

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8297

Thursday 7 April, 2016

www.obantimes.co.uk

85 pence



Oban Toy Cupboard celebrates 25th anniversary



Oban Saints let Scottish Cup final slip through net



Council defends budget spend on £158M debt

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

DEBT of more than £158 million was defended by Argyll and Bute Council this week saying a multi-million figure is 'not unusual'. But a Freedom of Information request by *The Oban Times* shows that the local authority has only £56.5 million in savings and more than eight per cent of annual income is being spent on 'servicing debts'.

Projects such as Oban CHORD – Stafford Street and pavement reconstruction – TIF funding for the North Pier extension and a road to a business park at the airport, alongside other projects such as the rebuilding of Oban High School, will all be completed on borrowed money that will be paid back over the length of the usefulness of the property.

Figures in the Freedom of Information request show that loans to the value of £158 million to organisations, banks, other local authorities and individuals mean payments of more than £20 million come out of the pot before a single penny of cash is spent on services.

Of the outstanding debts, Public Works Leading Bank

has loaned the local authority more than £100 million, while London-based bank Bayerische Landesbank has lent it £21 million, Prudential Insurance are owed £1 million, while West Mercia Police are owed £5 million and East Renfrewshire Council, amongst others, helped the council out with a cash flow problem to the tune of £2 million.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council defended the high cost of loans to the local authority. He said: 'The council finances its fixed assets in the same way as local authorities and national governments throughout the United Kingdom.'

'In the same way as a householder would prudently pay down their mortgage over 20, 30 or 40 years, we do the same with our financial liabilities.'

'Last year we used £20 million of our cash assets, around eight per cent of our total budget, to pay down loans.'

'To have used any more would not have been sensible because we would have incurred steep early repayment charges, actually making it more expensive in the long term.'

'Our current liability of £160

million is used to finance more than £522 million of public assets such as schools, roads and schools.'

'In 2017/18 we plan to borrow around £13 million to finance major improvements projects such as schools, roads etc.'

'£100 million of this is through the national government, using its borrowing power to secure more favourable terms than we would otherwise be able to.'

'Prudent financial planning means we were in a much better position than some other local authorities to manage the disappointing funding settlement from the Scottish Government.'

'This year's budget will protect core services, deliver what people told us they wanted and build prosperity for the area.'

'The money from East Renfrewshire and West Mercia Police Authority are short-term cash flow loans which will be repaid this month (April) when investments mature. If we had to call in our investments earlier, this would incur a penalty.'

'The other sums are investments made by individuals or organisations in the council, in the same way that individuals can invest in government bonds.'

Surprise, surprise! Pupils help Caroline celebrate centenary



Caroline Jamieson with pupils from Taynuilt primary who organised a surprise party for her.

SURPRISE birthday celebrations last week for Caroline Jamieson, who turned 100 yesterday (Wednesday), almost caused the Argyll woman to have 'a heart attack', writes Louise Glen.

Mrs Jamieson was born on April 6, 1916 in North Argyll

and moved around the area finally settling in Taynuilt where she is the centre of many community groups and organisations.

Speaking after Taynuilt Primary School put on a party with 150 guests for her last week, Mrs Jamieson said:

'What a lovely surprise. I didn't have any idea this was going on and when I found out I almost had a heart attack.'

Pupils from every class performed at the birthday party. Presents, flowers and cakes almost overwhelmed Mrs Jamieson.

TIMESLINE

Oban man injured in two-car crash

AN OBAN man was airlifted to hospital in Glasgow after a two-vehicle accident near Pennyfuir shortly after 7pm on Tuesday.

Police Scotland said a 42-year-old man remained in hospital in a stable condition. He is not suffering from life-threatening injuries.

Oban pontoons to be discussed

MEMBERS of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee will consider options for a visitor centre and transit berthing facility on the Oban's North Pier at their meeting next Monday (April 11).

Ambitious plans to develop a marina area in Oban with pontoons and a visitors' centