have been using the fabric since 1932,

The key fact is that Harris Tweed survives and flourishes in the Outer Hebrides because an Act of Parliament says it cannot be made anywhere else.

That raises questions of global importance about the rights of communities to protect

their indigenous industries.' He added: 'Everyone loves Harris Tweed but relatively few people know the story that makes it so special.'

'We hope this campaign will encourage interest not just in the product but also the place from which it comes and the process which creates it.'

Mr Hogarth said: 'Fashion and style are no longer exclusively about how things look. The ethics and sustainability of how they are produced are hugely important in today's market.'

Scottish Field
MAY ISSUE OUT NOW

LEWIS & HARRIS
Author Peter May's Hebridean paradise

RORY BRENNER ON HIS SCOTTISH RENAISSANCE

Plus
WHY EATING PETS IS WRONG
FLOODING AT CRISIS POINT
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DUKE OF ROXBURGH
A LIFE ON THE TWEED

10 Pages - The glorious Castle of Mey

SCOTLAND THROUGH A LENS Stunning pictures of our mounted police force in action

Rory Bremner on his Scottish Renaissance

Why eating pets is wrong
Flooding at crisis point
Scotland's greatest genius
The Duke of Roxburgh
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10 Pages - The Castle of Mey

WIN A luxury £1000 weekend in Argyll

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

LEGACY 2014 XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES SCOTLAND

The Oban Times is asking readers to nominate someone in their local community who deserves to experience the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games first hand.

The Scottish Government's Legacy Ticket scheme recognises the achievement and contribution of people across Scotland who are helping to create this legacy by offering them tickets to watch one of the 17 sports at the games.

The Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this summer is set to be the biggest sporting event in Scotland's history - and they promise to be a fantastic spectacle to enjoy. These games are a once-in-a-generation opportunity to secure a legacy for communities across Scotland.

Readers of The Oban Times will know the unsung heroes who are already making a difference - whether it's a young person involved in sport, someone helping to make sport happen by volunteering or someone simply making your community a better place.

HOW TO NOMINATE

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

Nominee's name

Nominee's telephone number

Nominee's address & postcode

My nominee should win a Legacy Ticket because

(please submit up to 500 words on a separate sheet and attach this form. Please provide as much information as possible. The more details we have about your nominee the more the panel has to help aid their decision. The judges involved will not be able to research or get in touch for further information).

Your name

Your address

Daytime telephone number

Mobile number

Email address

Send to: The Oban Times, Legacy Ticket Nomination, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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

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

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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Road crash numbers unacceptable

IT IS almost a guarantee that accident rates will rise on west Highland roads during the summer months.

A combination of factors, most obviously busier roads with tourist traffic, contribute to this phenomenon but should it be a given that incidents will happen?

The approach to Easter seems to have signalled the start of that unfortunate trend.

At the beginning of April a man died in a crash on the A82 near to Fort William and there have been potentially serious collisions at Cladich, near Dalmlally, and on the A83 between Inveraray and Lochgilphead in the past week.

Indeed, senior police officers in Argyll and Lochaber have recently reversed decisions to break up dedicated road policing units in an effort to improve road safety.

The move is to help reduce the number of fatal accidents, which impact so heavily on the small communities these roads serve.

GLASGOW LETTER

Plockton students in town

THERE was an excellent attendance at St Andrew's in the Square recently when pupils of the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music came to town as part of their sixth-year tour.

A group of 13 pupils, from Aberdeen in the east, South Uist in the west, Orkney in the north and even from Spain to the south, and many locations in between, treated the audience to musical items using the full range of traditional instruments.

At the outset they all appeared on stage, introduced individually by course director Dougie Pincock, and then split with male and female groups performing separately before completing their part of the evening back together.

The instrumental items were interspersed with Gaelic and Scots songs and it was interesting these songs were from the works of Julie Fowlis, Kathleen MacInnes and Karine Polwart, all of whom are popular on the current traditional scene.

With such role models, the youngsters from Plockton look to have healthy musical futures and hopefully they will be able to achieve their ambitions as they prepare to leave Plockton in the next few months.

They may physically leave the school but as the remainder of the evening illustrated they will forever be part of the Plockton family. Suzanne Houston, who left in 2007, organised a programme for the second half of the concert which was sustained by former pupils and their friends.

First up was Suzanne playing with fiddler Neil Ewart, from Killochan, a finalist in this year's BBC Radio Scotland Young Musician of the Year, and for one of the items they were joined by fiddler Ruairidh MacMillan, a past winner of that competition, and Adam Brown, bodhran. It was then the turn of Mischa MacPherson with, on this occasion, Innes Whyte from her trio, to treat the audience to beautiful Gaelic singing and illustrate why the trio were worthy winners at the recent BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards.

The quintet Cherrygrove, which has recently released its first album, then played and they were followed by Innes Watson who was accompanied by Daniel Thorpe, yet another traditional musician of the year.

We must not forget the traditional 'stramash' which brought the wonderful evening's entertainment to a close with everyone who took part on stage.

Going out on tour is an important part of a musician's life and the school values the opportunity to give the pupils this experience. Not that long ago the future of the school

was threatened for financial reasons and while these fears were allayed there is now a shortfall of capital to pay for tours, the production of a CD and for equipment.

Step forward Friends of Plockton Music School, a registered charity, which exists to ensure that these essential extras can be paid for.

Any size of donation will be gratefully received with an annual subscription costing £30. If you are interested contact Suzanne Houston, FPMS Co-ordinator, Flat 3/1, 58 Mavisbank Gardens, Glasgow, G51 1HL.

Cal Gael

AFTER a hugely successful event in January, Ceilidh Comhla is inviting everyone interested to an afternoon of Gaelic culture, Commonwealth voices and local communities in Barmulloch Community Centre, 46 Wallacewell Quadrant, Glasgow, G21 3PX, on Wednesday April 16.

There will be sharing of songs, stories and music with plenty tea and cakes. The event is free and will take place from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

Fred Morrison

THE CCA, Sauchiehall Street, will be the place to be on Tuesday April 15 when Fred Morrison takes to the stage to play traditional, and some not so traditional, pipe music as only he can.

Tickets cost £12/£10 and the concert will start at 8pm. I am sure this will also be a chance to buy Fred's book of the music of his 'Outlands' album which was launched at Piping Live 2013.

Diary dates

Friday April 11: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association, Erskine Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm.

Saturday April 12: Scottish Pipers' Association Professional Competition, College of Piping, 9.45am.

Tuesday April 15: Fred Morrison - see above. Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72a, Waterloo Street, 8pm - Patsy Reid and friends. Gaelic Society, Glasgow Gaelic School, 7.30pm - Priscilla Scott.

Wednesday April 16: Cal Gael, Barmulloch Community Centre - see above.

Saturday April 19: Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm - 11pm - Donnie and Diane's Band.

Pub scene

TRAIL West will be playing in the Islay Inn on Friday with Ragaels there on Saturday. In the Park Bar this weekend it will be Gaberlunzie on Friday with Martainn Skene on Saturday and then on Sunday, starting at 2pm, it will be the Morano Accordion Day.

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



Lorn SWRI Federation Show - 1981

Katie Boyd of Oban submitted this week's flashback photograph which features some of the participants in the Lorn Scottish Women's Rural Institute Federation Show, held in Oban's Dunollie Halls, in March 1981. Back row: Laura MacNiven, Margaret Templeton, Elchris MacFarlane, Katie Boyd, Mary Lamont, Mrs Stewart, unknown, Eileen Hill and Nan Toon. Middle: Moira Howie, Mae Hardie, Betty Seivewright, Marie Campbell, Flora Moyes and Mrs Johnstone. Front: Maimie Nicholson, Mrs MacAllister, Mary Thompson, Mrs Cameron, Mrs Sellars and Mrs Johnstone. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Residents should push for Corran Ferry buyout

Sir, Instead of calling for the public to attend a demonstration at the slipways of Corran/Ardgour ferry to protest against Highland Council's further increase of ferry fares, perhaps the organisers of the proposed demonstration could think about the opportunity Highland Council is unwittingly presenting to all of the communities affected by the Corran/Ardgour ferry service.

Highland Council put on public record that about two years ago it offered to sell the whole of the Corran/Ardgour ferry operation to Caledonian MacBrayne, which for technical reasons, declined the offer from Highland Council.

It is apparent that if Highland Council was to receive a properly constructed offer from another source to buy the ferry operation, it may oblige such a sale to go forward.

Public demonstrations achieve very little, and nothing is free. One way or another a proposed free public ferry service at Corran Narrows will have to be paid for, if not by those who will use it, but by council tax payers of Highland Council, and that will be unfair, as that would take much-needed resources of local authority funding from other more merited causes.

Residents of Ardgour, Ardnamurchan and Morvern should seize the moment for the better aim of establishing a community buyout of the Corran/Ardgour ferry operation from Highland Council.

Not only would they have the benefit of owning the ferry operation, but more so, they would then, at a future time, be in a good position to convert their ferry operation to a bridge crossing over the Corran Narrows.

James Byrne, Morvern.

Hebridean Islands national park debate

Sir, Your news report on the proposed Hebridean Islands national park is a welcome opener to a wider debate about its benefits and perceived drawbacks.

Mike Shilton is right to point out that a national park proposal would have to command majority support in the area proposed and, as chairman of Mull Community Council, he has a key role in finding out whether this is the case on Mull, in a fair and reasonable way.

One point where I think there has been a misunderstanding is over the question of funding. The two existing national parks in Scotland are funded to a large extent by the Scottish Government. They get around £14m between them and last year were given an additional £2.9m for 'shovel ready' capital projects.

If even a fraction of this funding had come to a Hebridean Islands National Park (HINP) it would have been more than enough to fund the many projects being promoted by Mull Community

Council, but stymied by lack of funds.

There are more details in the HINP Concept paper, available by writing to info@scotlandwildlife.com.

The majority of the funding of a national park is spent in the park itself and it would be hoped that even the administrative staff - which would include park rangers as well as office staff - would live and work within the park boundaries.

The total funding would result in a massive benefit to the economies of the islands proposed for inclusion namely Mull, Iona, Coll, Tiree and Colonsay with Oban and its environs benefiting as well as the 'Gateway to the Hebridean Islands National Park'.

Name and address supplied. Open to everyone in the nation

Sir, Regards the letter 'Dont turn Mull into a national park', I fully agree with Lucy MacKenzie.

I would like to point out to Mr and Mrs Ferris that a national park is just that, a park for the nation to use!

Some recent correspondence in the press suggested that people who had campaigned for years for the highlands to have national park status were horrified when people from Glasgow and other cities actually used it.

They seemed to be of the opinion that a national park was an exclusive institution. **Sandy MacKinnon, Campbeltown.**

UK government to blame for loss

Sir, What Pete Pinnington failed to mention in all his facts and figures to your readers is that it was the UK's Westminster government's flotation of the Royal Mail at £3.3 billion that allowed the city bankers to make a cool £323 million.

And today the Royal Mail is valued at £5.6 billion, a loss to the tax payer of £2.3 billion.

Read the report from National Audit Office for confirmation. **Ann Ferguson, Dunbeg, Oban**

Future of mail services

Sir, I am dismayed at the degree of misrepresentation of the Scottish Government's proposals for the future of mail services by Pete Pinnington, *The Oban Times*, April 3.

It has been widely and clearly stated that the reasoning behind the proposal to re-nationalise Royal Mail is to ensure continuation and improvement of services to remote areas such as the Scottish islands and thus preventing 'cherry picking' of the more lucrative, easily serviced areas by private delivery firms.

If Mr Pinnington is genuine in his stated quest for more information on the radical ideas proposed for an independent Scotland, he need only request a copy of the White Paper, Scotland's Future.

Page 326 will supply him with information on Royal Mail and also on the Post Office.

And the really good news, Mr Pinnington is that the tome is packed with a great deal of other information, including taxation, and it is free of charge. **Dorothy Macdonald, Oban.**

No one can provide answers

Sir, I am afraid Mr Pinnington will be disappointed since no-one will provide the answers to his questions about postal services, because no-one can.

Sufficient to be confident, however, that Royal Mail plc and the Royal Mail Group Ltd will continue to operate all over Scotland and internationally as they do at present.

He is right to be concerned about postal charges and conditions, over which we have no control at the moment but he can be confident that when the service is taken back into our ownership, there will be democratic accountability and the public will derive any profit in the long term.

Nor should he consider this to be about whether his cost of living will go up or down. He is looking to others for the answers whereas the answers lie within ourselves. Do we believe our country should move in one direction or another?

On a smaller scale, it's related to the question of whether the community councils on Mull and Iona should be given more powers; not the present bodies but whether the community should have a substantial budget to be able to take decisions for itself, as happens in most European countries, perhaps combining the energy of the community trusts with the democracy of community councils. Our local authorities are too big and centralised in any event.

In a similar way, the real question is whether Scotland is better able to take her own decisions to suit her people or whether the standards and priorities of elsewhere should take precedence. We all know what the major issues are without repeating them here.

I am not a member of a political party but this is not a matter of party politics either; nor is it about me. It's a matter of democracy and whether we have more faith in those contributing to the Scottish community to do their best for our children and grandchildren than parties elsewhere with utterly different priorities.

We can't wait on others perhaps providing things for us. This is our society and only we can change it. **John C Hutchison, Fort William.**

Positive slant welcomed

Sir, I read the following in the opinion column of a national newspaper recently and I thought how refreshing to read something with a positive slant on it for a change.

It read: 'All the heated debates mask the fact that a Scotland that cuts the cord with London would have a decent shot at prosperity, stability and political coherence.'

It would be more likely over time to resemble a Norway than not. England, once the pique subsidies, would have every interest in co-operation.'

So, Mr Darling, how about letting the Scottish people get off their knees and help ditch the begging bowl mentality. Thank you *New York Times* for the vote of confidence. **John MacFadyen, Polvinister Road, Oban.**

Renewables not the answer

Sir, I agreed wholeheartedly with the headline on the letter from Matthew Burgess, *The Oban Times* April 3, 'Action needed on fuel poverty and climate change' but that was the only part with which I could agree.

To suggest that the pursuit of an energy policy based on fossil fuels will see future rises in energy prices as well as pollution of land in developing countries and that this will be solved by switching to renewables is totally absurd.

Renewables, both offshore and onshore, apart from being unreliable and therefore dependent on fossil/nuclear back up, are the most expensive forms of energy in the present mix and the fossils/nuclear are still needed.

That fact is acknowledged by everyone not associated with the renewables subsidy gravy train and the Scottish Government.

As regards the claim of driving climate change, I would not attempt to deny that the climate seems to be changing but I might have doubts about the causes which I believe are numerous and always have been.

What I would say though is that if climate change is the problem, renewables is most certainly not the answer.

Even if our deluded government believes that its wind madness can make any difference to global CO2 emissions and thereby mitigate global warming, the chances of the developing countries entering into any agreement to desist from cheap fossil fuels whilst they pursue the economic advantages that industrial development has brought to the rest of the world for decades, are absolutely zero. And why should they be denied these benefits.

Even the previously neurotically alarmist reports from the IPCC, which only seven years ago were forecasting armageddon, have changed in tone. Whilst the media headlines which followed the most recent report have focused on the doom and gloom, closer examination of the report shows there has been a distinct move in tone from 'mitigation' - control of carbon emissions - to 'adaptation'.

This is a long overdue recognition of the fact that the former strategy is completely futile with no chance of success and the likelihood of huge economic damage being inflicted.

Adaptation, on the other hand offers the opportunity to benefit from the advantages offered by a changing climate whilst mitigating the effects of the potential damage. **Alan Thomson, Strontian.**



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

DISATHAIRNE seo chaidh bha mi ag innearadh, rud nach d' rinn mi bho chionn iomadach bliadhna!

Bu mhath a b' fhiach e dhomh cuideachadh a thoirt dhan duine chòir a tha a' leigeil leam ròd neo dhà de bhuntàta a chur dhomh fhìn air an fhearann aige! Ach feumaidh mi a ràdh gun do chòrd e rium a bhith air an achadh, cha b' ann a-mhàin air sgàth an eacarsaich ach cuideachd air son nan cuimhneachain a thàinig air ais thugam.

Cuimhneachain air m' òige agus air mo sheanair, is air m' athair 's mo mhàthair, aig obair an earraich agus mi fhìn 's mo pheathraichean a' cuideachadh mar a b' fheàrr a b' urrainn dhùinn.

Cha robh sgeul air tractor neo each an toiseach mo chuimhne, dìreach an spaid a' ruamhar agus innear neo feamainn ga tiòd-lacadh anns gach dàrna clais. Bha am buntàta an uairsin ga chur le putair ann an ròdan eadar far an robh an tothar, oir bhathas ag ràdh gun loisgeadh an tothar an siol-cura nam biodh e ro fhaisg air.

Chan eil cuimhn' agam an robh mi air a dhol dhan sgoil nuair a fhuair m' athair each, làir ruadh a bha mas a b' fhuair coicair gu leòr agus eòlach air clann, ach a dhearbh i fhèin a h-uile àich ach sin ann an ùine glè ghoirid! Mus robh am foghar seachd theab i m' athair a mharbhadh! Bha e air mullach na cartach air an raon a' càradh sguaban arbhair a bha mo mhàthair a' tilgeil thuige bho gu h-ìosal.

Thuit sguab air tòn an eich agus a-mach leatha aig peillear dearg a beatha!

Thilg m' athair e fhèin air a bheil fodha air mullach na cartach agus an t-each a' falbh aig roid, agus nuair a ràinig i crìoch raon an arbhair agus a bhuail cuibhlichean na cartach oir na claise, nach do bhris an dà luirg (neo "na trams" mar a chanadh sinne).

Chaidh m' athair a thilgeil far mullach an arbhair ach gu fortanach, cha robh e air a dhroch ghoirteachadh, agus 's iad nàbaidhean a chuir stad air an each a ghùm a' ruith is luirgean na cartach an crochadh ri the!

Chaidh an t-each air ais chun an fhear a reic i agus an ceann ùine thàinig làir bhrègha bhàn a bha da-riribh socair agus còir! Agus ri tìde, fhuair m' athair dà chabar fiodha bhon mhùileann-sàbhaidh ann an Dùn Bheagain agus shnaigh e luirgean ùra dhan chairt.

Tha cuimhn' agam mar gum b' ann an-dè air na sliseagan fiodha a' frasadh far iarann an tàil leis an d' rinn e an obair shnasail ud.

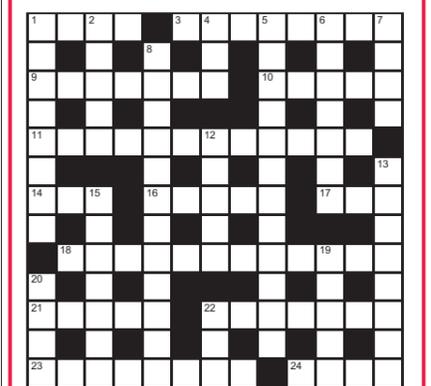
Madainn bhrègha carraich agus thàinig na cuimhneachain, agus faclan nach do chleachd mi bho chionn fhada, air ais nan sruth!

HELPING to spread a load of manure was a small price to pay for the privilege of planting potatoes in my friend's field, and the experience rekindled happy childhood memories of the small croft in Skye.

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

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THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Hope for (4)
 - 3 Mixture of beverages (8)
 - 9 Defiant (7)
 - 10 Very slow in tempo (5)
 - 11 One who inspires (7,5)
 - 14 Just there (3)
 - 16 A mission in 1836 at San Antonio (5)
 - 17 Dash (3)
 - 18 Liveliness (12)
 - 21 A puzzle of symbols and words (5)
 - 22 Poor (7)
 - 23 Parting word (8)
 - 24 Increase distance by foot (4)
- Down**
- 1 Upstarts (4,4)
 - 2 Cold dishes (5)
 - 4 Away (3)
 - 5 Mixture of colours (12)
 - 6 Drigible (7)
 - 7 Diving bird (4)
 - 8 Selling ready to eat foods (12)
 - 12 Used at the last supper (5)
 - 13 Hurries along faster (6,2)
 - 15 As a pointed example (7)
 - 19 Could be secret or raising (5)
 - 20 Of eye and plant (4)
 - 22 Belonging to the lady (3)

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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.

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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.

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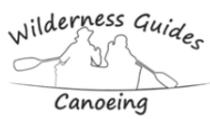
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what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY - APRIL 10

7.30pm, Tommy Sheridan's The Case for a Yes Vote, Corran Halls, Oban

FRIDAY - APRIL 11

2.00pm, Fèis Participants Concert, Oban Primary Campus.

SATURDAY - APRIL 12

12 noon, Soup Lunch, Pipe Band Hall, Shore St, Oban

2.30pm, History of the Argyll Papers, Port Appin Hall

11am, Solas Complementary Therapies Day, Glencruitten Church Centre

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Simply email details of your event to
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Record numbers at Fèis Latharna and Fèis Lochabair



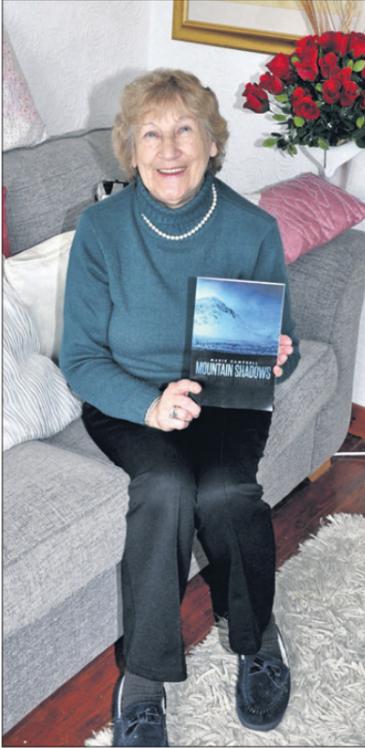
Iain MacDonald has spent 10 years tutoring keyboard at the fèis. 20_115feis01



Some young chanter players with tutor Jamie MacGregor from Connel. 15_115feis03



Age is no object for Ballachulish writer



Marie Campbell released her fifth novel just after celebrating her 80th birthday. 20_115marie01

A BALLACHULISH author shows no signs of slowing down, finishing her latest novel just after celebrating her 80th birthday.

Marie Campbell spent the special day with family but it was soon back to work as she prepared to release her fifth book, Mountain Shadows.

Mrs Campbell said: 'The whole village has been very supportive. Everyone was asking 'when are you going to write another?' So I thought it was time to get writing again.'

The keen rambler wrote her first book when her

children left home and says she has always enjoyed it.

She added: 'I used to write little stories for my children and I've been to nearby schools to read some of my shorter stories to the children there. I've always loved writing. I don't make a fortune from it but I'm not looking for a fortune, I'm quite happy just to write.'

Mountain Shadows features a newly qualified doctor who travels to the Highlands from New Zealand. The book is on sale in Ballachulish Visitor Centre and Crafts and Things, Glenceo.



Taynuilt fiddle tutor Ann Barlow taught this group of beginners. 15_115feis02



Oban Pipe Band drummer Bobbie Davie put these youngsters through their paces. 15_115feis04



It wouldn't be a proper session without sheet music all over the floor, as these pupils found during a group work class with tutors Sileas Sinclair and Joy Dunlop, who both hail from Connel. 15_115feis01

already have and that is important but no-one seemed to be encouraging young musicians to write their own tunes.

'I want the class to go away feeling empowered to write their own music. Their ideas will be different'

Adam, who was nominated for Composer of the Year at last year's MG Alba Scots Trad Awards, has recently released a new album, Squall, which he recorded in front of a live audience.

Ewen MacPherson, Fèis treasurer, explained: 'As we develop the Fèis and get more taking part in the older age groups, we need new things, like composition, to encourage them.'

'There are youngsters aged eight to 18 here this week and we have found that the older ones are now staying on for longer.'

As well as hosting a wealth of workshops, the Fèis also ran a family ceilidh yesterday (Wednesday) and a children's concert at the end of the week.



There was a lot of interest in the drumming classes with Hugh MacCallum and Oban Pipe Band's own Jenny Livingstone. 15_115feis06

Fèis Latharna

A RECORD number of youngsters from a wide age range took part in this year's Fèis Latharna at Oban Primary Campus.

Held throughout this week, the festival allows traditional musicians and dancers of all abilities to learn from some of the best in the business.

Fèis Latharna is celebrating 20 years this Easter and it was fitting that this anniversary should be marked with a record number of 168 participants.

New this year is a workshop in music composition, which has been aimed at more established young musicians and led by fiddle player Adam Sutherland of Session A9 and The Treacherous Orchestra.

Adam, who hails from Errogie, south of Loch Ness, was invited by the Fèis Latharna organisers after impressing with a similar workshop at the Royal National Mòd in Paisley last year.

He said: 'There is lots of great tuition on the tunes we

Creagan Inn hosts its first craft fair



Ladies showing off an assortment of their handmade arts and crafts at The Creagan Inn's first craft fair. 15_114creaganinn01

AN APPIN business-woman who had a vision to extend her pub into a café and craft centre, launched her first craft fair last Saturday.

Liz Crichton, who runs The Creagan Inn in Appin, invited eight local arts and crafts producers along for business on Saturday.

The array of unique items were displayed on stalls

in a separate room beside the bar and restaurant, overlooking the water.

More than 20 local producers are interested in displaying and selling their handmade work in Liz's café, and she is currently making plans for the craft fair to be a more permanent feature.

Liz is working with the local women to arrange

their availability and would like the stalls to be on display once or twice per month and possibly more during the busier summer months.

Taynuilt's Carol Olsen, who crafts hand painted silk scarves and paintings, has exhibited some of her work at Creagan Inn for over a year. She said: 'It [Creagan Inn] has a lot of

passing trade and I would love to work more often, but there needs to be a mastermind behind it and that is Liz.'

'She is helping to support local producers and giving people a retail outlet when they don't have one.'

Creagan Inn is nestled on the shores of Loch Creran on the main road between Oban and Fort William.

Wildlife photography exhibition opens to launch John Muir Festival

AN OUTDOOR exhibition of wildlife photographs opens at Taynish National Nature Reserve (NNR), near Tayvallich, next week to help launch the John Muir Festival.

The images were all taken in and around the Moine Mhor NNR, during a weekend of workshops organised by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Kilmartin Museum as part of the Year of Natural Scotland 2013 celebrations.

The workshops were led by multi award-winning wildlife photographer Philip Price, founder of the Kilchrenan-based Loch Visions, and were held over John Muir's birthday weekend last year.

The exhibition opens on April 17 to coincide with the launch of the John Muir Festival and will run until May 1 at The Mill on Taynish NNR.

John Muir was a passionate conservationist from Dunbar, who is widely regarded as the inspiration for setting up Scotland's

two National Parks and 47 stunning NNRs, three of which are in Argyll - at MoineMhor, Glasdrum and Taynish.

Doug Bartholomew, reserve ranger at Taynish NNR, says: 'We are delighted that this exhibition at The Mill will be a part of the John Muir Festival this year, a celebration of the work of John Muir and his impact upon our natural heritage conservation across Scotland.'

'Taynish is a magical place, where ancient Atlantic oakwoods sweep down to the shores of Loch Sween, so if you're planning a trip to the reserve, visit The Mill whilst you're there.'

'We are also delighted to have included in this exhibition, the Young Scot west coast picture competition winner, which was held in 2013 and covered by The Oban Times.'

The John Muir Festival runs from April 17 - 26.

For more information, visit www.johnmuirway.org.uk.

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Angus Binnie, a previous fèis student himself, tutoring some of his chanter pupils. 20_f15feis04



Clarsach tutor Siannie Moodie said she always aspired to teach after attending Fèis Ross in her younger years. Siannie is pictured with pupils Roslyn Campbell (left), Catryn Muir and Rebekah Leslie. 20_f15feis02



Shadow tutor Michael MacLeod helped Alex MacLean teach his button box class. 20_f15feis05



Accordion tutor Andrew MacDonald and his pupils Owen Pescod and Anna Gray stopped for a quick break. 20_f15feis06

Fèis Lochabair

FÈIS Lochabair had another successful year as 141 children attended a range of classes at Banavie Primary School. Tuition was offered in drama, dance, traditional music and song and will end with a final concert tomorrow afternoon (Friday).

Musicians providing instruction included fèis veteran Angus Grant, the left-handed fiddler, Rachel Walker (song), Iain MacDonald (keyboard), newbie Siannie Moodie (clarsach), Eilidh Shaw and Archie Clark (both fiddle), Alec MacLean (button box) and Andrew

MacDonald (accordion). Peggy MacDonald was on hand for art classes, Angus MacLeod taught drama and Jane MacNeill tired the kids out with step dance classes. Some older students were of a sufficiently high standard to be 'shadow' tutors, following a long

tradition of learners becoming fèis tutors in their own right. Fèis Lochabair chairwoman Deirdre Beck said 75 children attended the main fèis for eight year-olds and upwards, a big rise on last year's 60. Some 48 children took part in the 5-7 age group

- another rise on last year's pupils - and 18 under fives enjoyed the fèis beag (wee fèis). All students from age five will be involved in recording a song written by Skye musician Blair Douglas on Friday and it is hoped the song, Cairdeas (friendship) will be used

as part of this year's Commonwealth Games. Ms Beck said: 'Everything is going really well and it's great to see an increase on last year. We're really excited about recording the song, it will be great if it's used in connection with the Commonwealth Games.'

Local musicians entertain at Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club's April meeting

LOCAL musicians, although few in number, were very much to the fore at the April meeting of the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club at the Royal Hotel in Portree. Starting off the entertainment were accordionists John MacGilvary and John Cameron accompanied on drums by Donald John Campbell. They opened with a fine version of The Bonnie Lass O' Bon Accord followed by sets of marches, Gaelic waltzes and reels. Solo fiddler Wendy Riva contributed a medley of Scots and Irish tunes followed by a medley of well known classics and the youngest player of the

evening, 12 year-old Emily Mathieson, gave three superb sets on her piano accordion. The club were delighted to welcome the only visiting player of the evening in the person of Jed Burgess from Forres who got the audience toes tapping with a great medley on the Highland bagpipe. Guest band time stayed with a local theme and brought on stage for the first time at the Skye Club, the Portree-based Ardmore Ceilidh Band. Well known as individual musicians this trio comprised leader, on piano accordion, James Stewart, his father Sam Stewart on

second box and Donald John Campbell on drums. What followed could only be described as a musical delight, with instruments perfectly blending for a great sound and a feast of some of the finest Scottish dance tunes played in traditional style enchanting the audience and generating much complimentary comment when the evening drew to a close. The club now looks forward to their next meeting which will be held in the Royal Hotel, Portree on Thursday 1st May when they will welcome the Inverness based Susie Simpson Trio as guest band. **John Grundy**



The Ardmore Ceilidh band were in great form in Portree.

Fun filled night of activities at Atlantis Leisure's annual lock-in



More than 130 S1 pupils took part in the lock-in along with an enthusiastic team of volunteer helpers.

THE TENTH annual Atlantis Leisure lock-in from 10pm-8am for S1 pupils at Oban High School took place recently, with more than 130 pupils taking part. The youngsters were the first to use the main sports hall following the re-laying of the sprung wooden floor, which replaced the

damaged floor flooded in January by a burst pipe. It was the venue for a number of games and sports throughout the night, alongside table tennis, the gym, activities in the dance studio and even the squash courts which were used as cinemas screening movies until morning.

The swimming pool was in action too, with each S1 clan taking a turn to use it. A team of volunteers, including Atlantis Leisure staff, 15 S6 leaders, volunteers from the National Youth Organisation, Oban Youth Cafe and Hope2Oban (H2O), which organises the event, helped

to ensure that everything ran smoothly and the S1s were well looked after. Although the challenge was to stay awake for the whole night, H2O's Ewan Munro said there were a few sleepy faces around 6am and it is a challenge for the young folk. I went round with a video camera towards the end and there were lots of thumbs up and

good comments.' Oban businesses were generous with donations of food and drinks, while Cafe Atlantis helped to cook breakfast for everyone. More volunteers were on hand early in the morning to help clear up in the building, which was ready to face the day by 8.15am.



Among the volunteers helping out at the lock-in were 56 pupils from Oban High School, including Rhona McIntyre, left and Heather Campbell.



A big thumbs up for the 10th Atlantis Leisure lock-in organised by Hope2Oban.

Oban Phoenix Cinema	Muppets: Most Wanted	Thurs 10th	13.00
	Captain America: The Winter Soldier	Thurs 10th	15.30, 20.30
	Starred Up	Thurs 10th	18.00
	Escape From Planet Earth	Fri 11th	13.00 3D, 15.30 2D
		Sat 12th	13.00 2D, 15.30 2D
		Sun 13th	13.30 3D
		Mon 14th	13.00 2D
		Tues 15th	13.00 3D, 15.30 2D
		Wed 16th	13.00 2D
		Thurs 17th	13.00 3D, 15.30 2D
	Thurs 17th	20.30 2D	
The Legend of Hercules	Fri 11th	20.30 3D	
	Sat 12th	19.00 2D	
	Sun 13th	15.30 2D, 20.30 3D	
	Mon 14th	18.00 2D	
	Tues 15th	15.30 2D, 20.30 3D	
	Wed 16th	18.00 2D	
	Thurs 17th	18.00 2D	
A Long Way Down	Fri 11th	18.00	
	Sat 12th	18.00	
	Sun 13th	16.00	
	Mon 14th	18.00	
	Tues 15th	20.30	
	Wed 16th	18.00	
	Thurs 17th	20.30	

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Muppets: Most Wanted (U)
While on a grand world tour, The Muppets find themselves wrapped into a European jewel-heist caper headed by a Kermiel the Frog look-alike named 'Great Escape' and his dastardly sidekick. This is definitely a fun film for all the family!

Captain America: The Winter Soldier (12A)
Two years after the events of The Avengers, Steve Rogers resides peacefully in Washington, D.C., struggling to adapt to contemporary society. However, after a S.H.I.E.L.D. comrade is assailed, Steve becomes entangled in a mystery that may endanger the globe.

Starred Up (18)
In Starred Up, Jack O'Connell gives a star-making performance as 19 year-old Eric Love, a violent and troubled teenager making the difficult transition from a young offenders' institute to adult prison. He seems to be destined for a life behind bars, but the prison's unconventional therapist (Rupert Friend) is determined to help Eric find a way through, assisted by one of the prison's longest serving inmates who just happens to be Eric's father.

Escape From Planet Earth (U)
The story takes place on planet Baob where admired astronaut Scorch Supernova (Brandon Fraser) is a national hero to the blue alien population. A master of daring rescues, Scorch pulls off astonishing feats with the quiet aid of his nerdy brother, Gary (Rob Cordry), head of mission control at BASA.

The Legend of Hercules (12A)
In this epic origin story The Legend of Hercules, Kellan Lutz (Immortals) stars as the mythical Greek hero - the son of Zeus, a half-god, half-man blessed with extraordinary strength. Betrayed by his stepfather, a tyrant king, and exiled and sold into slavery because of a forbidden love, Hercules must use his formidable powers to fight his way back to his rightful kingdom. Through harrowing battles and gladiatorial death matches, Hercules embarks on a legendary odyssey to overthrow the King and restore peace to the land.

A Long Way Down (15)
Four lost souls - a disgraced TV presenter, a foul-mouthed teen, an isolated single mother and a solipsistic muso - decide to end their lives on the same night, New Year's Eve. When the disillusioned quartet of strangers meet unintentionally at the same suicide hotspot, a London high-rise with the well-earned nickname Topper's Tower, they mutually agree to call off their plans for six weeks, forming an unconventional, dysfunctional family, becoming media sensations as the Topper House Four and searching together for the reasons to keep on living.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

OBAN PIPE BAND is hosting a **SOUP LUNCH** in aid of Cancer Research UK in the Pipe Band Hall Shore Street On Saturday 12th April From 12 noon - 2.00pm Admission £3

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY 'History of the Argyll Papers' Ishbel MacKinnon Saturday 12 April 2.30pm Port Appin Hall www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk

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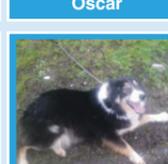
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Island

YOUR GUIDE TO

From the jagged Alpine peaks of the Cuillins to the golden beaches of Colonsay, these islands boast some of Scotland's most stunning landscapes – with much still to be discovered.

The home to much Gaelic culture, the native tongue is still spoken in many parts and the traditions of music, song and poetry are still alive and well in townships and crofts up and down the Hebrides.

But these islands have a very modern face too, with enterprising businesses and tourism expeditions

helping to develop the ever-changing way of life in the Hebrides.

Most of the islands can be reached from Oban by sea but flights are also run from Oban and Glasgow to an increasing number of island destinations.

Wildlife enthusiasts from across the globe will take great delight in finding out more about the islands' natural wonders and for the whisky aficionado, there are some of the world's best drams to sample.

The Hebrides has also carved out a reputation as a destination for the more active tourist, with

windsurfing, hill walking, climbing, fell running and sailing among the more popular.

To see the best of these islands during the summer season, why not try to visit during one of the many festivals on offer? Taking in a wide choice of interests and experiences, these festivals are as much for the island communities as for visitors and create a carnival atmosphere, whatever the weather!

So, from long walks to lounging around, there is certainly something for everyone on their Hebridean adventure.



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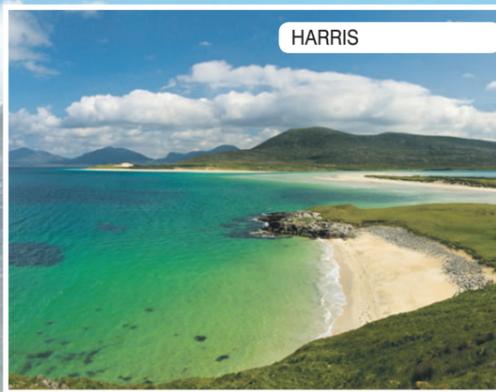
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OUTER HEBRIDES TOURISM INDUSTRY COMMITS TO 2020 VISION

The fifth annual Outer Hebrides Tourism Conference proved to be one of the most significant and ambitious to date, as the 2020 vision for the destination and individual tourism businesses across the islands was unveiled today (8th April).

The industry has committed to growing tourism in the Outer Hebrides from £53m to £64-67m by 2020, an increase of 20-25%, by lengthening the season, increasing transport capacity/ integration, offering additional authentic experiences and appealing to new markets.

The speakers at "Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020: Turning Our Assets Into Experiences", organised by the Outer Hebrides Tourism Industry Association (OHTIA), set a confident and optimistic tone for the islands. At forefront of the conference was the announcement of the new tourism strategy, which will help to guide the Outer Hebrides' tourism industry towards the end of the decade.

While recognising that overcoming the obstacles to growth will be a key to the success of this new strategy, the conference also concluded that growth can be achieved by turning the destination's best assets into outstanding experiences for visitors.

"By 2020," claimed Ian Fordham, the Chair of OHTIA, "the Outer Hebrides will be a destination of first choice for visitors who are looking for a unique world class experience. The diverse islands can offer them a selection of vibrant activity, food, music, art, craft and Gaelic culture in an outstanding environmental setting on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. They have great appeal for those who are seeking peace and tranquillity as well as those looking for active adventure with a taste for a different way of life."

He added that this year's conference had, without question, been the most important and forward-looking conference the Association had organised: "The opportunities are there for all to see, and we are confident of a united approach to the future of the industry."

Best-selling author, Peter May, was guest speaker at the conference giving an insight into what inspired him to write his books about the Outer Hebrides 'The Lewis Trilogy', and why the area is so special to him. He also launched the new Peter May Literary Trail which features on visitouterhebrides.co.uk, the official website for the Outer Hebrides, and helps people to visit the various locations referred to in his books and experience them first hand.

May commented: "Everywhere I go in the UK, the US or in Europe, people tell me that the books have given them the desire to visit the Outer Hebrides. Many of them already have, but many more are on their way. So expect a deluge of tourists in the coming years."

The conference was sponsored by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), VisitScotland and Flybe/Loganair, and organisations including Scottish Tourism Alliance, Caledonian MacBrayne, Wilderness Scotland, the Royal Yachting Association Scotland and The Kintyre Way participated in the day's proceedings.

Rachel Mackenzie, HIE's Area Manager for the Outer Hebrides, said: "HIE is proud to have supported the OHTIA develop a new tourism strategy for the Outer Hebrides. Tourism is a key sector for us and it is a significant economic contributor in the region. There are timely opportunities for us, collaboratively, to develop the tourism sector in our islands and this strategy identifies a range of priorities to strengthen and grow the industry in the Outer Hebrides."

Cllr Alasdair Macleod, Chair of Sustainable Communities, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar said: "Comhairle nan Eilean Siar welcomes the launch of the Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 strategy; this is an ambitious, forward-looking strategy that seeks to grow the industry significantly over the next six years. Tourism is a vital industry for the Outer Hebrides. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar looks forward to working with the tourism industry to achieve the growth and maximise the benefits for the area."

"The Outer Hebrides offer a unique natural and cultural experience, I look forward to participating in the conference and I am confident it will deliver a good platform to launch the strategy and set the industry and partners on course to deliver the desired growth in tourism leading to increased visitor numbers, jobs and investment".

David MacLennan, Unit Manager for Argyll and the Outer Hebrides at Scottish Natural Heritage said: "The Outer Hebrides is blessed with outstanding scenery and spectacular wildlife. This is a huge attraction for visitors. We are pleased to be working with OHTIA to deliver the new strategy - our plants, land, seas and species here in the Outer Hebrides have such an important role to play in sustaining the local tourism industry".

The new tourism strategy for the Outer Hebrides will feed into the National Tourism Strategy for Scotland by maximising the full potential of the islands' outstanding tourism assets. The goal is to make Scotland a quality destination of 'first choice' and Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 will ensure the islands are a distinct part of this.

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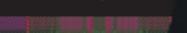
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Easter Property Review



FOLLOWING one of the most sustained and prolonged property slumps on record, the residential market in the Argyll and Bute area is finally showing signs that it is emerging from recession.

Estate agents said houses, especially those located within the county's town centres, can now sell within three to six months compared to a lengthy average of up to 12 months as recently as last year.

However, it was stressed that despite the encouraging improvement being recorded in the number of sales and the shortening of selling periods, it could still be another year before the market overall sees consistent upward growth in values.

Estate agent Bell Ingram said: 'Sales activity improved steadily through last year with the company recording a third of all sales in the last quarter alone. This applies property across all sectors but in particular town centre properties.

'We are seeing flats and smaller house sales really take off with good interest from both owner-occupiers and buyers keen to invest into the buy to let sector. There are also signs that the second homes market has picked up recently, all of which provides strong signals that the market is beginning to turn for the better.

'Primarily this is down to more flexibility in the mortgage market, but it is also the case that sellers' price expectations have finally begun to modify somewhat.'

However, larger properties and plots are still struggling to see improved levels of interest from buyers but it is hoped that as confidence returns these sectors will also see higher levels of activity.



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Offers Over £400,000

ARDAINE



Well Maintained Detached Bungalow Commanding Superb Views Across Asknish Bay Towards The Islands Of Shuna, Scarba & Jura
Lounge : Kitchen/Dining Room : 3 Bedrooms (1 En-Suite) Bathroom : Double Glazing : Electric Heating Landscaped Garden : Summerhouse : Garage : Shed

Guide Price £260,000

PULPIT ROCK, OBAN



Generously Proportioned Main Door Upper Floor Flat In A Popular Residential Area Convenient To The Town Porch : Hall : Lounge : Dining Kitchen 3 Bedrooms : Bathroom : Attic Area Electric Heating : Double Glazing Garden : Stores : Off Street Parking

Guide Price £150,000

ISLE OF LISMORE



Traditional Detached Cottage Conveniently Situated In The Middle Of The Island With A Pleasant Rural Outlook
Lounge : Dining Room : Kitchen 3 Bedrooms : Bathroom : Conservatory Double Glazing : Oil Fired Heating Good Sized Mature Garden With 2 Ponds : Parking

Guide Price £175,000

LOCHAWE



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Lounge/Dining Room : Sun Room : Kitchen : Utility Room 5 Bedrooms (2 En Suite) : Bathroom : Study Area : Store Garage : Easily Maintained Garden : Greenhouse

Guide Price £290,000

ROCKFIELD ROAD, OBAN



An Impressive Traditional Semi Detached Villa With Excellent Views Over Oban Bay From The Upper Floors
Lounge : Dining Room : Kitchen : Study : Bathroom 6 Bedrooms (3 En-Suite Shower, 1 En-Suite Toilet) Garden : Parking : Timber Shed : Timber Laundry Shed Currently Trading As A Bed & Breakfast

Guide Price £270,000

ICHRACHAN, TAYNUILT



Charming Traditional Detached House Offering Extensively Modernized Accommodation In A Picturesque Rural Village Location
Hall : Lounge : Kitchen/Dining Room Double Glazing : Electric Heating : Solar Panels Delightful Well Stocked Cottage Garden : Outbuilding

Guide Price £185,000

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An Exceptionally Spacious Modern Detached Family Home In A Peaceful Yet Convenient Semi Rural Location
Lounge : Dining : Kitchen/Breakfast Room : Conservatory 4 En-Suite Bedrooms (1 With Dressing Area) : Bathroom Study : Cloakroom : Utility Room : Garage Established Garden With Burn : Shed : Greenhouse

Offers Over £340,000

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Guide Price £380,000

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Offers Over £60,000 Each



MOVING CHECKLIST

- Some say that moving is one of the most stressful events of all, so be prepared for the whole process long before you begin.
- Decide on a moving date (usually the completion date) as soon as contracts have been exchanged. Try to avoid Fridays and bank holidays when removal firms are in high demand and may be stretched. For a less stressful move, opt for off-peak times such as mid-week. It's more likely your chosen removal firm will be available for that day.
 - Call in the professionals. Ask friends or relatives who have moved recently to recommend removal firms.
 - Get at least three estimates from different firms and don't automatically accept the cheapest.
 - Establish a written timetable with the removal firm and check the foreman has all the necessary details.
 - Make sure the removal firm has a clear map showing how to find your new home.
 - Ensure your possessions are insured for transit. Most removal firms provide such insurance. Check what it covers and whether there are exclusions. Remember that anything you pack yourself may not be covered by the removal firm's insurance. If you are planning to transport any precious items yourself, check that these are covered when in transit by your contents insurance.
 - Hire professional cleaners to give your new place a thorough going over before you move in. Some removal firms will arrange to do this. This will make the whole move a more comfortable process.
 - Before the big day, have a clear out. Valuable items that are no longer needed can be auctioned or sold to a dealer in second-hand furniture. Other items can be donated to charity shops or recycled.
 - Get someone to look after the children for the day. The same goes for pets - or book them into kennels or a cattery. Make sure they have identity tags with their new address.
 - Compile a fact file for the people who are moving into your property, such as instruction leaflets and service information for the heating system and appliances you're leaving, together with details of rubbish collection etc.
 - Round up all the keys to your home, including those left with neighbours, nannies and relatives, and give them to your solicitor or estate agent.
 - If the move is going to be spread over a couple of days, arrange accommodation and pack a bag for an overnight stop.
 - Make a scale plan of each room in your new home to give to the removal team so, in theory, they know exactly where everything is to go. Colour-code packing cases and furniture in the hope that this will mean it ends up in the right rooms.
 - Make a complete inventory of everything to be moved.
 - Advise the post office to redirect your post.
 - Cancel milk and newspapers.
 - If you are moving to a different area, register with a new GP.
 - Get change of address cards printed.
 - Notify Utilities: water, gas and electricity providers; Telephone and Internet service providers; Contact TV licensing in order to transfer your licence to your new address; Bank, building society, pension provider and company you have loans or investments with; Credit card and store card companies; Local council regarding council tax; Subscriptions to magazines, charities, etc; Employers; The schools your children attend; DVLA; It is a legal requirement to notify DVLA. You will need to renew your driving licence and vehicle registration document; Friends, family and colleagues.
 - Upon arrival, read the meters and check that the phone, security alarm, electricity, gas, central heating and water work.
- Even if everything is in order and has run smoothly, the chances are by the end of the day you'll be too shattered to move, so collapse on the sofa, order a takeaway and crack open a bottle of champagne.

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- ▶ EPC Rating D62
- ▶ Offers in the region of £190,000



Summerhill, Crannaig A Mhinister, Oban

- ▶ Well presented family home in sought after location
- ▶ Wonderful views to the Islands of Kerrera and Mull
- ▶ Lounge, Kitchen, Utility Room, Dining room
- ▶ 4 Bedrooms, 5th Bedroom/Office, Study, 2 W.C.'s, Bathroom
- ▶ Full Double Glazing, Total Control Electric Heating
- ▶ Large Garden, Shed, Driveway
- ▶ EPC rating F27
- ▶ Offers in the region of £250,000



1 The Village, Bunessan, Isle of Mull

- ▶ Upper flat situated in heart of village
- ▶ Superb coastal views
- ▶ Fully double glazed, electric heating & open fire
- ▶ Hall, Lounge, Bedroom, Kitchen, Bathroom
- ▶ Compact garden, garden shed
- ▶ EPC Rating D57
- ▶ Offers in the region of £70,000



Plot 2, Achnacairn, North Connel, By Oban

- ▶ Attractive building plot in desirable location
- ▶ Plot extends to 0.432 acres (1750m2)
- ▶ Detailed planning consent for substantial 4 bed detached home & detached garage
- ▶ Views across Loch Etive to Ben Cruachan
- ▶ Nearby to local amenities & services
- ▶ Guide Price £130,000



3 Ellenabeich, Easdale, By Oban

- ▶ Charming cottage in picturesque conservation village
- ▶ Immaculate condition, renovated to a high standard
- ▶ Deceptively spacious, double glazing, wood burning stove + electric heating
- ▶ Lounge, Double Bedroom, Newly Installed Kitchen, Bathroom & Private Garden
- ▶ EPC Rating D62
- ▶ Fixed Price £155,000



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Easter Property Makeover



BEDROOMS

Bedrooms are very busy rooms although it's hard to think of them that way until you really consider how much time we all spend in them. At least a third of our lives are spent sleeping and of course we sleep in our bedrooms. On top of that, we dress and embellish ourselves in our bedrooms, relax from time to time during the day in them, spend a greater part of the day in them when we are ill and, if space is lacking elsewhere in the home, pursue our hobbies and studies in our bedrooms.

Given all that, it is strange indeed that bedrooms are often the last rooms in the home to be refurbished, refurnished or even properly planned. Gradually people's attitudes are changing towards their bedrooms however and whilst we shall probably never return to the 18th century custom of greeting morning visitors whilst still in bed, we are all entitled to a well planned, beautiful and comfortable bedroom.

There are a range of choices when it comes to fitting out a bedroom. You can go for the fully fitted look; the room furnished with an elegant range of free-standing furniture; or a judicious mix of the two.

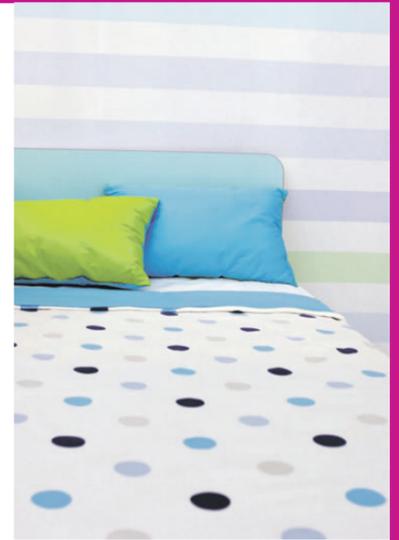
It depends of course on its size and what you intend to do with the room other than just sleep. Really huge rooms are probably best fitted out with free-standing units with perhaps the odd fitted wardrobe slotted into an alcove. Very small rooms are best furnished with a full range of fitted units because these make the most of every inch of available space.

Before you decide on anything however, you should choose or buy the bed you intend to have because bedrooms are best designed around the bed. It is also the largest item of free-standing furniture and its size will dictate what available space you have in the rest of the room. Next, sit down and plan the room with due regard to all the activities it will house and the storage space you will need. This is best done to scale with graph paper once you have measured the exact dimensions of the room. Draw it on the graph paper and mark in doors, windows and other permanent features such as the chimney breast. If you find this difficult you could well ask one of the specialist suppliers or furnishing departments in your area to send their room planner to do the job for you. There are advantages to this because planners will not only be skilled in design, they also know the units and furniture their firm sells plus their prices, which will help you keep to a budget.

Look ahead when deciding on the furnishings. Will your use of the room change? Do you plan to share it? If you have future study in mind, build a desk area in. If you have a hobby, make sure there is space. If you have an exercise machine or mini-gym, put that into the plan.

Lighting is important and should also figure on your plan. You will want directional as well as diffuse light. Perhaps a track of spotlights would serve together with a dimmer switch? Free-standing and over-mirror lights too can be very convenient.

Don't overlook heating and ventilation. If built-in wardrobes are fitted to exterior walls they will need to be dry-lined to prevent dampness forming. The lining must be suitably vented. Heating is important so don't hide the radiators behind units.



If you don't have central heating, make sure directional heating is included as part of the plan. If all this dictates more power points, have them fitted before you decorate and put in the furniture.

Do consider hot summers and include a built-in oscillating fan or ceiling-mounted punka. Both have the added advantage of discouraging midges, mosquitoes and flies should any be about.

If your room is large enough, consider an en suite shower or bathroom. It will add to the value of your property and give you endless satisfaction.

A properly planned, well furnished bedroom is a pleasure to use. If yours lacks all the amenities you feel you could do with, now is the time to do something about it because there never has been such a wide and interesting range of bedroom fittings at such advantageous prices on the market before.

BATHROOMS

If there is one room in the house where you need to be warm and perfectly comfortable, it's the bathroom. There it is that you can find yourself wearing the least clothes, and be wet too. Bathrooms should be where you can relax in warm humidity, where you have access to limitless piping hot water and where you can be free from chilling draughts.

Once upon a time bathrooms comprised a bath, washbasin and perhaps also a WC. Today most people also expect a shower and bidet as well.

Our ideas have changed over recent years as have our bathing habits. As a population we bathe more often in the week than did our parents and grandparents, we expect to be able to do so whenever we feel like it, and at a moment's notice.

A well designed, comfortable bathroom is not a luxury, it is a necessity, a right to which we are all entitled. If your present bathroom lacks some creature comforts, it's high time it was replaced.

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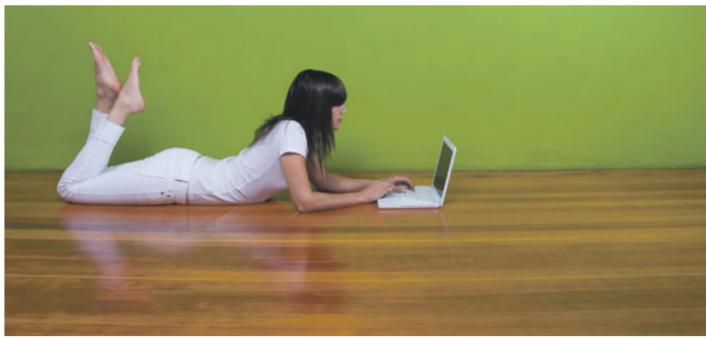
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JURALCO NSCC



First consider a new suite.

The latest baths are of plastic derivatives, warm to the touch, easy to care for and tough in use. You can however, still buy enamelled cast iron or steel baths though oddly, they tend to cost rather more than the non-metal models. Modern baths are also very attractive to look at and come, not only in a huge range of colours including black and white, they are also made in a variety of shapes and sizes to fit in with almost any shape and size of room.

Matching washbasins may stand upon a pedestal or they may be fitted into a vanity unit with a surrounding worktop and cupboards underneath. The basin part will be made either of a plastic derivative or porcelain.

The latest matching WCs are sleek, easy to clean, porcelain fixtures with low, slim-line cisterns and a two-tier choice of flush - full or half, to help conserve your water.

Set beside the WC in most bathrooms these days too will be a matching bidet for those more intimate actions of ablution.

The biggest change in the modern bathroom however, is the shower. Whether housed in a separate cubicle or fitted over the bath, it will probably have its own water heating unit quite divorced from the rest of the central heating.

There are specialist suppliers of bathrooms and associated equipment but they are also sold by the DIY chains and large stores. If you feel your bathroom needs a refit, measure the available space, note where doors, windows and water supplies are piped in and go to a supplier who can give you advice.

You can fit your own bathroom if you have the knowledge and skills. Unless you have however, contact a local plumber who will know, not only how to do the work correctly, but who will also be appraised of the relevant Bye Laws that govern the disposal of waste and the supply of water. Remember you will probably be disconnecting the existing suite from your central heating system and reconnecting the new suite to it. If you don't want your system upset, you must employ the services of a professional and remember, if you do try to do the work yourself and fail, subsequently having to call in an expert to do the job could cost a great deal more.

FLOORING

The floors of your home are the base of everything in it. They are in a very special way, a pallet on which you can mix and match the colours and textures of everything in each room. Change the flooring and you change the whole character of your living accommodation.

Floors however, serve a number of purposes other than something firm on which to stand. They can be insulation against cold or noise. They can add warmth. In some rooms such as the kitchen or bathroom they should provide a waterproof, easily washed and dried surface. If the floor is also warm to the touch, it will also prevent condensation.

The variety of flooring materials available are numerous enough to give you a different choice for every room in even a large house, so choosing which is best for your purposes can be no easy matter. It is wise therefore to look at each individual room rather than follow the 'one size fits all' route.

If you have wooden floor boards, have them sanded, stained and polished for a really, up-to-the-minute, different look. You could paint them some clear, bright colour. There are specially hard wearing paints available. In modern houses however, boards may have been replaced by block board or concrete which will nevertheless, give a good flat surfaces for a laminated flooring - easily available from most DIY stores.

This attractive wooden flooring can be laid easily by one person following the instructions provided by the suppliers, as long as the surface is quite flat and even.

Carpets come in large squares, runners, tiles or broadloom rolls and can be laid wall to wall or strategically as required. Depending on your taste you may wish to go for something contemporary and plain, traditional and colourful or oriental. The material your carpet is made from should depend on where it's laid and the amount of traffic it will carry. Your supplier will be able to advise. However, it is worth remembering

that the best wearing carpets are the best laid ones so it's worth considering having any carpet professionally laid. And if you do want a single colour effect throughout the house, you can go for a broadloom made in a variety of qualities. The carpet supplier will usually visit to measure up and will advise on which quality should be laid where.

Lastly, when selecting a floor or its covering, do consider how often it may need to be cleaned. Obviously the hard surfaces are easier to clean than piled surfaces but the latest carpeting is usually treated to shrug off dirt and stains so it may be this need never be a consideration.

KITCHENS

Up until about fifty years ago, the kitchen was the least considered room in any house. The very name implied something low and almost not respectable. Kitchen maids were a long way down the domestic hierarchy. Kitchen porters were even lower in the commercial sphere. When it came to equipping a kitchen little attention was paid to convenience, even less to hygiene. A cooker, sink, table, cupboard, meat safe and a couple of chairs were about the best most kitchens could boast. Decor was as basic as it could be - emulsion on the walls if you were lucky, white-wash if you weren't. 'Luxury' kitchens might have white tiled walls but even these did nothing to detract from the bare, comfortless utilitarianism of the room. It was a room to escape from as fast as possible or to keep away from if you were lucky enough to be able to afford a cook.

Thankfully all that changed. Domestic staff have all but vanished, so the lady, and even the man, of the house now have to carry out the cooking duties, and of course they demand a little more in the way of comfort and convenience. So from around the 1960s the kitchen became a top priority for modernisation. Since then, many kitchens have had more than one re-fit, and still the average householder will even after ten years, consider a brand new kitchen, spending more money on that room than any other room in the house.

A great deal of design thought and effort goes into the creation of today's kitchen furniture and equipment. It is now a room to be bang up to date, to be shown off to friends, to linger in, to enjoy.



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ideal HOME SHOW SCOTLAND
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WIN TICKETS
to The Ideal Home Show Scotland 2014
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The Ideal Home Show Scotland team are back at Glasgow's SECC from May 23 to 26 this year in what promises to be yet another outstanding home event. Over 40,000 visitors are expected at the show, looking for ideas and products ranging from substantial home projects to those simply looking to add some extra flair to their homes.

This year's team of celebrity experts offering advice are TV Interiors guru John Amabile, architect and presenter George Clarke, fresh from Restoration Man, award-winning gardens expert and designer Diarmuid Gavin and Technology and Gadgets Ambassador, Suzi Perry. Gregg Wallace will be bringing back his exclusive show restaurant giving visitors the chance to taste the best of local produce with a selection of delicious dishes.

The fabulous Carol Smillie will be adding glamour and making sure everyone is looking gorgeous with her top fashion and beauty tips.
Visit www.idealhomeshowscotland.co.uk

The Ideal Home Show is offering 10 lucky Oban Times readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the show.

For your chance to win a pair of tickets simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, HIS Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Tuesday April 22, 2014.

QUESTION:
How many visitors are expected at the Ideal Home Show Scotland this year?
a) 10,000
b) 20,000
c) over 40,000

Answer
Name
Address
Postcode
Telephone
Email

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyex Media and associated company employees and their families. Tickets will be posted to the winners nearer the date of the event. This offer is only open to UK residents. Complimentary tickets are valid for one day only, on any one day of the show between the 23rd - 26th May 2014, to Ideal Home Show at the SECC. Tickets are non transferable. Complimentary tickets obtained through this offer may not be duplicated. All tickets will be scanned on entry to the show.

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Please apply with full CV and covering letter to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

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We want to hear from you if you have:

- > The appropriate experience and qualification in journalism
- > Shorthand
- > Ambition and enthusiasm

- > Talent, self motivation and commitment
- > A full current driving licence
- > Knowledge of the West Coast an advantage

Financial assistance for accommodation where relevant may be available for the first three months. We offer a good, competitive salary + private health care + enhanced pension + life assurance + excellent benefits and great working conditions.

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A vacancy currently exists in our Oban office for a full time/part time Administrative Assistant.

The successful applicant will be required to assist our very busy sales department and also work closely with our Sales Director.

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We are offering an exciting opportunity to build a career in local newspapers to develop, expand and strengthen the potential of our advertising sales teams. We are seeking to appoint an experienced and/or trainee sales person who is lively,

enthusiastic, a good communicator and committed to customer satisfaction. The successful candidate will join our Campbeltown Courier sales team and work across a variety of publications and products. On-going in-house training will be given as

required. A full driving licence is essential as you may not necessarily be office based but could have the opportunity to travel throughout Argyll and surrounding area in one of our company vehicles. We offer an excellent rate of pay, generous

annual holiday entitlement, company pension scheme, life assurance and private medical insurance. If you are looking for a career with a well established company and have the above attributes - we want to hear from you.

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Excellent communication skills, computer literacy, enthusiasm, proficiency in spelling and grammar are all essential attributes for this position.

In addition to salary, we offer group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance

If you feel the above is you, please email your CV and a letter of application to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

Fresh Connection Florist

18 Longrow South Campbeltown, PA28 6AH

We have a part time vacancy averaging 16 to 18 hours per week, ideally the person would have experience in floristry/retail or have an interest in learning floristry. The successful applicant would have to be flexible at peak times and be prepared to cover holidays. Driving license would be beneficial but not essential. For further information please email: flowers@freshconnectionshop.co.uk or telephone 01586 553220. Applications can also be emailed or posted to the above address.

Seasonal Staff for Coffee Shop required

Full or part time, preferably with experience in similar position.

Please call 01546 830 261 or send your CV by email: reservations@crinanhotel.com

Scottish Sea Farms

PROCESSING ENGINEER - SCALLOWAY, SHETLAND

Scottish Sea Farms Ltd is looking to recruit an Engineer based within our Processing operation in Scalloway, Shetland Isles. The role requires an individual who is multi-disciplined, preferably with an electrical bias. Candidates should be familiar with faultfinding and diagnosis of electro-mechanical equipment. Previous experience in primary and secondary processing is also essential.

In offering this position, Scottish Sea Farms are providing a unique and valuable opportunity to join a dynamic, hardworking team, which is focused on delivering the highest quality product to the world's most demanding customers.

The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate:

- A hands on approach
- Excellent supervisory and communication skills
- Computer literacy
- The ability to oversee the Health and Safety of employees to a high standard
- The ability to motivate staff
- Be willing to learn and work in a flexible environment
- Be able to work with minimal supervision

In return Scottish Sea Farms offer an on-going competitive pay and benefits package including entry into the company's occupational health programme, gym membership and cycle to work scheme.

Interested applicants should contact claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com or call 01786 445521 for a job description and application form. Closing date for applications is Friday 25th April 2014.

A full, clean driving licence is essential.

Scottish Sea Farms makes it happen



HGV Drivers

We are currently looking for HGV drivers based at our locations in Inveraray and Fort William.

Experience of delivering concrete, coated asphalt and aggregates would be preferred but not essential as training will be given to the right candidate.

The successful candidate must have a proactive attitude toward health and safety as well as being focussed on the needs of our customers.

We offer competitive terms and other benefits associated with a progressive employer.

If you wish to be considered for this position, please apply via e-mail to rosemary.morrison@breedonaggregates.com or in writing to Rosemary Morrison at: Breedon Aggregates, Dunbeg Region Office, Dunbeg, OBAN, Argyll, PA37 1PX.

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requires an electrician for domestic and commercial work

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Please email CV to iain.woodrow@btinternet.com or phone 01496810410.

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Legal Officer SAMS

Part-time position - 22.2hrs per week
Salary £30k+ pro-rata plus pension

As Legal Officer, you will assist SAMS in meeting our statutory obligations. You will provide legal advice, guidance and support to SAMS; ensuring that we are compliant at all times and managing risk effectively.

This role may also occasionally provide high-level secretarial support to SAMS committees.

We are looking for someone who has a legal background, excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills and a proven ability to work to high standards and tight deadlines.

For further information and to apply for this position online, go to: www.sams.ac.uk. Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Legal Officer, (Job Ref. D26/13.AxM), The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA or e-mail recruitment@sams.ac.uk

Closing date: Friday 25th April 2014

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

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Hire and Supplies are looking for a new sales team member for their Trade counter. A positive attitude and enjoy dealing with a varied range of sales and Hire bookings. Experience within the Hire and Tool sales would be of an advantage. A knowledge of local trade and selling to this sector.

Driving licence required

Applications should be handed in at the office at Mill Lane or telephone Mary Ann Murray on 01631 566306
1 Mill Lane, Lochavullin, Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HA

west coast recruitment

Interview FAQs

Preparation for your interview is time well spent. Read on to find out more about what you can expect to face in the interview, and tips on how to deal with the more difficult questions.

WHAT TYPES OF INTERVIEW ARE THERE?

If you've not had an interview for a while, it's worth knowing that organisations use different types of interview for different types of job. Some of the most common are:

Competency-based

These focus on the skills and attributes needed. You'll have to relate your skills and experience to the job in question.

Technical

These are for technical positions such as IT or engineering jobs. You will probably be asked to display your technical knowledge of a certain process or skill. They may ask you to do this by talking about your previous experience or by asking you hypothetical questions, such as "what would you do if you were working on this project?"

Face-to-face

The interviewer meets with the candidate in person.

Telephone

Some organisations use these as the first stage of screening. You may be warned in advance or contacted out of the blue. First impressions count, so you should prepare for a telephone interview just as much as you would for a face-to-face interview. Unless it takes place on a videophone, you won't need to worry about what you are wearing at the time.

Panel

This is when more than one person interviews you. Usually, one person chairs the interview and panel members take it in turns to ask you different questions. You should direct your answer mainly towards the panel member that asked the question.

HOW DO I NEGOTIATE SALARY?

For some jobs (usually in the private sector) where a salary is not stated, you may have to negotiate your salary. This will usually happen when you are offered the job.

Some tips:

- > ask them what the salary range is for similar jobs in the company
- > get an idea of what the going rate is for the job - check other job ads
- > if you're asked what salary you are expecting, answer quickly and confidently - don't dither
- > start high, and meet in the middle if necessary
- > don't ask about salary or benefits before you've been offered the job.

WHICH QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK AT THE END OF THE INTERVIEW?

At the end of the interview you usually get the opportunity to ask your own questions. You should always ask at least one question, to show your enthusiasm and interest in the job.

Here are some examples:

- > Can you describe a typical day?
- > What training do you offer?
- > Ask about something you read about in your research - such as a new product or service
- > Who will I be working with?
- > Who will my manager be?
- > Where do I fit into the organisational structure?
- > How much of my time will be spent on this task?
- > How do you see the role developing?
- > When will you let me know the outcome of the interview?

WHAT IF I GET ASKED ABOUT SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE I DON'T HAVE?

You can face questions like this if you're applying for promotion or going for a career change. As a general rule, however, you should apply for jobs for which you have most of the skills. Do not worry if you haven't got one or two of the required skills. Remember, the person specification is an ideal, and no one person might match the ideal.

However, you will have to show that you have the potential to develop these missing skills. You can do this by describing times when you've:

- > been given extra responsibilities
- > been left in charge
- > showed this skill on an informal basis, either in work or at home.

For example, if you're applying for a job as an ambulance care assistant, you know it is essential to know how to carry patients and secure them in the vehicle. You could mention how you've done this with small children or elderly relatives, so you are aware of the need for safety. You need to show that you're aware of the need for the skill, and that you're capable of developing it.

If you have no related experience, describe how you would act if you were placed in this situation. For example, if you had to deal with a difficult customer you could explain how you would approach it: stay calm, be polite and be clear on what your roles are.

Explain how you approach learning new skills, and that you are a keen and efficient learner. You may also score points if you describe how you handle tasks that don't play to your natural strengths. It would show you are willing to adapt and take on tasks that do not come that naturally to you.

WHAT SHOULD I DO THE NIGHT BEFORE THE INTERVIEW?

It's important to prepare for interviews.

But the night before the interview you shouldn't put in too much work, so try to relax. Last minute " cramming " might only stress you out.

WHAT IF I WAS FIRED FROM MY LAST JOB?

If you were laid off as part of a general reduction in the workforce, be honest about it but then move on quickly.

If you were fired for misconduct or not fulfilling your responsibilities as laid out in your contract, deal with this differently. Admit to occasional failings if you can show that you've learnt from them. For instance, if you lost motivation, became lazy and got caught, describe how you intend to stay motivated in future. If you broke company policy, you could say you were going through personal or financial problems at the time, but that they have been resolved.

You should check out your referees: if it was your last boss who fired you, and you have to list the person for a reference, phone and try to clear the air. Say you understand why you were fired, but you've learned from the experience and are looking to start afresh.

Explain that you're looking for a reference as you're looking for work. Ask what they would say about you. Ask if they would say you were fired or if they would say you resigned. Not many bosses would keep giving you a bad reference to prevent you getting new work.

Even with these questions, honesty is the best policy. But always end with a positive, and show how you learnt from a negative experience.

WHAT IF I GET ASKED WHY I'VE BEEN OUT OF WORK FOR A LONG TIME?

First, stress any positive activities you've undertaken during your period out of work.

Such as:

- > voluntary work
- > courses
- > keeping up with developments in your field
- > treating job seeking as a full-time job
- > keeping fit
- > networking.

You can also say that you were being selective, and not taking the first job that came along. Stress that you were waiting for the right opportunity, such as the job being offered by the employer interviewing you.

WHAT IF I VOLUNTARILY LEFT MY JOB?

Make sure you state positive reasons for leaving.

The best reason is to say that you wanted a fresh challenge, and you wanted to fully concentrate your efforts on finding your next opportunity. Reflect positively on your time in your previous job - describe how you developed in the role and say you were grateful for the opportunity.



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- > Ambition and enthusiasm
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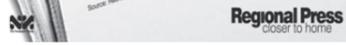
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Oban Times RECRUITMENT



We are looking to recruit the following:

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Please contact Ernie McInnes on 01631 569100

the National Trust for Scotland
a place for everyone

This national charity requires a

SEASONAL RECEPTIONIST
at Arduaine Garden near Kilmelford
from April to September inclusive, Friday, Saturday and Sunday only. If you enjoy meeting the public and want to be involved with this beautiful garden please phone Maurice Wilkins on 01852 200366 or email mwilkins@nts.org.uk

TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE PERSON

The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust is looking to employ a Temporary Maintenance Person for a period of six months.

Duties to include weeding, grass cutting, clearance of drains, splitting of logs and general works.
35 hours per week - National Minimum Wage

All applications should be submitted to the IGHT Trust Office, Craft Workshop No.1, Isle of Gigha, PA41 7AA, no later than 12.00 noon on Friday 25th April 2014.

Nursery Practitioner required for a well established Oban Nursery

This is an excellent opportunity for a highly motivated and experienced childcare professional to develop their role in an established and exciting nursery.

We offer a competitive salary and holiday allowance, welcome applications from all sectors of the community and are an equal opportunity employer.

Contact Ann or Fiona on 01631 567491 or manager.firststeps@yahoo.co.uk and we look forward to welcoming you as part of our happy team.

All applicants subject to a Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 check



SALES EXECUTIVE



We are offering an exciting opportunity to build a career in local newspapers to develop, expand and strengthen the potential of our advertising sales teams.

We are seeking to appoint an experienced and/or trainee sales person who is lively, enthusiastic, a good communicator and committed to customer satisfaction. The successful candidate will join our Campbeltown Courier sales team and work across a variety of publications and products. On-going in-house training will be given as required. A full driving licence is essential as you may not necessarily be office based but could have the opportunity to travel throughout Argyll and surrounding area in one of our company vehicles.

We offer an excellent rate of pay, generous annual holiday entitlement, company pension scheme, life assurance and private medical insurance.

If you are looking for a career with a well established company and have the above attributes - we want to hear from you.

Please apply by email with a full C.V. including contact details to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION TOBERMORY WATER TREATMENT WORKS

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Scottish Water to vary the water use licence number CAR/L/1011610 authorising the carrying on of controlled activities at, near or in connection with Tobermory Water Treatment Works, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, as follows:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
An increased abstraction of water from 545.5 m3 per day to 1,200 m3 per day from an existing intake works serving Tobermory Water Treatment Works	Loch Peallach	NM 4875 5336

SEPA considers that the above change(s) to a controlled activity may have an impact on the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) and by prior arrangement at SEPA's Fort William Office, Carr's Corner Industrial Estate, Lochybridge, Fort William, PH33 6TL. Alternatively the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: www.sepa.org.uk/water/water_regulation/advertised_applications.aspx

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1011610:

Registry Department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application.

Before determining the application SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to the relevant legislation

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

Forestry Commission Scotland
 Coimisean na Colltèarachd Albha

NATIONAL FOREST LAND SCHEME

Forestry Commission Scotland wishes to notify community and environmental groups that it is proposing sale of the following property:-

Type of Property: House
 Name: No.1 Polloch
 Area: approx 0.10 ha.
 Grid Ref.: NM 792 689
 Location: Polloch, Glenfinnan

Enquiries to Forestry Commission Scotland at - ronnie.lee@forestry.gsi.gov.uk Full details are being sent to the relevant Community Council and Non-Government Organisations.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mrs Gillian Wilson Barton has registered her croft 2 Ichrachan, Glenorchy & Innishail on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 27th December 2014.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is A 1536.

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69%
 of the business community read the regional press

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

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Argyll Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4NW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.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
13/02275/PP	Formation of vehicular access	Land South Of Upper Drumfin Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argy And Bute	Tobermory Area Office
14/00500/PP	Installation of compound comprising 15 metre high lattice tower accommodating 2 dipole antennas and 0.96 metre diameter dish, equipment cabin, generator, fuel tank and ancillary development surrounded by 2 metre high palisade fence and erection of vehicle protection barrier	Glen Nant Woodland Tainuitt Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuitt
14/00676/MFF	Formation of finfish fish farm comprising the siting of fourteen 100 metre circumference cages, associated feed barge and ancillary equipment	Waters To West Of South End House Isle Of Shuna Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmelford Sub Post Office Cullipool
14/00713/PP	Partial change of use of existing dwellinghouse to form restaurant	Ballygowan Ulva Ferry House North Connell Oban PA73 6LU	Sub Post Office Anas Isle of Mull
14/00741/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse including detached garage, installation of septic tank and formation of new access	Land South West Of Service Reservoir Anas Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Anas Isle of Mull
14/00782/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of a private septic tank and the construction of a private vehicular access (amended design relative to planning permission reference 12/02035/PP)	Garden Ground Of Barcalindie Lodge Barcalindie Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 15G	Sub Post Office Ledraig
14/00814/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land North West Of Achadhaph Croft Arduin Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Bunnass Isle of Mull
14/00826/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 11/00371/PPP (Site for erection of dwellinghouse and shared septic tank)	Land East Of Lochnabeich House North Connell Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 10X	Sub Post Office Ledraig

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A, Marse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times 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
14/00853/PPP	Renewal of Planning Permission in Principle 10/01965/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse)	Land North East Of Sunset View Upper Kilchattan Isle Of Colonsay Argyll And Bute PA61 7YR	Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 18

Planning Application Reference Number: 14/00676/MFF
 Proposed development at Waters To West Of South End House, Isle Of Shuna, Argyll And Bute

Notice is hereby given that an environmental statement has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by Kames Fish Farming Ltd relating to the planning application in respect of Formation of finfish fish farm comprising the siting of fourteen 100 metre circumference cages, associated feed barge and ancillary equipment, notified to Argyll and Bute Council.

A copy of the environmental statement and the associated planning applications may be inspected during office hours in the register of planning applications kept by the Planning Authority, at 1A Marse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD, Sub Post Offices Kilmelford and Cullipool and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and going through the 'Online Planning and Building Standards Application Information' system during the period of 28 days beginning with the date of this notice.

Copies of the environmental statement may be purchased from Kames Fish Farming Ltd Kilmelford Oban PA34 4XA at a cost of £5.00 (CD) or £25.00 (hard copy) including P&P.

Any person who wishes to make representations to Argyll and Bute Council about the environmental statement should make them in writing within the period to Mr R. Kerr, Principal Planning Officer, 1A Marse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
 Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
 Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
 Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Proposed Assignment of a Grazings Share

Mr Steven MacLeod is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the grazings share pertaining to the croft at 16 Cluvin to Mr Shaun Corrigan of Monadh Dubh, Keil, Airdgour, By Fort William, PH33 7AH.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

DASG air an Eadar-lìon

Chaidh Dàta airson Stòras na Gàidhlig (DASG) a stèidheachadh ann 2006 airson na tha an tasglann *Faclair Eachdraidheil na Gàidhlig* a dhìsheatachadh is a chur air an eadar-lìon, far am bi e ri fhaighinn an-asgaidh. Chruinnicheadh na tha san tasglann eadar 1966 is 1996, is tha e do-dhèanta a-nis cead foirmeil fhaighinn o gach neach fa leth a thug seachad faclan no abairtean no a rinn clàradh. Thathar an dùil na stuthan sin a chur air an eadar-lìon, ach ma tha neach sam bith nach eil airson gun cleachdar stuth a chuir iad fhèin no neach a bhùneas dhaibh a-steach airson an *Fhaclair* mar seo, bu chòir dhaibh fios a chur chun an Ollaimh Rob Ó Maolalaigh aig an t-seòladh seo shìos ro dheireadh a' Ghiblein. Mura cluinnear bhuaipa, bithear an dùil gu bheil cead ann na chuireadh a-steach a chur air an lìon, agus daoine a thug sin seachad ainmeachadh. Tha am pròiseact an comain na muinntir a bhullich stuthan air thar nam bliadhnaichean.

DASG on the Internet

The Digital Archive of Scottish Gaelic (DASG) was set up in 2006 in order to digitise the contents of the *Historical Dictionary of Scottish Gaelic* archive and put these onto the internet, where they will be available free. They were collected between 1966 and 1996, and it is no longer possible to secure formal permission from every individual who contributed words or phrases or made recordings. It is intended to put these materials onto the internet, but if there is anyone who is against this use of what was given for the *Dictionary* by themselves or by a relative, they should contact Professor Rob Ó Maolalaigh at the address below before the end of April. In the absence of such contact, it will be assumed that there is permission to make such contributions available on the internet, and that contributors may be named. The project wishes to thank all those who contributed material over the years.

Oilthigh Ghlaschu Celtic and Gaelic, 3 University Gardens, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ

CHARLES AND BARBARA TYRE TRUST SCHEME 1979

In implementation of the objects of the above Trust, the Governing Body may, in each financial year, award grants to assist applicants -

- (a) to obtain a qualification additional to a qualification of a University or other institute of higher education already obtained.
 - (b) to train in a trade or profession other than in which they are at present trained.
 - (c) to undertake a course provided by the Open University for which they have registered.
 - (d) to undertake training in leadership and initiative.
 - (e) to benefit from recreational holidays in cases of physical or mental disability.
- In accordance with the wishes of the donors, the Governing Body shall -
- (a) satisfy themselves that the applicant is a Protestant, has completed school education, but is not, at the time of award, more than 25 years of age, and is ordinarily resident within the area of the former County of Argyll.
 - (b) Associate the names of Charles and Barbara Tyre with each award made under the scheme.

Further details and an application form may be obtained online at www.charlesandbarbaratrust.org.uk. Completed applications must be received no later than 31 May 2014, and applications received after the closing date will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances. Please note application forms will be accepted before examination results are received.

Clerk to the Governors, Charles and Barbara Tyre Trust, Loch Awe House, Barmore Road, Tarbert, PA29 6TW Tel: 01880 820 277 Fax: 01880 820 722

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
14/01148/FUL	Post Office, Arisaig	Change of use from Post Office to dwelling
14/01163/PIP	Land East of St Pauls Wades Road, Kinlochleven	Erection of 2 No. dwelling houses. Previous planning permission 09/00467/PI/PLO
14/01219/PIP	Land E of Dun Ma Siel Glenfinnan	Proposed dwelling house site
14/01222/FUL	Millenium Windfarm Glenmoriston Inverness	Development of a run-of-river hydropower scheme including the construction of three intakes, a buried pipeline and a powerhouse.
14/01290/PIP	Strathmore, 24A Glencoe Ballachulish	Proposed house site

Time period for comments is 14 days, 14/01219/PIP is 21 days
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
 Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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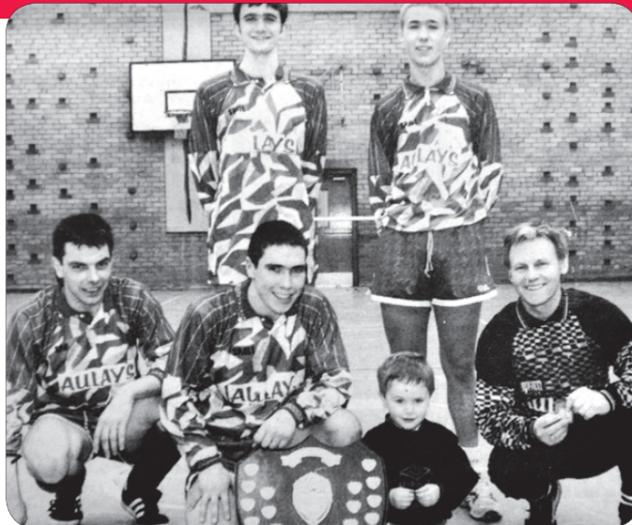


APRIL 7 1994



Bridge of Orchy pupils hunt for Easter eggs

Deep snow might have covered their playground, but it didn't cool the enthusiasm shown by pupils of Bridge of Orchy Primary School for an Easter egg hunt. The search was part of their Hot Cross Bun and Coffee Afternoon, which raised £115 for school funds. t15twenty01



Painters retain PO five-a-side trophy

D HILL, the Oban painting and decorating firm, are this year's winners of Oban Post Office's annual five-a-side football tournament, retaining the trophy for the second successive year. t15twenty04



Above: Oban's branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution was presented with a £2,200 cheque in memory of young diver, Iain Duncan Till, who died in December, aged 26. t15twenty02



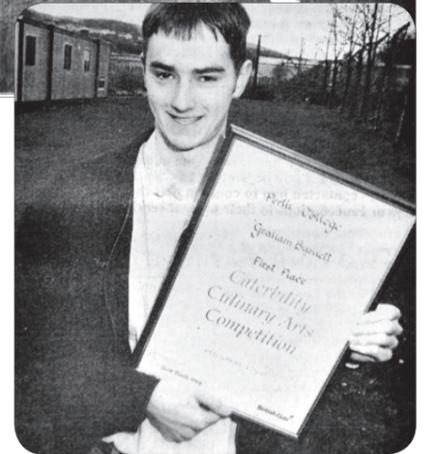
Gaelic medium team attend festival

The Acharacle Gaelic Medium Team - Margaret Jane MacKenzie, Maxine Mulhenn, Robbie MacGillivray, Colin MacGillivray, Jacob Hunter, Annan Hunter, Gavin Johnston, Iain MacMaster, with their teacher Catriona MacIntyre, and John Angus MacKay and Simon Mackenzie of TV soap Machair at the 15th International Celtic Film and Television Festival in Ireland. t15twenty05



New learning package on show at library

John Dempster, Highland Regional Council's Education Services Librarian, explains the new open learning package to members of the public at Fort William Library. t15twenty06



Graham in final of culinary arts contest

A young man from Benderloch has made it through to the final of a catering competition after winning the Scottish heat. Graham Barnett, 19, of Tralee Bay, will be going to London on April 28 to represent Scotland in the British Gas sponsored Caterability Culinary Arts Competition for professional cookery students. t15twenty03

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Jamie and Connie (nee Macaskill) are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter Enid Wendy on Thursday March 20, 2014. First grandchild to Flo and Ewen Macaskill, Balvicar. Great-grandchild to Jessie MacLean, Longsdale, Oban.

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Oscar, 15 yr old neutered blue point Siamese, lost on the Lochboisdale-Barra-Oban ferry on Sunday, 30th March. Last seen, loose on the car deck at Barra, possibly taken home by someone. Any information gratefully received. 01738 710 279 or text 07970066514

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Farming



Farming Focus

with Lucy Sumsion, NFU Scotland regional manager covering Argyll and the Islands, including Arran

Getting started in farming

MANY of you will be busy calving and lambing, or about to start, and I do hope the weather this year is kinder than last year's dreadfully cold spring.

In my house we were avid watchers of the BBC Lambing Live programme, which was on earlier this month.

Many people I met have been speaking about it and saying what wonderful ambassadors for the industry the Dykes family were.

They certainly gave a positive insight to the commitment and workings of a family farm.

I can think of many similar family farms in Argyll who equally give that level of dedication.

Concerns are continually raised, however, about what the next generation of farmers and crofters are going to come from and how new entrants can get a start in farming or crofting.

This is an issue that NFU Scotland is very conscious of and is involved in a number of projects to try and help.

One of the issues that is always raised is access to land and how well, or not, the tenanted farm sector is operating. Recently we held a meeting in Tarbert to gather views from tenant farming members on the Agricultural Holdings Review.

The union wants the Agricultural Holdings Review process to create a better platform for new and developing farm businesses in Scotland.

The remit of the Cabinet Secretary-led review group is to establish the appropriate legislation needed to deliver a tenanted sector that's fit for purpose.

Evidence sessions, along with surveys and planned public meetings will form part of the group's review process. The union meeting in Tarbert was the first in a series of nine NFUS meetings being held around the country.

The meeting was chaired by Nigel Miller, NFUS president, and provided an opportunity for tenant farmer members to discuss the union's proposed verbal and written submissions to the group.

Alongside these meetings, tenancy issues continue to be discussed extensively within NFUS' Tenants Working Group and Legal and Technical Committee.

As part of its own stakeholder engagement programme, members of the Agricultural Holdings Legislation Review Group visited Islay and Oban last week, visiting both tenants and landlords in these areas plus holding two open meetings. Review group members provided information on how the group is approaching the review and were keen to hear from stakeholders on the matters outlined in their remit. The union will be submitting a response at the end of April to the review group based on feedback we have received from members.

The union will be looking to provide a positive platform for the future of farming as well as safeguarding established tenants, creating opportunities for a new generation and designing a functioning regulatory framework, which encourages owners to let land and enter into agreements that allows the development of holdings.

I hope in years to come we will see positive results of this process and that a new generation will be able to get access to let land.



Duncan Macalister, who has switched from using straw to sawdust bedding for his Aberdeen Angus cattle.

Bedding switch pays off for Kintyre farmer

KINTYRE monitor farmer Duncan Macalister has saved more than £1,100 per month by switching his cattle bedding from straw to sawdust on his 1,730-acre Glenbarr farms.

At a recent monitor farm meeting, Mr Macalister told the community group that a visit to a previous monitor farm resulted in him making the switch.

This has created financial, management and time-saving benefits.

Mr Macalister has a breeding herd of 140 mainly spring calving Aberdeen Angus cows.

While the majority are outwintered on coastal barley stubble, more than 200 cattle, a mixture of weaned calves, finishing animals, replacement heifers and breeding bulls, are housed.

Just over 100 acres of barley are grown but in previous years additional straw had been purchased. When Mr Macalister asked Robert Parker why he used sawdust instead of straw, he told the group that it was cheaper, labour saving, kept the cattle cleaner and, after composting for a year, did not need to be ploughed in.

'While I produce some barley straw of my own, it's great roughage to feed to the cattle and the cost of getting additional barley straw delivered to Kintyre is around £120 per ton,' said Mr Macalister. 'Sawdust at around half the price per ton certainly seemed worth a try.'

Using sawdust from natural timber, Mr Macalister put an initial layer of at least one foot deep into the cattle buildings. He said this 'green' sawdust is damper than treated timber, but it makes it less dusty which is better for the cattle.

As well as financial savings, he was also impressed by the time the sawdust has saved - around three hours a week. He added: 'Also no fancy, expensive machinery is needed. Once the cattle were on the sawdust, there was very little labour input, other than topping the sawdust up once a week, which was as simple as just emptying four tractor buckets into each pen.'

'With straw, we needed to bed the cattle three times a week, which not only took a lot of time, but could also be risky for the stockman.'

He used slightly more sawdust than straw, but the cost worked out at around £62 per ton as opposed to £120 for straw.

His cattle also were cleaner on the sawdust, as not one finished animal needed pre-slaughter belly clipped.

However, there were some negatives. Mr Macalister said: 'It must be stored where it can be kept dry, and this storage has to be accessible to the articulated delivery lorry.'

'It also needs to be composted for a year to avoid nitrogen 'lock up'. In addition, its fertiliser value is poorer than straw.'

The Kintyre monitor farm has completed its three-year term, but there will be an open day in July.

Union to host hustings events ahead of Euro elections

NFU Scotland has joined other UK unions in outlining its priorities for the next European parliamentary term.

NFU Scotland's President Nigel Miller and Parliamentary Officer Clare Slipper attended the launch in Brussels of the UK Farming Union's manifesto - 'Backing the Business of British Farming' - prepared ahead of the European elections in May.

The document was produced by the British Agricultural Bureau (BAB), the office representing NFU Scotland, NFU England, Ulster Farmers' Union and NFU Cymru in Europe.

'Backing the Business of British Farming' highlights how important farming and food production is to the UK and European economies and vital to growth and employment in rural areas across the continent. It contains sections on CAP, international trade, the environment, science and technology, food supply chains and crop protection.

Manifesto

Ahead of the elections, NFU Scotland will be producing an additional manifesto, focusing on Scottish issues and hosting two European election hustings events - one in Lanarkshire on May 6 and one in Aberdeenshire on May 8 - to which the key European parliamentary candidates have been invited to attend.

Speaking from Brussels, Parliamentary Officer Clare Slipper said: 'Our farming industry benefits from a robust working relationship with our Scottish MEPs. Regardless of Scotland's constitutional future, due to be decided on September 18, Europe will continue to have a huge influence on our food and farming sectors - both in terms of the regulatory framework and the marketplace for our goods.'

'This UK manifesto focuses on generating the right conditions for food production, safeguarding the environment, and creating a food chain that works for all - farmers, processors, retailers and the consumer.'

'Underpinned by the Common Agricultural Policy, farming is good for the economy, for the environment, for growth and employment and ensures quality food supplies for consumers not just in Scotland and the UK but across the world.'

'We are also on the brink of a crucial set of trade negotiations where Europe will define our trading standards and competitive status. The outcome of those negotiations will be crucial for farmers, food quality, consumer choice and animal welfare.'

Turnout

'The huge turnout at our recent referendum debate in Stirling underlines the massive interest that the farming community has in the politics and policies that affect their businesses. Venues for our European hustings meetings will be finalised in due course but I would urge members to put the Lanarkshire (May 6) and North East (May 8) events in their diaries.'

'Regardless of the outcome of the vote on May 22, we look forward to working closely with Scottish MEPs for the next parliamentary term and beyond.'

Market reports

United Auctions Stirling

UNITED Auctions (Stirling) sold 2,310 store cattle and cast cows and also forward 134 store sheep on April 2.

Bullocks (1239) - averaged 238.91p (+13.74p) to 297.50p per kg and £1450. Heifers (1016) - averaged 224.01p (+5.68p) to 271.20p per kg and £1200. B&W Bullocks (55) - averaged 143.35p (-6.65p) to 188.00p per kg and £920. Forward Cattle (7) - averaged 196.64p to 220.00p per kg and £1430. Cast Cows (123) - averaged 137.58p to 201.10p per kg and £1450.

The show and sale was judged by Mr G McFadzean, Woodhead of Mailler.

Pen of 4 Bullocks: 1 M/s McLaren, Muirhouses, £1,250; 2 M/s Brewster, Wester Borland, £1,035; 3 M/s McLaren, Muirhouses, £1,090.

Pen of 4 Heifers: 1 M/s McLaren, Muirhouses, £1,140; 2 M/s McLaren, Muirhouses, £950; 3 M/s Brewster, Wester Borland.

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Wester Borland £1,170; 2 M/s McLaren, Muirhouses, £1,250; 3 M/s McLaren, Muirhouses, £1,090.

Single Heifer: 1 M/s McLaren, Muirhouses, £1,200; 2 M/s McLaren, Muirhouses, £1,060; 3 M/s Paton, Easter Greenhill, £970.

Champion: M/s McLaren, Muirhouses (Heifer), £1,200.

Reserve Champion: M/s Brewster, Wester Borland (Bullock), £1,170.

Prices

Bullocks: Up to 250kgs - Claish £720, 297.50p 251-300kgs - Upper Ettrick £780, Flatterton 283.10p; 301-350kgs - Little Kilmory £910, Hillridge 277.80p; 351-400kgs - Dykehole £1160, 292.90p 401-450kgs - High Glenripleck £1130, Skippyre 271.10p; 451-500kgs - Lodge Hill £1240, 258.30p; 501-550kgs - Carsloe £1260, Muirhouses 240.20p; 551-600kgs - Carsloe £1280, 223.80p; 601-650kgs - Moulin £1250, 205.60p; 651-700kgs - Corscaipie £1310, 199.10p; 700-750kgs - Titwood £1450, 197.50p.

Heifers: Up to 250kg - Knollhead £550, 229.20p; 251-300kgs - Upper Ettrick £800, 271.20p; 301-350kg - Ballinkrain £880, Easter Greenhill

262.30p 351-400kgs - West Flakefield £970, Easter Greenhill 262.30p 401-450kgs - Shawmill £1060, Muirside 242.80p; 451-500kgs - Muirhouses £1200, Hatrick 245p; 501-550kgs - Muirhouses £1180, 226.9p 551-600kgs - Arnprior £1160, 204.9p.

OTM Cows - Traprain (Char) £1450, 163.60p; Traprain (Pure Char) £1430, 157.10p; Traprain (Lim) £1350, Quixwood 201.10p; Traprain (BrB) £1330, 166.30p; Traprain (Sal) £1310, 188.6p; Kincairgie (AA) £1190, 182.6p; Quixwood (AA) £1150, Preston 150.3p; Kincairgie (BSh) £1070, Waterloo 150.6p; Traprain (Nor) £1050, 147.1p.

OTM Bulls - Ashdale House (Lim) £1530, 160.70p.

Store Hogs; Glenogle (BF) £77; Duncarn (Tex) £75; Droylstone (Chev) £75; Dawes (Suff) £65.

UNITED Auctions sold, on Thursday April 3, 7,182 prime sheep, including 5,831 hogs, selling to an average of 208.7p/kg, one spring lamb and 1,350 ewes and rams.

Spring Lambs (1) - Stanley (Suff) £116 227p/kg.

Hoggs (5,831) - Luckenburn

(BTex) £121.00; Easter Ochtermuthill (BTex) £119.00; West Thomaston (TexX) £114.50; Kerry Cottage (TexX) £113.00; Luckenburn (X) £110.00; Barbrafield (Suff) £108.00; West Thomaston (Chev) £107.50; Croftgarry (BF) £102.50; Dalbrack (Char) £100; Middlehill (Mule) £97.

Hoggs (5,831) - Luckenburn (BTex) 269p; Wallaceton (BTex) 262p; West Thomaston (TexX) 254p; Airleywight (Chev) 250p; Luckenburn (X) 239p; Wallaceton (TexX) 237p; Stanley (Suff) 236p; South Hill of Drips (Mule) 235p; Old Faskally (Char) 227p; Dunruchan (BF) 224p. Ewes (1,350) - Broadleys (Suff) £148.00; Wheatfield (BTex) £128.50; Inverae (Chev) £128.50; Broadleys (BFL) £127.50; Alton of Bandeach (Tex) £121.50; Inverae Cott (Char) £100.50; South Flanders (Mule) £96.50; Raemore (X) £92.50; Raemore (Cont) £90.50; Chamberwells (BF) £88.50; Muirpark (Zwar) £61.50; Auchnacloch (Jacob) £60.00.

Rams - Backhills (Suff) £135.50; Middlehill (Tex) £116.50; Greenyard (lley) £105.50; Backhills (BFL) £90.50; Cadogan (BF) £86.50;

Upper Kidston (Chev) £85.50; Auchnacloch (Jacob) £64.50.

UNITED Auctions (Stirling) sold 2,310 store cattle and cast cows and also forward 134 store sheep on April 2.

Bullocks (1239) - averaged 238.91p (+13.74p) to 297.50p per kg and £1450. Heifers (1016) - averaged 224.01p (+5.68p) to 271.20p per kg and £1200. B&W Bullocks (55) - averaged 143.35p (-6.65p) to 188.00p per kg and £920. Forward Cattle (7) - averaged 196.64p to 220.00p per kg and £1430. Cast Cows (123) - averaged 137.58p to 201.10p per kg and £1450.

The show and sale was judged by Mr G McFadzean, Woodhead of Mailler. Pen of 4 Bullocks: 1 M/s McLaren, Muirhouses, £1,250; 2 M/s Brewster, Wester Borland, £1,035; 3 M/s McLaren, Muirhouses, £1,090.

Pen of 4 Heifers: 1 M/s McLaren, Muirhouses, £1,140; 2 M/s McLaren, Muirhouses, £950; 3 M/s Brewster, Wester Borland. Single Bullock: 1 M/s Brewster, Wester Borland £1,170; 2 M/s McLaren, Muirhouses, £1,250; 3 M/s McLaren, Muirhouses, £1,090. Single Heifer: 1 M/s McLaren, Muirhouses, £1,200; 2 M/s McLaren, Muirhouses, £1,060; 3 M/s Paton, Easter Greenhill, £970.

Champion: M/s McLaren, Muirhouses (Heifer), £1,200.

Reserve Champion: M/s Brewster, Wester Borland (Bullock), £1,170.

Prices: Bullocks: Up to 250kgs - Claish £720, 297.50p 251-300kgs - Upper Ettrick £780, Flatterton 283.10p; 301-350kgs - Little Kilmory £910, Hillridge 277.80p; 351-400kgs - Dykehole £1160, 292.90p 401-450kgs - High Glenripleck £1130, Skippyre 271.10p; 451-500kgs - Lodge Hill £1240, 258.30p; 501-550kgs - Carsloe £1260, Muirhouses 240.20p; 551-600kgs - Carsloe £1280, 223.80p; 601-650kgs - Moulin £1250, 205.60p; 651-700kgs - Corscaipie £1310, 199.10p; 700-750kgs - Titwood £1450, 197.50p. Heifers: Up to 250kg - Knollhead £550, 229.20p; 251-300kgs - Upper Ettrick £800, 271.20p; 301-350kg - Ballinkrain £880, Easter Greenhill 262.30p 401-450kgs - West Flakefield £970, Easter Greenhill 262.30p 401-450kgs - Shawmill £1060, Muirside 242.80p; 451-500kgs - Muirhouses £1200, Hatrick 245p; 501-550kgs - Muirhouses £1180, 226.9p 551-600kgs - Arnprior £1160, 204.9p.

OTM Cows - Traprain (Char) £1450, 163.60p; Traprain (Pure Char) £1430, 157.10p; Traprain (Lim) £1350, Quixwood 201.10p; Traprain (BrB) £1330, 166.30p; Traprain

Caledonian Marts Stirling

Caledonian Marts sold 708 Store Cattle and 73 Young Bulls on Tuesday April 8.

Bullocks 398 averaged 232p to 283p per kg for a 325kg Limousin from Wester Whin, Slamannan and £190 gross for three 675kg Charolais from Loanrigg, Slamannan.

Heifers 268 averaged 223p to 285p per kg for a 525kg Limousin from Hilton of Beath, Kely and £1500 gross for the same animal.

Bulls 73 averaged 125p to 219p per kilo for a 305kg Limousin from Heads, Strathaven and £980 gross for a 510kg Limousin from Meikle Coull Farms, Tannadice, Forfar.

42 Black & White Bulls averaged 131p per kilo. Leading Prices - Bullocks - £ per head: 0-250kgs - £670 Wester Whin; 251-300kgs - £745 Wester Mailing; 301-350kgs - £940 Mid Ervie; 351-400kgs - £1030 Meikle Coull Farms; 401-450kgs - £1190 Walton; 451-500kgs - £1120 Wester Prirleyhill; 501-550kgs - £1195 Middelrigg; 551-600kgs - £1325 Greencraig; 601-650kgs - £1335 Greencraig; 651-700 kgs - £1390 Loanrigg. Leading Prices - Heifers - £ per head: 0-250kgs - £640 East Gartfarren; 251-300kgs - £690 Wester Mailing; 301-350kgs - £845 Walton; 351-400kgs - £930 Martnaham Mains; 401-450kgs - £1090 Hilton of Beath; 451-500kgs - £1110 Woodend; 501-550kgs - £1500 Hilton of Beath; 551-600kgs - £1160 Heads. Leading Prices - Bulls - p per kilo: 0-250kgs - 283p Wester Whin; 251-300kgs - 272p West Lochhead; 301-350kgs - 273p Hilton of Beath; 351-400kgs - 260p Meikle Coull Farms; 401-450kgs - 270p Walton; 451-500kgs - 242p Martnaham Mains; 501-550kgs - 217p Middelrigg; 551-600kgs - 215p Greencraig; 601-650kgs - 215p Greencraig; 651-700 kgs - 206p Loanrigg. Leading Prices - Heifers - p per kilo: 0-250kgs - 266p East Gartfarren; 251-300kgs - 270p Wester Mailing; 301-350kgs - 252p Mid Ervie; 351-400kgs - 243p Windyedge Bungalow; 401-450kgs - 256p Hilton of Beath; 451-500kgs - 226p Woodend;

501-550kgs - 285p Hilton of Beath; 551-600kgs - 205p Greencraig.

Caledonian Marts also had forward 555 Store Hoggets, Feeding Ewes and Ewes with Lambs at foot.

Ewes with Lambs at foot, 11 sold, averaged £162.18 selling to £188 for Beltex x from J Buchanan, Leadmachan. Store Hoggets, 493 sold, averaged £66.59 selling to £98 for Texel's from D Gracey, Orchard.

Feeding Ewes, 61 sold, averaged £48.39 selling to £92 for Texel's from M Robinson, Kirkland.

Leading Prices - Ewes with Lambs at Foot. Belt x Gimmers with Twin Lambs - £176 Leadmachan; Belt x Ewes, (2 crop) with Twin Lambs - £162 Leadmachan; Belt x Gimmers with Single Lambs - £162 Leadmachan; Texel x Gimmers with Single Lambs - £160 Leadmachan. Feeding Hoggets: Tex - £90 Orchard; Char - £88 Auchanlay; Easycare - £85 Dinar Estate; Cont - £83 Hoodshill; Suff x - £81 Straiton; Mule - £79 Orchard; Chev - £75 Ballymeanoch; BF - £70 Orchard. Feeding Ewes BF - £64 Cruachan; Swale - £60 Morenish; Chev - £58 Kirkland.

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Farmers warned to be aware of banking scam

FARMERS are being warned to be aware of a banking scam doing the rounds, where some farmers have been defrauded of a substantial amount of money.

Fraudsters claim they represent a bank and that suspicious payments have been set up against farm accounts.

They then ask farmers to provide account details to make the account secure, with the intent of illegally securing and using the funds in that account.

Alarming

NFU Scotland's Finance Director Colin Gordon said: 'This is such a busy time of year for farming with lambing, calving and sowing that farmers could be easily caught out by alarming calls from people claiming to represent their bank's fraud department. Do not fall for this.'

Banks will never phone or email to ask for online passwords or passwords using a banking token or card reader nor will they ask for a payment over the phone using an online account.

If asked to call a number ensure that it is from a separate phone back - so the fraudster can't hold the line open to intercept the call back - and check the bank's phone number.

Cattle scab found in Scotland

THE FIRST case of cattle scab to be confirmed in Scotland since the early 1980s has been diagnosed.

The disease was found on a Borders farm in a calf recently imported, with its suckler cow mother, from outwith Great Britain.

Cattle scab, otherwise known as psoroptic mange, is caused by mites that pierce the skin to feed and cause immense irritation. The signs are similar to those of sheep scab which is also caused by a mite.

It is more common in beef cattle in Europe, but dairy herds have also been infected.

The disease has severe welfare and economic consequences as it causes severe dermatitis with scab formation along the

back, shoulders and tail head, but it can also extend over the lower body, hind legs and the tail. There is usually intense itching and secondary infections are common leading to bleeding and crusting.

Affected animals inevitably lose weight and in extreme cases death can occur.

SAC Consulting Veterinary services are offering free testing of skin scrapings from suspected cases.

All samples should be sent to a local SAC Consulting Veterinary Services Disease Surveillance Centre.

While under the Sheep Scab (Scotland) Order, 2010 farmers must notify the authorities if they suspect they have a case, cattle scab is not notifiable in

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DEATHS

FORGRIEVE - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on Saturday, April 5, 2014, James (Larry), much loved brother of Dugie and the late Margaret, Duncan (Mick) and Billy. Funeral will take place from Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Thursday (today), April 10, 2014 at 10.30 am. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Retiral collection/donations will be taken for Dementia UK - Local Branch and the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, Oban.

GALBRAITH - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on April 3, 2014, Maimie, beloved wife of Sonny, 1 Branksome Park, Oban, much loved mum of Colin and Cameron, mother-in-law of Ann and Brenda and a dearly loved grandma to all her grandchildren. Funeral will take place from Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Thursday (today), April 10, 2014 at 1.30 pm. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Retiral collection/donations will be taken for Oban Hospice.

GILLIES - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on April 5, Dorothy Carmichael (nee Dunn), widow of Angus, mother of Fiona and the late Angus, beloved granny of Martin, Katrina, Rosie and Maria. Funeral service at St John's Cathedral on Friday April 11 at 1.00pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIRSE - Helen, Doreen, Shirley and their families would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kind support after the passing of our dad George. Special thanks to Murray Young Jr and the Scottish Ambulance Service for their help on that difficult day. Also to Rev Dugald Cameron for a lovely service and Catriona and staff at Hamish Hoey for a caring and professional service.

CAMPBELL - Following the sad passing of Jean Campbell, Tobermory, Archie Neil would like to thank all relatives, friends and family, the Reverend J Paton for the beautiful service, Elizabeth McWilliams, Janet Kennedy, Dougie McNeill and Ann McGregor for their comfort and support, all those who attended the service and especially those friends and relations who travelled from near and far. Thank you for all the cards, flowers, phone calls, to the Mishish Hotel and to Glen the piper and Calum the organist, to Billy McClymont for his professional and caring services and to all doctors, nurses and carers who helped look after Jean.

DONALD - Morann and family would like to thank relatives and friends for all their kind support, messages, flowers, cards and Mass cards following the very sad loss of Norman. A special thank you to Monsignor J MacNeil for the moving requiem mass helped by organist and choir. We appreciated all who attended the mass and graveside. Also a very special thank you to D and A Munn for their most efficient and professional handling of the funeral. The retiral collection at the mass collected £555 for Cancer Research UK.

MACDONALD - Donnie and Rhona would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy following the recent sad loss of their father Donald. Grateful thanks to Dr Tangney and his colleagues at Glen Mor surgery, the Home Helps, and especially the doctors and nurses in Ward 1 of the Belford Hospital for the excellent care they all gave to Donald. Special thanks to Rev Adrian Varwell for such a comforting service and to Scott Greenlees at John McLellans for his caring and efficient handling of the funeral arrangements. Thanks also to the Alexandra Hotel for the funeral tea. Finally, thank you to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside, and generously donated over £500 to the Belford Hospital - Ward 1.

RHODES - Dennis. Elsie and family would like to thank everyone for their cards and kindness shown during their sad loss and for their attendance and donations in memory of Dennis. £451 was collected and donated to Muckairn Church. Thanks also to the staff of Carers Direct, and our Minister Robert Brookes for a lovely service and Hamish Hoey for all their help. Thank you all again.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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MEMORIALS

GEMMELL - Willie 20 long years have passed since we lost Wull aged 68. In everlasting and loving memory of our dearest father, father-in-law and grampa who died on April 9, 1994.



You always had a smile to share
Time to give and time to care
A loving nature, kind and true
Is the way we'll always remember you.
- Kathleen, William, Robert, Lorn, Sine and families xxx

JOHNSTON - Treasured memories of Ruth, a much loved wife, mother and nana who passed away on April 16, 2010. 'Unforgettable'. The place you rest we visit
And place each flower with care
But only we know the heartache
As we turn and leave you there.
- Inserted by Donnie, Fiona, Peter, Iain and their families

LIVINGSTONE - Flora, who died April 8, 2013. Sadly missed.
- David, Fiona and families.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Alistair, passed away April 1, 1982 and Martha, April 13, 2003. Time may pass and fade away
But love and memories forever stay.
- Alistair and Angus, Cath and family.

MACEWAN - Remembering today and every day my beloved husband and our dear father Callum, who died suddenly on April 12, 2007. Never more than a thought away
Loved and remembered every day.
- Joan and all the family.

MACKAY - In loving memory of Archie died April 11, 1998. Always in our thoughts.
- Family Inveraray and Canada.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of our dearly missed parents and grandparents, Isabella, died April 15, 2011 and John died March 11, 2006. There will always be heartache
And often silent tears
But always precious memories
Of the days when you were here.
- Donald John, Janette, Keith, Iain and Allan.

MACLENNAN - Loving memories of our dear parents and grandparents, John, who died April 3, 1984 and Cathie, on April 11, 1989. In our thoughts every day.
- Ewen, Rosemary and family, Spean Bridge.

MACLENNAN - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents, John, who died April 3, 1984 and Cathie, who died April 11, 1989. Silent thoughts, precious memories.
- Catherine, John and family, Craobhag, Spean Bridge.

PATERSON - In loving memory of a dear son and brother Alec (Nab), who died April 7, 2006. The angels sang Amazing Grace
The Lord came down and touched your face
He held your hand and whispered low
Come with me, its time to go.
The gates of Heaven opened wide
The Angels lined up side by side
A special guest was on their way
The day they took my sons away.
- Love Mam, Willie, Marion and Janet.

PATERSON - In loving memory of a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle Alec (Nab), who died April 7, 2006. If we could have a lifetime wish
We would never ask for another
Just for God to turn back the hands of time
And give us back our brother.
- Love Curly and Rhonda. Forever in my heart
Always on my mind.
- Love Jacqueline.

PROSSER-MAXWELL - In loving memory of my darling daughter Yvonne Elizabeth, called to Jesus April 6, 1989 aged 3 years.
A Rosebud, petals tightly furled
Was lifted from her mortal clay
And firmly planted in a world
Where full blooms grow in rich array.
- Love Mum and family. X

SINCLAIR - In loving memory of a dear wife, mum and grandmother Peggy, who passed away on April 15, 2013. Missed more than words can say
We think about you every day.
- Alastair, Sheila, Moira, Katharine and families.

WILLIAMSON - James Stewart (Jimmy, Scrap Metal Merchant, Fort William), died April 12, 1997. To the world you were Jimmy Williamson
To me you were the world - Linda, Richard and family.

CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Sunday 13 April 2014 Palm Sunday St John's Cathedral, Oban

Holy Communion..... 08:00
Sung Eucharist..... 10:15 followed by a Soup Lunch - all welcome
Children's Corner
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome

Nicki McNelly, Provost. (01631) 562323 St Columba, Gruline, Mull

Holy Eucharist..... 11:00
Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist..... 08:00
Evensong..... 20:15

Monday 14 April 2014 St John's Cathedral, Oban

Morning Prayer & Eucharist..... 10:00
"Were you there?" - a reading of the Passion accompanied by American Spirituals performed by Oliver Brewer..... 19:00

Tuesday 15 April 2014 St John's Cathedral, Oban

Morning Prayer & Eucharist..... 10:00
Compline..... 19:00

Wednesday 16 April 2014 St John's Cathedral, Oban

Holy Eucharist..... 11:00
Stations of the Cross. 19:00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist 14:30

Advance Notice
Thursday 17 April 2014 Maundy Thursday St John's Cathedral, Oban

Sung Eucharist, Washing of Feet and Watch..... 19:00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull

Holy Eucharist..... 19:00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona

Morning Prayer..... 08:00
Holy Eucharist..... 18:00

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Many prizewinners in Fort William Boys' Brigade



The 2nd Fort William Company of the Boys' Brigade prize winners with their awards after the presentation.

THE 2nd Fort William Company of the Boys' Brigade held its annual inspection display and presentation of prizes in the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church old hall. Inspecting officer was Mr Bruce James, chairman of the Lochaber branch, Royal British Legion Scotland. Prize winners, Anchor Boys: Perfect attendance - Arran

Stephen. Best boys - Scott MacLeod, Calum MacTavish. Anchor Boys badges, red - Rory MacKinnon, Arran Stephen, Lewis Black. Best squad - Squad 2. Junior Section: Perfect attendance - Jack O'Neill. Centenary Cup, best boy - Struan Steven. The Wattie Adam Cup, presented by the Adam family in memory

of their father to best squad - Squad 2. Gold award - Jack O'Neill, Nathan Johnstone. Silver Award - Rhys Fletcher. Company Section: Perfect attendance - Jack Matheson. Dan Hunter Memorial Trophy for best-drilled recruit - Daniel MacLean. Lawrence Wilson Memorial Shield for best squad - Squad 1, Innes MacIntosh. 1st Brierley Hill

Trophy for most improved drill - Jack Matheson. The Duncansburgh Cup for Christian endeavour - Robert Galloway. The Jim Rodger Trophy for best all round boy - Liam MacDonald. The Seniors' Trophy - Innes MacIntosh. President's Badge - Jack Matheson, Ally MacLeod. Queen's Badge - Innes MacIntosh.



Inverloch Primary School P6 and P7 pupils enjoyed an 'Easter Cracked' day at Kilmallie Free Church of Scotland last week. The Rev Chris MacRae, back centre right, has been inviting local primary schools to the church to learn about the Christian story of Easter and take part in craft activities, songs and drama. 20_f15inver01



Councillor Oliver Sweeney of Kells, pictured, cuts the seafood cake prepared by MacGillivray Seafood with Jana from the seafood bar. Photo: Kevin McGlynn.

Delegates meet in Oban to strengthen link between Kells and Argyll

A GROUP of delegates from Kells, Ireland, arrived in Oban by train last Friday to meet councillors Duncan MacIntyre and Alister MacDougall and community councillors with a view to establishing stronger links with Oban, Mull and Iona. Kells and Iona share common history with the Book of Kells and both communities were involved in the 1,450th anniversary celebrations of Columba's arrival in Iona. It is hoped that by establishing stronger links with the Irish community, Mull and Iona in particular can benefit from a proposed Columba Way route from Kells to Lewis. Gordon MacGillivray of MacGillivray's Seafood also met the four-strong Irish party with some of his produce.

Oban boys receive top Scout honour

TWO OBAN Beaver Scouts have been given a top honour, the Chief Scout Bronze Award, for completing five Challenge Badges. Alastair Douglas and Craig MacDougall were presented with a certificate signed by Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, as well as a special badge for their uniform. Elisabeth Stevenson, Oban Beaver Scout Leader, said: 'This award is given once a Beaver Scout has earned all five of the Challenge Badges and is quite an honour. 'It recognises dedication, cooperation, attendance, and a

willingness to try new things. 'The 1st Argyll (Lorn) Scout group is extremely proud of these two boys and their achievement because not only have they earned all five Challenge Badges but they have also earned the Scottish Beaver Scout Challenge badge.' Both boys have since moved up to join the Cubs group. 'Boys and girls aged six or seven can become a Beaver Scout. Anyone interested in joining Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts, or being involved as an adult volunteer can visit scouts-scotland.org.uk.



Alastair Douglas and Craig MacDougall were awarded the Chief Scout Bronze Award.

Caol's young gymnasts receive new gym kit



CAOL Primary School gymnastics club boys and girls have new gym kit thanks to match funding from Marine Harvest Scotland. The Fort William-based company have several employees whose children attend Caol school so were only too happy to help. Photographed with the children are Marine Harvest representatives Jayne MacKay and Gillian Dempster, who has two children at the school and is also treasurer of Caol parent council.

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Sun shines for the Mull Massive

THE SUN was shining for the Mull Massive as they took part in their last 10 kilometre run. The Finisher, held recently, saw runners, joggers, walkers, children and babies in buggies all taking part. They were cheered on by members of the community who joined them for the after-run party.

Massive set out with the goal of running 10 races at a distance of 10 kilometres to complete 1,000 kilometres and raise money for the new Guide and Scout Hall. The total raised from the runs so far is £2,455 and donations can still be made at www.justgiving.com/tsgn.

ATHLETICS



The sun was shining for the Mull Massive's final 10 kilometre run.

Markie Dans 'A' top the table with just two games left to go

AS THE championship race reaches boiling point, Markie Dans 'A' returned to the league summit and now have their destiny in their own hands. With only two games left of their league campaign, the Corran Esplanade side hold a slender one point advantage over The Cellar and two more victories will see them pick up an unprecedented third title. Foleys Bar provided the opposition last week but were swept aside as the Markie Dans 'A' focus remained firmly on the coveted league crown, however, reaching the finishing line will be no easy task.

still harbouring title aspirations themselves it would be wise to assume both games will be played in a pressure cooker atmosphere. Lancaster 'A' kept alive their bid for the championship by easing to victory over bottom dogs The Outreach but despite having a game in hand, a four-point deficit is not the ideal situation at this stage of the season. Having sealed fourth place, Lancaster 'B' travelled out to face Lochnell only to be reminded how close the sides have become this year. Lochnell have threatened real class at times this season, only to concede some silly games - this wasn't one of them. In a return to form, the North

POOL

Connel outfit managed to secure the win courtesy of the doubles to dampen any celebrations from the Oban team. The concluding match saw Markie Dans 'B' convincingly defeat The Lochavullin to keep themselves in fifth place, although Lochnell do have a game in hand. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the other tie scheduled for last week between The Gluepot and The Claredon has been re-arranged for tonight (Thursday), however all eyes will be on The Oban Filling Station Cup Final between The Cellar and Lancaster 'A'.

Oban Pool League - Sponsored by The Creagan Inn

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1 Markie Dans A	19	18	0	1	140	50	36
2 The Cellar	19	17	1	1	146	44	35
3 Lancaster A	18	15	2	1	138	42	32
4 Lancaster B	19	11	2	6	107	83	24
5 Markie Dans B	20	8	5	7	102	98	21
6 Lochnell	19	8	3	8	93	97	19
7 Claredon	18	4	5	9	77	103	13
8 Foleys Bar	19	5	1	13	79	111	11
9 Lochavullin	19	5	1	13	66	124	11
10 Gluepot	18	5	0	13	75	105	10
11 Creagan Inn	11	2	1	8	24	86	5
12 Outreach	19	0	1	18	43	147	1

Oban hosts Scottish Eightball Open

OBAN'S growing reputation within the Scottish pool fraternity was further enhanced as it hosted the Scottish Eightball Pool Federation Scottish Open 2014.

Unsurprisingly, the winners in all categories were all established full Scotland internationalists, however, Oban's finest players competed admirably and once again received national acclaim.

With financial assistance from BID4Oban, many of Scotland's internationalists, both male and female, travelled to play in the town's Royal Hotel, hopeful of claiming the elegant claret jugs, not to mention getting their slice of the prize fund on offer.

Tournament organiser Barry Clark, of the Oban Pool League, said: 'Very seldom does Oban have the opportunity to host a national sporting event but this was a chance to show how far the sport has come in Oban.'

Both the Oban Pool League and Scottish Eightball Pool Federation would like to thank Stevie Reffin and his staff at The Royal Hotel who worked tirelessly throughout the weekend to make the event such a tremendous success.'

The main event after two days of intense play

saw Scotland colleagues Neil Armstrong and Ryan Fleming lock horns in the final with the latter hoping to avenge his brother's semi-final loss.

Unfortunately for Ryan, he also was to be put to the sword by the player affectionately as 'Space-man'.

Neil's route to the final was littered with quality players, however, his composure never wavered and eventually claimed a comfortable and deserved title.

Dominant

In the ladies section, Angela Tidball's rich vein of form saw her dominate the competition from the outset and ultimately was simply too good for veteran Pauline Hay who rolled back the years to reach the final.

In the seniors, seasoned campaigners Ian Moffat and Dave Styles looked like they would provide onlookers with a titanic tussle, however, Ian had other ideas and eased to victory.

The junior section showcased the country's future stars and no-one shone more brightly than winner Stephen Graham, whose ability even now puts many of the country's top players to shame and a glittering career beckons.

Weather makes it touch and go for Oban sailors

YET ANOTHER exciting Sunday afternoon sail for Oban Sailing Club dinghy sailors almost didn't go ahead because of the weather.

It was touch and go whether the conditions were too severe but the enthusiasm of the sailors for some wild weather sailing won through and seven dinghies took to the water.

Fortunately, the technical issues with one of the rescue boats delayed the start of the race and the fleet avoided the horizon-

tal rain and force eight gusts that blasted out the Sound of Kerrera at about 2pm.

Steep waves and white horses gave everyone the wild and wet sail they had been looking forward to; the first race saw a few spectacular capsize.

Andrew Chapman in his Full Rig Laser Zzapp took first place in both of the fast handicap races with John Forbes, again in his Full Rig Laser Payback, taking second in the first race, followed by James Chapman's Laser Zzziip. James took sec-

SAILING

ond place in the second race with Steven Fortie and Tim Bleazard in Steven's RS400 Funky Gibbon taking third.

Tierney Carter took fourth in both races in her Full Rig Laser Topcat II. Both the slow handicap races were won by Thomas Smith and Matthew Strachan in one of the Oban High School Fevas. Jamie Peden came second in both slow handicap races in a club Pico.



The Oban and Ferguslie teams line up before their match at the weekend.

Oban pipped at the post by Ferguslie

Friendly match Oban Ladies 4 Ferguslie 5

ON A wet Lochgilphead pitch Oban and Ferguslie ladies teams put on a great show last Saturday in an exciting match the visitors just edged.

Oban started off strongly with Suzie Billing, making her

striking debut, getting the first goal and this was quickly followed by a second from Oban High School youngster Alison MacVicar.

Despite some excellent defensive work, Ferguslie levelled things up through two well worked penalty corners before the interval.

Oban continued in high spirits in the second half with two more goals, again from Billing and MacVicar. Some great defensive play from Ethel Johnson and goalkeeper Heather Robertson kept the scores level for much of the second half.

However, Ferguslie's experi-

HOCKEY

ence and determination showed through with a couple of late goals giving them the edge.

Oban Hockey Club holds training sessions for men and women at 6 to 8pm on Thursday nights at Oban High School.

Carpet bowlers turn on the style for fundraiser

CARPET BOWLS

CARPET bowlers from across Argyll travelled to Bendoerloch recently to take part in a fundraising tournament in aid of Yorkhill Children's Hospital.

The tournament was organised by Lochgilphead's Robert and Samantha Scott, whose two-year-old son Taylor has been treated at the hospital since birth. He was born with his bowel on the outside of his body and had an operation at the Yorkhill hospital at just three weeks old.

More than 40 pairs of bowlers took part in the tournament which was played on a round robin format.

Three pairs from Cairnbaan and one pair from Kilmore made it through to the semi-finals, with the pairing of Robert Scott and Lachie MacLean, skip, from Cairnbaan taking on Neil and Blair from Kilmore in the final.

It was a great game and the eventual winners on the evening were Neil and Blair.

The total raised for Yorkhill on the evening was £2,754.82. Robert said: 'We want to thank everyone who took part and helped in any way, with donations, sponsorship, providing and buying raffle prizes, and all the carpet bowling clubs in the Lorn League which each donated £100 towards the cause.'

Lochgilphead's Robert and Samantha Scott with two-year-old Taylor have thanked everyone for taking part in the tournament.



Golf News

GLENCRUITTEN

WINNERS of the MacKay Cup and the Captain's Prize at Glencruitten at the weekend was Jordan Campbell with net scores of 58 and 55 = 113. In second place was Charles MacIntyre with scores of 66, 62 = 128. In third place was Aidan McCuish with scores of 63, 66 = 129.

This Saturday the Britannia Cup Qualifier and the Monthly Medal take place.

TAYNUILT

LADIES: Local Charity (Stableford) played Tuesday April 1 - 1 Sally Thompson 36 pts (33); 2 Moira MacVicar 35 pts (29); 3 Jill Stewart 27 pts (22).

Gents: Captain's Prize First Round + Medal played Sunday 6 April - 1 Allan Stewart 58 (12); 2 Andrew Diggory 61 (06); 3 Mark Henriksen 62 (07).

TOBERMORY

RESULTS of the April Medal - Mens Section, 1 Angus Cowe 75-11-64; 2 Richard Inglis 81-11-70; 3 Ross Kirsop 86-13-73.

Junior Section, 1 Scott Paterson 78-20-58; 2 Lewis Brown 69-07-62; 3 Aaron Paterson 107-40-67.

ISLAY

RESULTS of Medal played 6 April: 1 D Livingstone 81 less 7 = 74; 2 J Rozga 82 less 6 = 76; 3 R Quail 89 less 11 = 78. Css 71.

Benderloch win Knockout Cup

CARPET BOWLS

THE KNOCKOUT Cup Final between Bendoerloch and Kilmore, and hosted by Easdale Bowling Club went right to wire before Bendoerloch eventually took the honours.

With the teams tied at end of play in the March 27 final, three extra ends were required to decide the outcome.

The Macgregor Cup was hosted at Kilmelford on April 5. The finalists were the rinks from Cairnbaan and Easdale and, at end of eight ends, Easdale won the trophy.

Saints duo play against Stranraer

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints players Donnie Campbell and Myles McAuley were in the Scottish AFL squad that played Stranraer in a friendly match in Paisley last week.

Although going down 2-0 in the end to a strong Stranraer side which is presently sitting third in Scottish League Division One behind Rangers and Dunfermline, both Donnie and Myles acquitted themselves well for the SAFL amateur side.

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 Wyvet Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

C MacLean, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay

L Wilson, Taynuilt

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

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

Please tape your £1 coin here

Name

Address

..... Tel No.

Something's got to give at the top of premiership division

Fort William host Oban Camanachd in National Division

Orion Group Premiership

INVERARAY only managed a draw against Lochaber on Saturday but would have won comfortably were it not for the heroics of Lochaber goalkeeper Calum MacDonald.

That was the view of the Royal Burgh player manager Garry MacPherson, who could not hide his frustration at a missed opportunity to climb the Orion Group Premiership table.

Two lapses in concentration early on saw Lochaber race to a 2-0 lead after just 20 minutes at the Winterton but the hosts went on to dominate proceedings, scoring through Chris Crawford and Euan MacMurdo and level the tie.

MacPherson said: 'We should have been 4-2 up at half time but their keeper was outstanding.'

'Our forwards have not been in the best form this season but I couldn't fault them on Saturday. They just came up against a keeper on top form.'

Inveraray still have long-term injuries woes to contend with but the emergence of young half-back John Kennedy is giving cause for optimism ahead of a tough game against Glenurquhart, to be played at Winterton Park this Saturday.

GLENURQUHART will travel to Inveraray for this week's fixture off the back of a disappointing 4-1 defeat by Glenurquhart last Saturday.

The team will be missing James MacPherson, Andrew Corrigan and David Smart through injury but coach Billy MacLean is hoping for a good result.

He said: 'It's always hard to go to Inveraray and get points but that's what we need to happen. We've lost a couple of our games so we need to start getting points on the board and get something out of this game.'

'It's a long way back from Inveraray if we don't get anything out of it but we're hoping we will.'

KYLES ATHLETIC will fancy getting their first win of the 2014 campaign against Kinlochshiel this Saturday after leaving The Dell with a point last weekend.

With only two draws from four games so far this season, the Tighnabruich men will hope to give their league season a boost with two points this Saturday.

Trainer James Perlich saw encouraging signs at Kingussie last time out.

He said: 'I felt we were the better team over the 90 minutes. There were a lot of encouraging individual performances and we played well as a team. We are looking forward to a home game against Kinlochshiel.'

Kyles' junior team recorded a thumping 5-1 away victory over Tayforth last Saturday, thanks to a hat trick from Roddy MacColl. Innes MacDonald and Ally MacKay added the extras.

KINLOCHSHIEL face a tough away match at Tighnabruich still looking to claim their first points away from home after last weekend's 4-2 defeat at Lovat.

'Shiel will be without talismanic forward Gordy MacDonalld as he continues to recover from a knee ligament injury.'

Coach Colin Fraser said: 'He's not wanting to chance it. When he comes back we want to make sure he comes back for good. I would rather we had him for a full half season rather than just a couple of games just now and lose him again to injury.'

'Kyles will be a tough game but the boys know what they

have to do. We may man mark Roddy MacDonald but Kyles will have the same problem with our boys and it will be down to who wants it the most.'

The Lochalsh men looked set to claim at least a draw against Lovat when Finlay MacRae levelled at 2-2 but went behind again almost immediately and could not recover.

LOCHABER are looking forward to a home game against Kingussie now that they are getting into a stride.

Coach Robert Johnstone said: 'It's going to be a tough game but we have a couple of games under our belt now so we're playing a lot better. We're looking forward to this game and playing on our own pitch.'

The team is likely to be without Kevin Ferguson again who missed Saturday's game after an elbow injury became infected.

Johnstone said: 'It was a big loss not having him at the weekend. We're hoping to get him back now that he's out of hospital but it will take him a few days to recover so I just need to wait and see.'

KINGUSSIE will travel to Spean Bridge on Saturday to play Lochaber.

Coach Russell Jones has confidence in his team and thinks they have played really well this season so far. He said: 'It's always a tough game at Spean Bridge, it was hard last time and it will be again. Lochaber are playing well now that their



Fort William's Niall MacPhee shields the ball from Beaulieu's Calum Morrison during last Saturday's game which the Lochaber side won 4-1. Photo: Donald Cameron

season is up and running but we're hopeful. I'm really pleased with the team this year, they've been playing really well. We're just looking forward to every game and taking each one as it comes.'

Lochaber will be without Robbie MacKeachan who is recovering from an ankle injury.

NEWTONMORE will take on Lovat at home on Saturday after a 4-1 victory against Glenurquhart last weekend.

Coach PJ MacIntosh watched the team - currently at the top of the Orion Group Premiership league table - and knows it will be a tough game to win. He said: 'It will be a hard game, they're playing really well. They're very fit, fast and they're scoring goals. Hopefully we can match them in terms of stamina and get some goals, we're as prepared as we can be.'

Campbell was disappointed his team couldn't turn territory into goals during an entertaining fixture, adding that they did not deserve to lose the game.

Speaking ahead of the Fort William clash he added: 'Both

ship leaders LOVAT take on Newtonmore at The Eilan.

Both teams have a 100 per cent record in the league so far and already look a class apart from their rivals.

The onus is on the Kiltarlity men to show they have what it takes to wrest the title away from the champions - but coach Allan MacRae is playing down the game's significance.

He said: 'It's still quite early in the campaign - we are not even halfway through yet and no matter what happens there's still a long way to go.'

'We are pretty strong defensively and we will just need to concentrate on our own game and play to our strengths.'

'It's our biggest game of the season so far but then it's always big when you play the champions. We want to compete with them and give a good account of ourselves and continue to play the way we have been playing.'

Midfielder Lewis Tawse will return to the Lovat squad for the match.

National Division

BUTE'S woes continued when the fortress of The Meadows was breached by the visit of Glenorchy.

The under-strength islanders fought admirably but couldn't contain their fellow Argyll men and went down 2-0.

The second team suffered a tougher time against ColGlen in Marine Harvest South Division Two, losing 6-0.

This weekend, Bute have a

tough trip to Caberfeidh in National Division One, while the second team host Inveraray in South Division Two.

OBAN CAMANACHD will be looking to their forwards to be on top form for the trip to Fort William this weekend after they failed to score in a defeat to Kilmallie last weekend.

The 1-0 defeat was the first time Camanachd had failed to win this season but manager Gussie Campbell said he was not overly concerned by the result.

The big games keep coming in this league. We have to play Fort William home and away and play Kilmallie again so there is a lot of shinty still to be played and I think this league will go down to the wire.'

Campbell was disappointed his team couldn't turn territory into goals during an entertaining fixture, adding that they did not deserve to lose the game.

South Division One STRACHUR'S Balliemore Cup bid failed before the first hurdle after they were forced to forfeit the match against Skye on Saturday because they could not field a team.

The South Division One side will be back in league action this weekend when they play Ballachulish at Strachur Park.

'Strachur and Balla' sit joint second in the league table, but Ballachulish have a game in hand.

Kinlochshiel's second team beat BALLACHULISH 2-0 when

SHINTY

teams know just about everything about each other, so the team that produces their best shinty on the day will win.'

FORT WILLIAM got their league campaign off to a cracking start with a 4-1 win at Beaulieu and will look to carry that form into Saturday's clash with Oban at An Aird.

Fort co-manager Victor Smith singled out goalkeeper Paul McKay and full centre Niall MacPhee as 'outstanding' against Beaulieu in a team performance full of vim and vigour which saw 16-year-old Alexander MacMillan score a fine goal.

Oban, however, will be smarting after losing 1-0 to Kilmallie and are likely to be dangerous opponents.

Smith said: 'It will be a difficult game. I watched Oban against Caberfeidh and they are like us in trying to move the ball about the pitch.'

'We should have a full squad this week and there's a possibility Liam MacIntyre will be back as well.'

GLENORCHY are high in confidence for the visit of Beaulieu this Saturday.

Last weekend the Lorn side beat Bute 2-0 at The Meadows, which is traditionally a tough place to get a result, and are buoyed by news that Beaulieu star Connor Cormack is suspended.

Coach John Smith said: 'With Cormack supposedly suspended, this will be a good time to get them.'

'I believe we can win the game but due respect to Beaulieu, we know they are a good team.'

Last weekend Glenorchy's second team lost out in the Sutherland Cup to Inverness. After a hard-fought 90 minutes Glenorchy, who had two men sent off, conceded three goals in extra time.

KILMALLIE will make it three wins from three in National Division 1 if they can dispose of Glasgow Mid Argyll at Canal Parks.

The Caol men weathered an early storm at Oban last time out to score a vital 1-0 win which saw young keeper Shane Gillies keep his first clean sheet in the league.

Coach Duncan Kelly is wary of over-confidence - not least because GMA beat Kilmallie 2-0 in the Camanachd Cup last year. He said: 'We lost two goals to them inside the first 11 minutes so we have to be ready from the first whistle. We have to make sure we come out of the starting blocks - but we will be prepared.'

Defenders Iain Robertson, who has not played so far this season because of a back problem, and Robbie MacFadyen, who has been playing for the second team, could make a return to the squad.

South Division One STRACHUR'S Balliemore Cup bid failed before the first hurdle after they were forced to forfeit the match against Skye on Saturday because they could not field a team.

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'Strachur and Balla' sit joint second in the league table, but Ballachulish have a game in hand.

Kinlochshiel's second team beat BALLACHULISH 2-0 when



Oban Camanachd suffered their first defeat of the season at home to Kilmallie last weekend. Our photograph shows Camanachd's Andrew 'Papa' McCuish and Kilmallie's Martin Stewart in a tussle for the ball. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

they visited Jubilee Park on Saturday in the first round of the Sutherland Cup.

Ballachulish effectively fielded an under 17s team and acquitted themselves well, only going in at half time 1-0 down to a fine strike from Sandy McDermid in the 15th minute.

In a fairly even second half, Kinlochshiel were the stronger side and went on to complete a 2-0 victory with a goal from Ross MacMillan in the 80th minute.

Ballachulish will play Strachur away on Saturday in Marine Harvest South Division 2.

'We nearly snatched defeat from the jaws of victory' was TAYNUILT manager Davy Thomson's assessment of last Saturday's Balliemore Cup home win over Boleskine.

Taynuilt were 2-0 through David Campbell and Mark Bergant but the visitors scored twice in the final 10 minutes to force extra time.

The introduction of Taynuilt veteran Stuart Scott at the beginning of extra time proved decisive as he netted a hat trick. David Graham also scored for the Lorn side as the match ended 6-2 after extra time.

Thomson said: 'At 2-0 we were looking for a third goal to finish it but the young boys up front just lacked a bit of composure in front of goal.'

'That will come with experience. That was the difference when Stuart came on, he took his chances.'

We won't get as many opportunities against Oban Celtic this weekend, so the boys up front have to focus more on hitting the target.'

OBAN CELTIC president David Hamilton admits Taynuilt away is never an easy fixture - but it is one his team look forward to.

Having had a week off last Saturday, Celtic are raring to go and face a young, but plucky, Taynuilt team this weekend.

Hamilton said: 'Taynuilt are always a sticky team, especially on their own ground, but I would like to think we could get something from the game.'

Last Saturday, Celtic's junior side went the distance in a slugging Sutherland Cup match against Kilmallie.

After going 2-0 down early on, two Scott Burnett goals forced extra time and penalties but the north side proved the cooler under pressure to win the tie.

Hamilton added: 'The Gananav pitch cut up quite badly and sapped the energy out of the boys after two hours of shinty.'

LOCHSIDE ROVERS have no scheduled match this weekend because of Christopher Ecclestone's stag do but will still

be enjoying a 3-2 victory over Lochaber in the Sutherland Cup last Saturday.

Lochside raced to a 3-0 lead with goals from Brian MacCallum (2) and Daniel MacKinnon before almost being pegged back in the dying minutes.

Team manager Tony Howlett said: 'We were 3-0 and cruising but just took our foot off the pedal. It was a good performance, though, and the team seems to be getting better with each game.'

North Division One

SKYE Camanachd face North Division 1 leaders Newtonmore looking to make it three wins from three in the league.

Shockie MacLennan looks certain to be sidelined by an ankle injury but Gillesbeag MacDonald is likely to shrug off a back injury and play.

Coach John MacLeod said: 'On the form we showed against Glenurquhart in the MacTavish, we should beat them - but it just depends on what team they bring to Portree.'

'We need to win our home games and pick up something away from home as well.'

One minus for Skye is that they have not played for two weeks after Strachur failed to field a team in the Balliemore Cup last weekend.

MacLeod said: 'All the boys were really disappointed the game was cancelled and are desperate to get back to it.'

North Division Two

GLENGARRY will host rivals Boleskine in Marine Harvest National Division 2 on Saturday.

Balliemore Cup 2nd Round

THE draw for the 2nd round of the Balliemore Cup Competition is as follows: Inverness/Kilmory v Oban Celtic; Strathglass v Skye; Aberdeen v Lochcarron; Aberdeen Uni; Taynuilt v Ballachulish; Ties due to be played on Saturday May 10.

Sutherland Cup 2nd Round

THE draw for the 2nd round of the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Competition is as follows: The SCOTS v Beaulieu; Strathpey v Kyles Athletic; Kilmallie v Kingussie; Lovat v Skye; Glenurquhart v Col Glen; Fort William v Kinlochshiel; Inverness v Lochroom; Bute v Lochside Rovers; Ties due to be played on Saturday May 10.

South of Scotland Plate Competition

THE draw for The South of Scotland Plate Competition is as follows: Semi-finals: Bute v Aberdeen; Strachur v Ballachulish; Ties due to be played on Saturday May 17.

Balliemore Cup Lochcarron v Aberdeen Uni; Postponed due to bereavement; Skye v Strachur; Postponed - Strachur unable to field a team. Walkover to Skye; Stats; Kilmory v Inverness; Postponed - Due to unplayable field; Glenurquhart 2-3 Aberdeen; Taynuilt 6-2 Boleskine

Fixtures

Saturday 12 April
Orion Group Premiership
Inveraray v Glenurquhart
Ted McDonald
Kyles Athletic v Kinlochshiel
Billy Wotherspoon
Lochaber v Kingussie
Graham Cameron
Newtonmore v Lovat
Deek Cameron

Marine Harvest National Division
Caberfeidh v Bute
Evan MacRae
Fort William v Oban Caman
David Mitchell
Glenorchy v Beaulieu
Colin MacDonald
Kilmallie v Glasgow MA
John Angus Gillies

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Beaulieu v Kingussie
Innes Wood
Lovat v Glenurquhart
Calum Girvan
Strathglass v Inverness
Ron Kennedy
Skye v Newtonmore
David Stafford - 3pm

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Glenurquhart v Boleskine
John Matheson
Lochcarron v Lochaber
John Wood
Kinlochshiel v Skye
Archie Ritchie

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Inverness v Lewis
Martin MacLean - 1.30pm
Strathpey v Kilmallie
Robert Morrison - 1.30pm
Lochroom v Caberfeidh
Andy MacLean

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Kyles Athletic v Aberdeen
Lachie Wood - 12pm
Strachur v Ballachulish
John MacGregor
Taynuilt v Oban Celtic
Robert Baxter

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Ballachulish v Tayforth
Ronnie Campbell
Bute v Inveraray
Alex MacVicar
Col Glen v Glenorchy
Neil MacDonald
Glasgow MA v Aberdeen
Euan Pearson

Balliemore Cup 1st round
Inverness v Kilmory
Ron Kennedy
(Throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated)

Results

Saturday 5 April
Orion Group Premiership
Glenurquhart 1 - 4 New'more
Kingussie 2 - 2 Kyles Athletic
Inveraray 2 - 2 Lochaber
Lovat 4 - 2 Kinlochshiel

Marine Harvest National Division
Beaulieu 1 - 4 Fort William
Glasgow MA 2 - 3 Caberfeidh
Bute 0 - 2 Glenorchy
Oban Caman 0 - 1 Kilmallie

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Col Glen 6 - 0 Bute

The Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup

Lochroom v Aberdeen
Postponed - Aberdeen unable to field a team, walkover to Lochroom
Glenurquhart v Glasgow MA
Postponed - Glasgow Mid Argyll unable to field a team, walkover to Glenurquhart
Lochcarron v Inverness
Bye: Boleskine
Quarter final ties due to be played on Saturday April 19.
Semi-finals
Boleskine v Strathglass or Fort William
Lochcarron or Inverness v Skye or Lochaber
Semi final ties due to be played on Saturday May 17.

South of Scotland Plate Competition

THE draw for The South of Scotland Plate Competition is as follows: Semi-finals: Bute v Aberdeen; Strachur v Ballachulish; Ties due to be played on Saturday May 17.

Balliemore Cup

Lochcarron v Aberdeen Uni; Postponed due to bereavement; Skye v Strachur; Postponed - Strachur unable to field a team. Walkover to Skye; Stats; Kilmory v Inverness; Postponed - Due to unplayable field; Glenurquhart 2-3 Aberdeen; Taynuilt 6-2 Boleskine

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lovat	5	5	0	0	16	4	10
Newtonmore	4	4	0	0	14	3	8
Kingussie	4	2	1	1	5	5	5
Glenurquhart	4	1	1	2	5	5	3
Kinlochshiel	5	1	1	4	7	12	2
Kyles Athletic	4	0	2	2	3	9	2
Lochaber	2	0	1	1	3	7	1
Inveraray	4	0	1	3	2	10	1

Marine Harvest National Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Camanachd	4	3	0	1	6	4	6
Kilmallie	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Fort William	1	1	0	0	4	1	2
Caberfeidh	2	1	0	1	4	4	2
Glenorchy	2	1	0	1	4	4	2
Glasgow MA	4	1	0	3	9	11	2
Beaulieu	4	1	0	3	5	11	2
Bute	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2

Bute docked two points for failing to fulfil a fixture

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	4	3	0	1	18	5	6
Kingussie	4	2	1	1	13	14	5
Skye	2	2	0	0	9	0	4
Strathglass	2	2	0	0	10	2	4
Inverness	4	1	1	2	12	14	3
Glenurquhart	3	1	0	2	6	7	2
Beaulieu	4	1	0	3	4	15	2
Lovat	3	0	0	3	3	18	0

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilmory	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
Ballachulish	1	1	0	0	3	0	2
Strachur	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Kyles Athletic	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Aberdour	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Oban Celtic	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Lochside Rovers	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Taynuilt	1	0					

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First jack of the season at Oban Bowling Club

Oban Bowling Club held its opening day of 2014 last Saturday when the first jack of the season was thrown by Kirsty Boyd, daughter of club president Iain Boyd.

Saints away to league leaders on Saturday

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints face a tough game this Saturday when they travel away to take on league leaders St Joseph's.

The game will be played on the 3G pitch at Clydebank High School with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Mark Kane.

The teams met earlier in the season in Oban with a close game ending in a 1-1 draw so Saints are expecting a difficult match on Saturday.

Both teams are undefeated in the league this season so a cracking game is in prospect. Saints should have a strong squad to choose from for this important encounter.

Last weekend's game against Castlemilk was called off on the Saturday morning after a pitch inspection found the playing surface to be waterlogged. A provisional date for the Jimmy Marshall Cup second round game against Lochgilphead Red Star has been set for Wednesday April 16 at Glencruitten. The match should have been played in Lochgilphead but because of the poor state of the Ropework Park playing surface Red Star has agreed to switch the game to Oban.

Scottish Amateur Football League results and fixtures

FOOTBALL

LAST Saturday's results:
Premier Division - Castlemilk v Oban Saints postponed. Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils 4, Shawlands 1; Dunoon v Rutherglen postponed.
Premier Division Two - Goldenhill v Dunoon Athletic postponed; Lochgilphead Red Star v Easthall Star postponed.
Division 1A - Tarbert 11, Shawlands 'B' 2.

This Saturday's fixtures:
Premier Division - St Joseph's v Oban Saints. Premier Division One - Dunoon v Kings Park Rangers; Rutherglen v Campbeltown Pupils. Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star v Glencaste Sparta; Port Glasgow United v Dunoon Athletic. Division 1A - Tarbert v Millerston Thistle.

Oban Athletic face tough cup match

FOOTBALL

OBAN Athletic face a tough test on Saturday when they travel to take on Possil YM in the quarter final of the Challenge Shield.

Last Saturday's league game against Antonine was called off when the pitch at John Browns, Clydebank, was declared unplayable.

Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results:
Helensburgh v Under 13s, postponed; Under 14s no game; Under 15s v Milngavie postponed; Under 17s no game.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Antonine; Under 14s no game; Goldenhill v Under 15s; Under 17s no game.

Oban Lorne have title hopes in their own hands

RBS West Division 2
Stewartry 11
Oban Lorne 24

OBAN Lorne climbed to the summit of West Division 2 and have their title hopes in their own hands after getting revenge last Saturday over Stewartry for a league defeat earlier this season.

Lorne made the long trip to Castle Douglas to take on a team that has inflicted one of only

two defeats on the Oban team this season, a 35-23 scoreline at Glencruitten.

But coach Corrie Louw demanded a result from his squad, which was bolstered by the return of back row Dan Hull and centre Ruairidh Aitken.

The hosts made the better start to the game with the wind and driving rain behind them. Oban, however, stood firm and broke free from the Stewartry half on a

couple of occasions. After only five minutes, Oban Lorne gained their first period of possession near the home try line.

Conversion
Experienced prop Andrew Johnston scored the first try of the game from a pick and go at the line to put Oban 7-0 with a successful conversion from Dave McCabe.

Johnston had a very involved opening to the game as he was

sin binned for foul play on 10 minutes. This started a period of pressure from the hosts who looked to capitalise on the one man advantage and did so on 20 minutes, a penalty narrowing the score to 7-3.

Back to 15 men, Oban looked to regain control of the match. Cameron Smith and Callum MacLachlan both impressed with the ball in hand as Oban edged back into the Stewartry half.

Struan Smith dived over for Oban's second try of the game from a Stewartry scrum to increase the Oban lead to 12-3.

An uneventful end to the first half was played out, with the wet conditions playing its part in several handling errors from both sides and Stewartry managed a further penalty to give a half time score of 12-6.

The Men in Green dominated the opening period of the second half as Struan Smith continued his fantastic try scoring form with two further tries in 10 minutes to allow Oban to race into a 24-6 lead. The first came from a mix-up between the Stewartry backline over the try line. The ball spilled over the line to allow Smith and easy touchdown. The second came from some good Oban build up play in the 22, allowing the Oban back row forward to squeeze over the line and secure his hat trick of tries from the afternoon.

With four tries, Oban had secured the bonus point they were aiming for but rather than build on the impressive lead the visitors seemed to take their foot off the gas as Stewartry came

RUGBY

back into the game for the last 20 minutes.

Oban's poor discipline meant that the hosts kept possession in the Oban half and threatened the line on a couple of occasions. They eventually made the breakthrough with 10 minutes to go, scoring their only try of the day.

The Green Machine held on for a comfortable 24-11 bonus point victory to the delight of the players who had made the long journey on the day.

This result means that Oban Lorne sit top of West Division 2 after Garnock's away game to Cumbernauld was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Oban can win the league by winning their remaining three games with a bonus point.

Next up for Oban is bottom placed Strathaven at Glencruitten on Saturday from 3pm.



Barra Football Club has announced Marine Harvest International as its new sponsor. The firm, which employs a number of islanders, has agreed to give a four-figure annual sum for the foreseeable future. David MacGillivray, right, local area manager for Marine Harvest International, is pictured handing over a set of new football strips to Barra Football Club coach Andrew McHardy and club captain James Davidson.



Park Primary School Table Tennis Club held an end-of season competition last Thursday. This was held over two sessions and the semi-finals and finals were watched by primary seven pupils. The boys' winner was Jamie Forgive, with Sam Coates in second place. The girls' winner was Ella MacKechnie, with Rowan Duffy in second place. Prizes were presented by Dale Kupris, Active Schools co-ordinator, who helped to get a new table for competitions.



Struan Smith scored a hat trick of tries for Oban Lorne.

Inveraray Jail Break

ATHLETICS

ENTRIES have opened for the 2014 Inveraray Jail Break. The race, which this year includes distances for all the family, takes place on May 11.

It will see men, women, teenagers and children break free from Inveraray Jail, run along the front green and into the grounds of Inveraray Castle.

Collectively they will make their way to the bottom of Dun Na Cuiche hill, where the Kids on the Run, aged between six and 11, will complete a circuit before being marshalled back

to the finish line at Inveraray Castle.

The Junior Inveraray Jail Break competitors, aged between 11 and 15, will continue up part of Dun Na Cuiche before returning to the finish line and completing their 2.5-mile run.

Adults will be charged with ascending Dun Na Cuiche, running around the watch tower before making their way back to the castle.

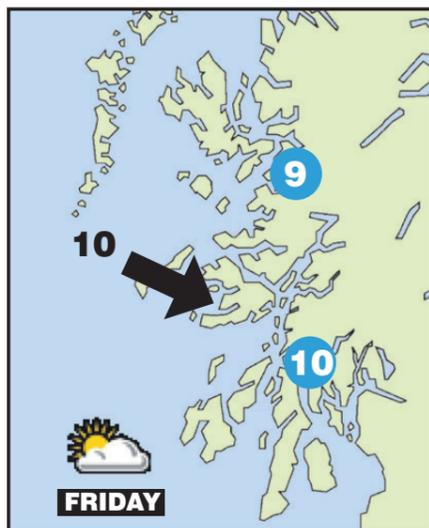
Weather

Thursday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

Weekend Outlook Light rain
Winds strong west south westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 10, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.28 2.9 09.32 1.7 15.17 3.0 20.50 1.6	
Fri	03.15 3.1 10.09 1.5 15.51 3.2 21.42 1.3	
Sat	03.54 3.4 10.39 1.3 16.24 3.4 22.22 0.9	
Sun	04.31 3.6 11.07 1.1 16.58 3.6 22.57 0.9	
Mon	05.38 3.8 11.35 0.9 17.30 3.8 23.31 0.7	
Tues	05.39 3.9 12.04 0.8 18.00 3.9 *** **	
Wed	00.05 0.6 06.09 3.9 12.34 0.7 18.27 3.9	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

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Curtain up on national drama final

PLOCKTON Amateur Dramatic Society is through to the national final of the Scottish Community Drama Association One Act Festival after winning the Highland Division heat. The cast of 10 wowed judges with their performance of their play 'Two' in Nairn at the weekend and will take the production to East Kilbride for the Scottish final on April 26. The winner will be awarded a place at the British Final Festival of One Act Plays in June. Director Gill James said: 'We've been to the Scottish final before but it still feels really good. More so because it's great for us to have a cast of 10 in a play, we're not a big club at all. We're hugely supported in the village, it really is a community thing.'

Mallaig centre marks 20 years with free entry

MALLAIG Heritage Centre is celebrating its 20th anniversary this month by offering free admission to visitors. Almost 120,000 people have browsed displays telling the fishing port's story since the museum opened its doors on April 21 1994, with fishing, the lifeboat and the railway taking pride of place. The Knoydart Clearance, Rhu, Morar Village and other aspects of West Lochaber also feature regularly. Curator Malcolm Poole said: 'This year will be a busy one for the centre, with new displays planned about the railway dormitory, sport and games and World War 1.'

Western Isles grant delight

THREE Western Isles organisations have won substantial Community Spaces Scotland grants from the Big Lottery. On Lewis, Back Football and Recreation Club got £193,750 for a new synthetic pitch and indoor equipment, while Breaslete Community Association was awarded £225,545 for a play park and eco-garden. Elsewhere, Barra Children's Centre received £176,799 to build an extension to create more space for nursery classes, community activities and community health services.

Plantation group on course after hitting Big Lottery cash jackpot



Plantation residents celebrate the Big Lottery award with Councillor Brian Murphy, fourth from left. 20_ f15planny01

Residents' dream of transforming Cow Hill into sports area to become reality

A **COMMUNITY** group's dream to transform an abandoned golf course above Fort William into a sports and recreation area is to become reality after their project scooped a cash jackpot. Plantation Community Association (PCA) has battled for three years to give the 13-acre site on Cow Hill a makeover to provide local people with opportunities for healthy exercise. Currently a rusting swing park stands in one small corner with the rest a wilderness of gorse bushes and long grass crisscrossed by rough paths. Planning approval to improve the play park, build a mini mountain bike track and an adult fitness trail, together with a new path network, was secured from Highland Council in November. Benches and picnic tables at viewpoints, tree planting and interpretation panels depicting local wildlife will also feature. But the revamp hinged on a cash bid to the Big Lottery Community Spaces Scotland Fund being successful. And this week PCA chairperson Helen MacKenzie was left almost speechless when news came through that they had been awarded £247,436 to regenerate the area. She told *The Oban Times*: 'I can't put it into words. The facilities are the bare minimum at the moment and this will make a huge difference. More people will be able to use the area and equipment regardless of age or ability. It's great to be able to use the land rather than it lying there like a big manky mess.' Thanking everyone who had helped with the project bid, Ms MacKenzie added: 'I don't care if folk come from Mallaig or Acharacle - they are welcome. Have you seen the views from up here? This is not just for Plantation - it is for everybody.'

Determination
Local councillor Brian Murphy said: 'The project has been driven by the Plantation Community Association from the outset, and it has been interesting to watch the determination with which they have tackled the many challenges that a project of this size throws up. I have watched them grow in ability, self-confidence and self-esteem over the last few years. That is something which wasn't part of the bid but is nevertheless a really positive outcome. This funding will enable the provision of a network of new paths, an adult fitness trail and mini mountain bike track for children as well as much needed new and innovative play equipment for the play area. I look forward now to watching them bring this exciting project to fruition.' The PCA committee is inviting anyone interested in discussing the project to their next meeting in the community hall at 4 Young Place on April 24 at 7pm.

Ballachulish red deer stag saved from bullet

AN ELDERLY red deer stag will not be shot despite fresh calls for it to be killed, according to the chairman of Ballachulish Community Council. Affectionately-named Tarquin has frequented a croft at the back pier of Ballachulish for two years and recently became the centre of a social networking campaign to save him after it was suggested he posed a danger to locals and should be culled. In recent weeks the fuss had died down and the beast was often seen roaming the field with other stags and hinds. But Ballachulish Community Council sought further advice from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) after a village resident claimed Tarquin chased her dog and should be destroyed on public safety grounds. Community council chairman Kevin Smith said: 'It is my view, and the majority of the community seem to agree, that it should be left alone. We have been advised that the stags will lose their antlers in the next few weeks and are likely to leave by themselves. None of the stags have been sighted in the last week so they may have disappeared already. It's unfortunate to hear that someone would still like it to be killed - but the community council have eye witnesses that said it was the dog chasing the stag and it was off its lead. I think the stag got a fright and jumped between the owner and the dog but it shouldn't have been off the lead. I haven't heard of it happening to anyone else and I've had no complaints from the rest of the community.' Mr Smith stated that it would be unsafe to attempt to shoot the stag in the village - a view echoed by SNH. Lochaber reserve manager Derrick Warner said: 'If the local community are happy for the animal to remain there and the land owner is not concerned then there's no reason from our point of view for it to be shot. If the community are concerned they would need to go to the landowner who would then make an application for it to be shot out of season. If there's a proposition to shoot the stag in a residential area we would need to evaluate the safety of that. If there was a risk that someone could be injured through a stray shot then that would be unacceptable.'

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Isle of Canna residents open community shop

THE ISLE of Canna has opened its own community shop in a move which could presage islanders taking more control of their lives. The National Trust for Scotland owns the premises, a former binder shed, along with all other buildings on the island and is reviewing whether that arrangement is best for the community. Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson, who cut the ribbon to officially open the shop on Tuesday, urged a radical approach. Mr Thompson told *The Oban Times*: 'I would hope that the National Trust for Scotland will be able to give ownership of the shop back to local people because it will become a great asset to them. It was also gratifying to welcome a new family to Canna - a husband and wife and four children - which has boosted the permanent population to 19. This is an exciting development and I also hope that the National Trust, who are reviewing their approach to life in Canna, will see through recommendations which suggest the community should take the lead in determining their own future while the trust would concentrate on the development of Canna House and conservation matters.' Councillor Allan Henderson, who also attended the shop opening, said: 'The main thing now is get a community hall similar to Muck which is able to facilitate a doctor or vet when they come across from the mainland. The island now has the basics that most small communities have.' In a letter to Highland Council laying out the trust's objectives, Patrick Duffy, NTS director of properties and visitor services, said: 'I am confident we have the makings of a new relationship with Canna Community Development Trust that will ensure that the residents can be the architects of their own future and can work in partnership with the trust towards achieving realistic objectives.'

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Mechanic ordered to carry out unpaid work

A FORT William mechanic has been ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work in the community after admitting throwing at table two men in a High Street takeaway.

Cameron MacInnes of 51 Castle Drive, Lochyside, also tried to punch the men in Abi's Kebabs on December 23 last year. The 19-year-old pled guilty to the charge at a previous hearing a Fort William Sheriff Court but sentencing was deferred for a social work report. Sheriff Richard Davidson also issued a 12-month supervision order on MacInnes. He said: 'This was a serious offence. Fortunately him throwing the table did not injure anyone but it was an act of gross stupidity.'

New prescription project trial

A PIONEERING project which aims to reduce errors in prescribing medicines in Scottish hospitals is to be trialled in the NHS Highland and Western Isles board areas.

The easy to use national prescribing and administration chart will be used by medical and other staff. The chart, developed by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE) and Healthcare Improvement Scotland, follows research showing that around seven per cent of prescriptions written in hospitals were either for the wrong drug or dosage.



Re-enactors carried out a speed march from Achnacarry House to the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge. 20_f15commando02
Inset: War veteran Alex Ferguson, 87, laid a wreath in memory of fallen soldiers. 20_f15commando04

Remembering the fallen at Spean memorial

AN 87-year-old war veteran visited Spean Bridge Commando Memorial to lay a wreath in memory of fallen soldiers as part of a commemorative ceremony on Saturday.

Ex-special forces soldier Alex Ferguson took part in the annual event and visited Achnacarry House where he trained during World War Two in 1942.

Re-enactors from living history groups in the UK, Poland and America donned war time uniforms also visited the old training site before marching the six miles to the

memorial with Fort William army cadets. A short ceremony was led by Rev Adrian Warwell who also laid a wreath.

Mr Ferguson, from Edinburgh, said: 'Things like this make people remember what people gave, that's why it's so important. This represents my life and I was one of the lucky ones who had a life after.'

The walk ended at Spean Bridge train station to represent the seven-mile speed march to and from Achnacarry that prospective Commandos would undertake

during the war carrying full kit and weapons.

Organiser Paul MacDonald said: 'Everything went really well and it was great to have the local cadets there, we always wanted to involve the cadets because they are the next generation.'

'We researched the history a lot so it meant we could explain the history to the young ones and give them some experience of what being a soldier training there would have been like.'

Ballachulish man drove at local woman

'He reversed fast towards me'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by EMMA CRICHTON
crichton@obantimes.co.uk

A BALLACHULISH man has been found guilty of dangerous driving and driving without due care and attention after he reversed his car twice at a local woman outside her home.

Ray Chisholm, known as Tony, of Allanbreck, Lettermore, denied the charges of July 10 and 11 last year but was convicted after three days of evidence at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Prosecution witness Sandra Michie described how 45 year-old Chisholm drove his Audi Estate at her as she was walking back to her house at Lochside Cottages on July 10.

She said: 'As soon as I started walking back he reversed fast towards me and stopped a few inches away.'

Mrs Michie phoned the police and made a statement but said the following evening Chisholm reversed his second car, a Polo, at her when she was in her garden with family.

She said: 'Tony's car came right up to us, it was that close I could feel the car right next to my knees.'

Asked by procurator fiscal

Alison Wylie if she and her husband got on with Chisholm, who owns a number of properties in the street, Mrs Michie said he 'had been giving my family a hard time for two years.'

She said: 'We never had a problem with him then a couple of years ago the relationship changed - but I don't know why.'

Manoeuvring

Giving evidence, Chisholm denied reversing at Mrs Michie and claimed she had deliberately walked towards his car when he was manoeuvring on the first night.

He said: 'She [Mrs Michie] was up on the grass when I turned my car, when I started to reverse it was clear then she started to walk briskly towards me but I was still about two metres away from her.'

Chisholm's wife Mairi MacCallum, who was in the

car on both evenings, denied suggestions that Chisholm had reversed fast and almost struck Mrs Michie in the second incident.

She said: 'It didn't happen like that, absolutely not. There was nobody in the vicinity when Tony did the manoeuvre, there was absolutely no one around.'

Summing up, Sheriff Richard Davidson said: 'On the one hand there is no evidence to say why the Michies would come to the Crown and make this up.'

'But then on the other hand I have no evidence to say why Mr Chisholm would drive at her.'

'I accept the evidence that you [Chisholm] deliberately drove in reverse towards Mrs Michie facing her in a position of danger.'

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

Chisholm was found not guilty of a separate charge of behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by allegedly gesturing with his middle finger at Mr and Mrs Michie on November 25 last year.



Left to right: Marine Harvest Blar Mhor and Mallaig operations manager Chris Wilk, Andy Jackson, who set up the station in 2004, harvest planning manager Tony Boyd and business support manager Steve Bracken.

Marine Harvest's delight at reaching ten year milestone

SALMON farmers and processors Marine Harvest marked another milestone on Friday when it celebrated the 10th anniversary of its harvest station in Mallaig.

Opened in 2004, the plant revolutionised the company's operations by allowing it to deliver salmon to market faster and fresher than before.

It handles fish collected live from farms along the west coast by well-boat before the salmon are transported to the firm's Blar Mhor plant in Fort William for processing and on to customers around the world.

Staff held a tour of the facility and well-boat to mark the occasion, followed by a lunch in Mallaig Community Hall.

Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest Scotland, said: 'The changes we've seen in the decade since the harvest station opened are remarkable.'

'In the last couple of years we've embarked on an £80 million expansion to meet the continuing growth in demand for farmed salmon.'

'We've also worked hard over the years to develop an industry that is sustainable.'

'We've reduced waste, created more environmentally friendly packaging and improved feed conversion ratios and we are constantly striving to keep making improvements.'

In the decade since it opened the station has harvested almost 91 million salmon.

Harris Tweed in New York spotlight

A NEW campaign was launched in New York on Monday to promote Harris Tweed as the world's most sustainable fabric.

At an event in the Glasgow Caledonian University campus in the city, Harris Tweed Hebrides chairman Brian Wilson said the fabric 'ticks every box of sustainability'.

Mr Wilson and Harris Tweed creative director Mark Hogarth were joined at the launch by Doug Shriver, senior fabric specialist with Brooks Brothers, who have been using the fabric since 1932,

and Esquire magazine fashion director, Nick Sullivan.

Mr Wilson said: 'I doubt if there is another brand in the world with the fame of Harris Tweed which rests on the skills of so few people located within a single community.'

'The key fact is that Harris Tweed survives and flourishes in the Outer Hebrides because an Act of Parliament says it cannot be made anywhere else.'

'That raises questions of global importance about the rights of communities to protect

their indigenous industries.' He added: 'Everyone loves Harris Tweed but relatively few people know the story that makes it so special.'

'We hope this campaign will encourage interest not just in the product but also the place from which it comes and the process which creates it.'

Mr Hogarth said: 'Fashion and style are no longer exclusively about how things look. The ethics and sustainability of how they are produced are hugely important in today's market.'

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Sudden death of 17-year-old 'unexplained'

POLICE say the sudden death of a 17-year-old man in Oban is being treated as unexplained and are continuing with their enquiries.

Emergency services received a report of the sudden death of the teenager, named locally as Scott Goldie, in the early hours of Tuesday morning and attended an address in Scalpay Terrace.

A police spokesman said a post mortem would be held in due course to determine the cause of death and a full report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Watersports centre fire started deliberately

AN INVESTIGATION into a blaze at Lochearnhead Watersports Centre has concluded the fire was started deliberately.

Emergency services were called to centre at about 9.40pm last Saturday and following early enquiries Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire Service have begun an investigation.

The premises - a busy tourist attraction in the Trossachs during the summer - were vacant at the time of the fire, having been closed over the winter.

Any witnesses, or anyone with information about the fire should contact Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Bogus callers

A CRACKDOWN on bogus callers and rogue workmen is underway throughout the Highlands and islands as part of a Police Scotland operation named Monarda-2.

The operation will see additional roadside checks and patrols and follow ups to reports of suspect workmen.



All smiles at Dalmally daffodil tea

Kind-hearted pupils at Dalmally Primary School hosted a daffodil tea on April 2 and raised £170 for Marie Curie Cancer Care and Macmillan Cancer Support. The sun was shining for the children as they manned their Easter-themed daffodil, spring garden and home-baking stalls. The pupils wanted to fundraise for the two charities because of the remarkable work they do for people suffering from cancer. Sam Martin, Aoife McGuire and Corrin Rider are pictured showing off their colourful Easter bonnets in the school's daffodil garden. 16_115daffodil01

Top cop vows to make Argyll roads safer

ARGYLL'S top police officer has pledged to make the county's roads safer in the wake of two car crashes within a week in the area.



Both drivers escaped without serious injury after this head on collision on the A819 near to its Cladich junction. 16_115car01

One woman remains in hospital after a serious crash on the A83 near Furnace on Sunday afternoon and a man had to be airlifted following a head-on collision last Wednesday on the A819 near Dalmally.

Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan, area commander for L Division (Argyll and West Dunbartonshire), plans to restate a dedicated road policing unit within Argyll - the county had nine fatalities on its roads last year - and he has already taken steps to increase patrols on the roads ahead of this summer season.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It is coming to that time of year when we see more motorists on the road - locals and visitors. Having just completed our local policing plan, 10 out of the 11 council wards within the division tell me that road policing is the main priority for this area.'

'I had more people killed on roads last year than were killed through violence and more people seriously injured on the roads than were seriously injured through violence and that shows me what the priority is.'

Explaining that, short term, more traffic police and unmarked cars from other divisions and the national trunk roads policing unit would patrol Argyll, he added: 'This is not about tickets and figures, it is about keeping people alive.'

Long term, Chief Superintendent McEwan wants to create a 'bespoke road policing unit' for Argyll to target dangerous drivers but admitted this could not come into effect in time for this year's busy summer season. The plan reverses a decision taken prior to Chief Superintendent McEwan's tenure, to dismantle the road policing unit in Argyll and bring traffic police officers in to supplement the regular shift pattern.

In a summary of the first year under Police Scotland, Argyll's area commander Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie said: 'With nine fatalities in our area last year road policing will be a priority and I am looking at ways of building on the existing partnerships that we have with key stakeholders, establishing a stand alone Road Policing Department with responsibility for policing our trunk roads in Oban, Campbeltown and Lochgilphead and the surrounding area.'

The crash on the A83 on Sunday involved seven people and occurred when a Honda CRV vehicle and a Vauxhall Safira collided at 4pm on the road between Furnace and Auchincrain.

Three occupants of the Honda and four occupants of the Vauxhall car were injured during the incident and were taken by road and air ambulance to hospitals in Lochgilphead, Oban and Glasgow.

As *The Oban Times* went to press, a 40-year-old Argyll woman was still receiving care in hospital. Last Wednesday's head on collision involved a Seat and a Nissan on the A819 near to its Cladich junction.

The driver of the Nissan was airlifted to the Southern General in Glasgow as a precaution and the Seat driver was taken by ambulance to Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban but was discharged after treatment there.

Oban mourns death of town stalwart

A COMMUNITY stalwart of Oban has died at the age of 88 after a short illness.

James 'Larry' Forgiveve was involved in a plethora of community organisations, from drama to sport, and is best known throughout the Highlands as a talented shinty player.

The former Oban Celtic player won three Camanachd Cup

medals in 1949, 1954 and 1960 and took great pride in refereeing the final of the same competition in 1967.

He was also a past captain of Glencruitten Golf Club and played football for Oban Hearts. James was also an associate member of Oban Gaelic Choir and was a regular at Royal National Mòds. He was a

founding member of Oban Speakers Club, a past chairman of Oban Burns Club, an elder and Sunday school teacher at Oban Parish Church and a member of both Spotlight Musical Theatre Group and the church's dramatic club.

Following his death last Saturday, the Forgiveve family said that James' wide interest in

local groups meant he rarely had a night in.

Nephew Duncan Forgiveve said: 'He was always smiling. That's how we'll remember him. He was liked by everyone, young and old, and was one of Oban's great characters.'

The funeral takes place today (Thursday) in Oban Parish Church at 10.30am.



James 'Larry' Forgiveve, who died last Saturday.

Council and MSP clash over trains

ONE OF the reasons given for changing transport arrangements for Oban High School pupils in east Lorn has been described as 'nonsensical' by the Education Minister.

Argyll and Bute Council plans to transport pupils from the Glenorchy area, Taynuilt and Connel by train after this summer, coinciding with an increase in the number of train journeys coming into Oban.

At a meeting in Dalmally Community Centre last Friday, organised by parents of the Glenorchy children, campaigners produced a quote by a council employee from a previous public meeting stating the reasons for the changes were 'two fold: political to support the enhanced train service; financially to save cost. Also to introduce flexibility and address changing educational needs'.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell responded at the meeting by saying: 'I am minister for education and I have never heard educational reasons called in support of a change in transport. It seems nonsensical to me - otherwise we would be changing to train all over Scotland which just isn't the case.'

For more on the Glenorchy parents' campaign see next week's Oban Times.



Clear view: trees have been removed along the famous Glenfinnan viaduct.

Tree-clearing gives visitors true view of Glenfinnan

VISITORS to Glenfinnan are enjoying much better views of the famous railway viaduct after major tree-clearing operations.

The work was financed by The Friends of the West Highland Lines (FWHL) along with Glenfinnan Station Museum, Highland Council and West Coast Railway Company, which operates the summer steam train from Fort William to Mallaig. The viaduct,

now known all over the world thanks to the Harry Potter movies, is the major attraction on the world's most scenic train ride.

FWHL have also been heavily involved with the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority (NPA) and Network Rail in clearing trees south of Arrochar and Tarbet to give passengers improved views along the route.

Meanwhile, FWHL has had

'constructive discussions' on the future operation of the West Highland lines with the five franchisees bidding for the ScotRail network contract worth £1.2 billion.

Suggested improvements include new and improved trains with air conditioning, a toilet for each coach, automatic inside doors and more at-table seating.

The society also met with the three bidders for the fifteen-

year Caledonian Sleeper train franchise. The new franchisees are due to commence in 2015.

FWHL chairman Doug Carmichael said partnerships will be set up with local community groups, Argyll and Bute Council and Highland Council to 'to improve various aspects of the West Highland Lines between Helensburgh and Fort William, Mallaig and Oban'.

Islay welcomes Royal visitor

ISLAY had a Royal visit last weekend when whisky enthusiast HRH Prince Albert of Monaco landed at Islay Airport last Saturday.

The monarch and his party flew in on a seaplane from Loch Lomond and joined whisky writer Charles MacLean, a fellow patron of the Monte Carlo Whisky Society, in sampling drams from the nine distilleries on Islay and Jura over the weekend.

Mr MacLean, from Edinburgh, said: 'Last year

he expressed a desire to go to Talisker and said that the following year he wanted to go to Islay.'

'The weekend was a huge success and the prince enjoyed travelling to Laphroaig, Lagavulin and Ardbeg by bicycle.'

'The Islay malts are gratefully admired and we were handsomely looked after.'

Asked what the prince's favourite malt was, Mr MacLean replied: 'He appreciated them all.'



Photo courtesy of www.islayinfo.com.

Young Lochaber architects wanted

YOUNG local architects have just over two weeks to submit design ideas for a new viewpoint at Neptune's Staircase at Banavie.

A competition is calling for a structure that celebrates the view of Ben Nevis from the spectacular flight of eight locks on the Caledonian Canal.

Aspiring designers have until April 28 to submit applications to the Scenic Routes contest, run by Scottish Canals. The winner will have the chance to work with consultants to see the project through.

Jan MacLugash of Kilmallie Community Council, whose home will overlook the new structure, urged young Lochaber architects to put their names forward.

She said: 'This could be a good thing if an appropriate design is submitted - but wouldn't like to see an ugly construction blighting the scenic staircase.'

More information and an application pack can be found at scottishcanals.co.uk

Argyll arts funding welcomed

A NEWLY-formed arts partnership on the Isle of Mull is set to inspire Argyll's next creative talents, thanks to a grant of £400,000 from Creative Scotland.

Comar, an amalgamation of Mull Theatre and An Tobar formed less than a year ago, will use the money to create a Youth Arts Hub, increasing access to youth arts across a range of art forms.

The money is part of a £3.1m package rolled out across Scotland as part of Scotland's National Youth Arts Strategy, Time To Shine, and will be used to create a network of regional Youth Arts Hubs across the country.

Comar will work in partnership with youth and arts groups in the county to

deliver the Youth Arts Hub for Argyll and Bute. The Hub will work towards a 10-year vision for the sector to make Argyll and Bute a more inspirational place for young people.

Comar chairman Norman Quirk said: 'This grant is a terrific vote of confidence in us and puts us on the map as one of the leading arts organisations in Scotland, let alone Argyll.'

'The future is with youth and we are very excited about that.'

Youth Arts Hub partners in Argyll include Cove Park, Dunoon Burgh Halls; Artmap Argyll; ArtsQwest; The Touring Network; Argyll College; Argyll and Bute Council and CNTV.

Alan Reid MP

Alan Reid will hold a surgery in Oban on Wednesday 16 April 2014 at the Corran Halls, Oban between 3.30pm & 4.30pm.

To make an appointment, please phone Alan Reid's office (01369-704840)

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Lorn Lines

CHILDREN exchanged news about their school with former pupils during a fund-raising bag-packing event at Oban's Tesco store.

Many of the school's youngsters, accompanied by a parent or carer took an hour at the busy tills on Saturday (March 29).

A great many past pupils enjoyed hearing what good things the money was to be used for and enjoyed seeing the pupils in their uniforms.

Some even reminisced about the old, old St Columba's

Primary School in Glencruit-ten Road. The children did a great job and were very helpful and kind leading to £326 being raised.

The school has many projects on the go with a few more up and coming and the money will be of great assistance.

The children and school would like to thank all the customers who kindly donated and to all the families who turned out to support the children on the day.



Jamie Wilson, Justin MacIver, Calan McGuigan, Sophie MacGregor and his sister Emma MacGregor take a wee break from their bag packing duties.



Children from Happy House Christian pre-school learned more about the culture of their Polish families by having a Polish day recently. They made flags and shakers, shared Polish snacks and listened to traditional songs and stories.

Billy released from 'hellhole' Indian jail after six months

AFTER six months in a 'hellhole' Indian jail, getting out last Saturday was a 'surreal' experience for former soldier Billy Irving from Connel.

Waiting for him outside was a hug and a kiss was partner Yvonne MacHugh - who promptly whisked him off in a limo to the comfort of a hotel.

'The pair had huge smiles on their faces, I'm delighted for them,' said Billy's father, Jim, a former Appin policeman now living in France.

'He said it was surreal for him.'

Yvonne had made the surprise visit to India to meet Billy when he was finally released on bail on condition he remains in India.

Billy, 33, a former Campbelltown Grammar pupil, was among the 35 crew of an anti-piracy ship who have been held on charges of illegally entering Indian waters, possessing arms and ammunition and illegally procuring diesel.

The vessel, Seaman Guard Ohio, is owned by US marine security firm AdvanFort which denies all charges.

All of the crew have been

granted bail except the captain and security manager due to their senior status.

Legal moves are already underway to have the charges quashed, and Billy's family remain hopeful that will happen soon.

Jim Irving added: 'I've spoken to Billy and he's doing remarkably well considering what he and the others had to endure in that hellhole of a prison.'

Billy's best friend, Shaun McDaniel from Campbelltown, told The Oban Times: 'It's great

he's out. He has left a message of Facebook thanking everyone for their support. 'Hopefully, the charges will be quashed and he'll be home soon.'

The news of Billy's release from prison was celebrated by his team mates at Taynuilt Shinty Club. Club manager Davie Thomson said: 'It has given the boys a huge lift. We've obviously spoken about Billy's situation a lot. The boys want to get a win this weekend against Oban Celtic to mark his release from jail.'

During a long battle by the

families of the detainees, Yvonne, 25, started a petition which gathered 147,000 signatures calling for the men's release. It was recently handed to Downing Street.

The International Organisation of Masters, Mates and Pilots (MMP) has said the crewmen and guards were being subjected to 'inhuman' conditions in prison.

Spokesman Captain James Staples said they were 'deprived of proper medical treatment, bathing facilities and adequate food'.



Billy Irving and partner Yvonne MacHugh before he joined the crew of Seaman Guard Ohio.

Oban producer in running for BAFTA

A DOCUMENTARY producer from Oban is in the running for a British Academy of Film and Television Arts award for her work on a film about John F Kennedy.

Lorraine McKechnie is producer of The Day Kennedy Died, which was this week nominated in the Arqiva British Academy Television Awards in the Single Documentary category. The film is narrated by Hollywood star Kevin Spacey. This year's ceremony will be held at the Theatre Royal, London, on May 18.

The other nominees for Single Documentary are 28 Up South Africa; The Murder Trial and The Unspeakable Crime: Rape.

Phone and watch stolen from changing rooms

AN IPHONE 5 and a diving watch have been reported stolen from changing rooms at Isle of Mull Rugby Club at Garmony on the island.

The items are thought to have a combined value of around £500 and were taken on Saturday March 15. Police Scotland, who received the report last Thursday, are keen to hear from anyone who may have information about the theft.



Stonemasons' breathtaking view from 'office'

Have you seen the view from my office? Stonemasons from Heritage Consolidation have had a spectacular view of Kerrera while waterproofing the tops of the walls at Dunollie Castle over the past fortnight as part of work to refurbish the ancestral home of the Clan MacDougall. It is believed the resealing work, using a mixture of lime and sand from Torosay on Mull, is the first full refurbishment ever undertaken on the structure. Keep an eye out for our feature on developments at Dunollie in a forthcoming edition of The Oban Times. 15_115dunollie02

Society tunes up for 70th annual concert

A PIANIST who joined the Oban Strathspey and Reel Society orchestra in 1950 and a 13-year-old debutant are just two of those taking part in the society's 70th annual concert this month.

Oban's strathspey and reel exponents are fine tuning their programme for the concert on April 26. Pianist Margaret Fletcher joined the orchestra in 1950 and is no stranger to public performance, whereas the youngest musician in the group, 13-year-old Ross MacLeish, is making his debut with the orchestra but is not in the least perturbed about joining the senior fiddlers. Other stalwarts in the orchestra include Pat Murphy, who not only plays his fiddle, but creates fiddles for many of the performers, and travelling from Glendaruel is accordionist Barbara MacNaughton who has been a regular since 1975.

Conductor Helen Jordan has assembled an intriguing programme of old favourites and new tunes including Bobby MacLeod's classic Jean's Reel and MacLeod's Oran Mor.

Mary Ann Kennedy's singing is sure to delight the audience, and the orchestra's rendering of Highland Cathedral is guaranteed to be memorable.

Appeal for car vandal witnesses

POLICE in Oban are keen to hear from witnesses to two incidents of vandalism in the town on Sunday night.

At 8.30pm police received a report of damage to the rear windscreen of a silver Vauxhall Corsa parked on George Street.

Around three hours later they received a call from a householder on Soroba Road who said a door to their property had been damaged.

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

The Oban Times is asking readers to nominate someone in their local community who deserves to experience the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games first hand.

The Scottish Government's Legacy Ticket scheme recognises the achievement and contribution of people across Scotland who are helping to create this legacy by offering them tickets to watch one of the 17 sports at the games.

The Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this summer is set to be the biggest sporting event in Scotland's history - and they promise to be a fantastic spectacle to enjoy. These games are a once-in-a-generation opportunity to secure a legacy for communities across Scotland.

Readers of The Oban Times will know the unsung heroes who are already making a difference - whether it's a young person involved in sport, someone helping to make sport happen by volunteering or someone simply making your community a better place.

HOW TO NOMINATE

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

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Send to: The Oban Times, Legacy Ticket Nomination, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

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

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2. Those who make sport happen, including volunteers
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4. People without the opportunity to experience the games, and those from disadvantaged groups or those with a disability.

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

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Shock as Fort William boss Conlon quits

'I felt that there's been a difference of opinion on what is and is not important within the club'

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

FORT WILLIAM FC has appointed former team boss Calum MacLean as caretaker boss till the end of the season following Danny Conlon's shock decision to quit on Saturday.

Conlon told the board he was going immediately after Fort's 6-0 home defeat to Fraserburgh and confirmed the move by letter on Sunday. Assistant manager Michael MacEachen also resigned.

The move caught the club by surprise and MacLean, with James Annette as assistant, agreed to take over on a temporary basis.

Conlon cited pressures of the job and 'a difference of opinion' as the main reasons behind his decision to walk away.

He told The Oban Times: 'It has been a long hard three years and to be honest a really hard commitment, with not many highs and lots of lows.'

'I thought it was the right time to pass it on and get somebody else in to take the playing side forward.'

'I also felt that there's been a difference of opinion on what is and is not important within the club and that has come to the fore in the last month or so.'

Conlon declined to go into any more detail but admitted player allegiance to the cause had been variable.

He said: 'It's the same in any line of work - there are some people more committed than others.'

'I had a hard core of players that were really committed and that was one of my regrets - I feel we are letting them down a wee bit.'

'I have had load of texts and phone calls from players saying they are sorry to see us go and that they really enjoyed working with us.'



Danny Conlon

He added: This has taken a lot out of [Michael and I] and we feel we had to get out of it for a while and recharge our batteries.'

'It was a lot easier to improve the governance, structure and fundraising of the club and a lot more difficult to get that across on the pitch.'

'I would like to thank the players, the committee and the board for all their hard work and

support and wish the club every success in the future.'

Another club has asked Conlon to get involved in a coaching capacity but he declined to say which one.

Fort William FC chairman Ronnie MacLean told The Oban Times on Tuesday: 'I have not had a chance to talk to Danny, it was all rather sudden.'

'My main priority on Saturday evening was how to get someone in place for tomorrow night's game against Clach.'

'I appreciate how stressful the job has been in trying to get a squad together every week and despite all our efforts to strengthen the squad over the past season we still have not got off the bottom of the league - and that puts a lot of pressure on the manager.'

'I regret what has happened and would like to have kept both of them on board but these things happen and the club has to move on.'

'I would not like any indication that either I or the club had any dispute with Danny. On behalf of the club I would like to express my sincere to Danny and Michael for what they have done over the two years since I became involved.'

'From a position of being down and out we are now very ambitious and going places.'

Fort William were due to play Clachnacuddin last night and travel to Deveronvale on Saturday.



Knockout! Robert MacDonald, left, and Adam Watson were winners in Swindon. 20_115b0x01

Lochaber boxers are a big hit in Swindon

LOCHABER Phoenix boxers have a reputation for being willing to travel anywhere to fight - and two of their squad proved that point last weekend when they arrived in Swindon to take part in a tournament hosted by Fitzpatrick's BC. Fitzpatrick's is the club run by Paddy Fitzpatrick - the trainer of George Groves who next month boxes for the world super middleweight title against Carl Froch in the biggest bout in British boxing history - and its boxers' reputation precedes them.

Baptism of fire
So it was a baptism of fire for Lochaber senior middleweight 26 year-old Adam Watson as he made his debut in a cauldron of 700 supporters against opponent Nicolae Byfield of the host club.

But showing a calmness that belied his inexperience, Adam claimed the first round with shots to body and head while

his job and straight backhand continually found their target. The second also belonged to Adam as he kept on the front foot and although Byfield made one last push for glory in the last as both boxers traded fiercely, Watson took the round to earn a well-deserved unanimous decision.

Undefeated
Next up for Lochaber was 12 year-old Robert MacDonald - on his second appearance in Swindon - and he remains undefeated in the city after his unanimous points decision victory against the host club's Mike Delaney.

MacDonald possesses a fine jab, which he used to great effect throughout the contest and by the end there was never any doubt who the victor was going to be.

Club official Steve Docherty said after the double success: 'To come down to England and win two out of two contests is

quite an achievement for a little club from Fort William.

'All our boxers now have friends from all over the country with boxing being the bond that keeps us together.'

'We hope to show this warmth when Horseshoe Boxing Club from Swindon visit us on May 3 for our next home show at the Nevis Centre.'

Lochaber Phoenix hopes to feature 12 of its boxers competing with other fighters from all over the country. Six schoolboy and six senior bouts are scheduled.

'This promises to be the most exciting show we have ever held,' Docherty said.

Tickets are available from the venue, Steve Docherty on 0776069532 and Niall Clark on 07554994744.

Open singles fundraiser

DARTS

AN OPEN singles fundraiser in aid of a local good cause drew an entry of 52 players at Tradewinds at Corpach on Saturday.

And it was PDC professional John Henderson who took the honours, beating Ron MacLean in the final and hitting a 144 finish along the way.

The game of the night was a first round match between James Whyte and John Henderson. James started with 81, 140, 180 and had darts at double top to win but after five darts at double 12 John checked out in 18 darts to sneak it.

There was an auction of darts memorabilia including a signed Michael Van Gerwin shirt as well as many other items.

Tradewinds owner Duncan Carmichael said: 'Tradewinds would like to thank all the businesses and individuals who donated prizes and the many people who helped to make it a truly memorable night.'



Scottish captain Ross Montgomery and England captain Tony O'Shea with the signed dartboard. Photo: SDA

Meanwhile, at the British Internationals at Halifax last weekend, the Scottish men's team wore shirts made with black arm bands as a tribute to Spean Bridge player Bryan Whyte, who died in a tragic car accident just days after being told he had been picked to play for the national team for the first time.

The team also left Bryan's name on their team sheet as a mark of respect and did not call up another player to replace him.

All the players signed the competition dartboard which was brought back to Scotland by the Scottish team to be auctioned.

Texas scramble at Fort William GC

GOLF

FORT WILLIAM Golf Club opened its season on Saturday with the Hydro 3-person Texas scramble qualifier.

Result: 1 David MacDonald, Duncan Rodger, Mark Rydings (net 55 (61 - 6)); 2 Neil Feggans, Brian Gillespie, David Martin (net 56 (63 - 7)); 3 Sinclair Gunn, Steven Jamieson, David MacPherson (net 58 (63 - 5)).

Claire helps team to semi final win

NETBALL

A FORT William netballer helped a Highland team to victory in the semi final of a Scottish Cup. The Fyrish Flyers won 64-46 against Glasgow team Kelvin in the Evelyn Beattie Quaiich Cup and will travel to Glasgow for the final against Harmony Row in May.

Claire Lumley-Holmes played centre in the second half and was delighted with the result.

She said: 'This is the first time a Highland team has entered the competition and the standard has left the opposing teams in the central belt extremely surprised - they didn't even know teams existed up here.'

Lottery winners

LOTTERY

FORT WILLIAM FC's 300 Club draw. Winners were: £200 - A MacFall; £50 - A Collins; £25 - D Robertson; £25 - E MacLeod.

Wet and windy weather for Lochaber Marathon

MARATHON

OVER 300 athletes braved a wet and windy Sunday morning for the 31st Lochaber Marathon.

With 335 runners descending on An Aird shinty park, numbers were slightly down on last year but supporters and spectators turned out to cheer on the players as the set off along the shores of Lochail, heading

through Corpach to Glenfinnan and back.

Over 40s vet runner Roger Van Gompel of Dundee was the first to cross the finish line, completing the course in two hours, 40 minutes and 26 seconds, seven minutes slower than last year's winner. Andrew Murray was shortly

behind, finishing in two hours 42 minutes and 30 seconds, with David Houston third in two hours 45 minutes and 22 seconds.

Donna Finlayson was the first lady home in an impressive time of three hours 11 minutes and 32 seconds although she had big shoes to fill as last year's first lady Joanna Zakrzewski



The field set off on the 31st Lochaber Marathon. 20_115marathon01



Trophy winners RossAmy Wareing, Craig Findlay and Pam Weller with runners up, from left, Brian Johnstone, Manuel Costas, Isabel Campbell, Hazel White and Tony Whitelocke. 20_115bowls01

Prizes handed out

IN THE final week of play of the 10-pin bowling singles leagues at the Nevis Centre the highest scratch games came from RossAmy Wareing and Manuel Costas, who both rolled a 171.

The top three-game scratch series came from Tony Whitelocke with 483 and the top three-game handicap series came from Craig Findlay with 664.

Tony said: 'Thanks go to everyone for taking part and to John Weller for organising the league and keeping everyone in order.'

TEN PIN BOWLING

Full results: Overall scratch league - 1 RossAmy Wareing, 154 points; 2 Pam Weller, 153; 3 Tony Whitelocke, 147. Men's scratch league - 1 Tony Whitelocke, 113; 2 John Weller, 111; 3 Manuel Costas, 110. Ladies scratch league - 1 Pam Weller, 41; 2 RossAmy Wareing, 39; 3 Hazel White, 30. Overall handicap league - 1 Craig Findlay, 150; 2 RossAmy Wareing, 141; 3 Manuel Costas, 128. Men's handicap league - 1 Craig Findlay, 111; 2 Manuel Costas, 95; 3 Brian Johnstone, 93. Ladies handicap league - 1 RossAmy Wareing, 39; 2 Isabel Campbell, 29; 3 Pam Weller, 28. Nevis Radio High Pin Total Trophy - 1 Pam Weller, 3239 pins; 2 RossAmy Wareing, 3213; 3 Manuel Costas, 3139.

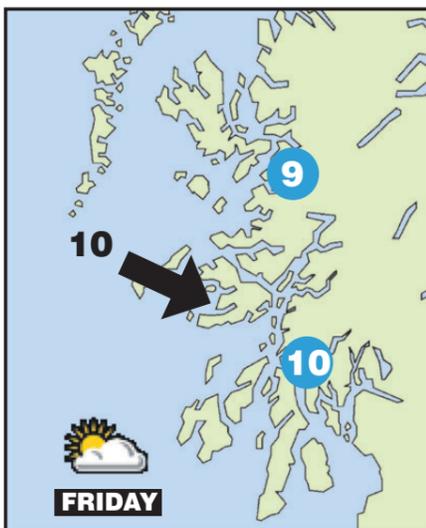
Weather

Thursday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

Weekend Outlook Light rain
Winds strong west south westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 10, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.28 2.9 09.32 1.7 15.17 3.0 20.50 1.6	
Fri	03.15 3.1 10.09 1.5 15.51 3.2 21.42 1.3	
Sat	03.54 3.4 10.39 1.3 16.24 3.4 22.27 0.9	
Sun	04.31 3.6 11.07 1.1 16.58 3.6 22.57 0.9	
Mon	05.38 3.8 11.35 0.9 17.30 3.8 23.31 0.7	
Tues	05.39 3.9 12.04 0.8 18.00 3.9 *** **	
Wed	00.05 0.6 06.09 3.9 12.34 0.7 18.27 3.9	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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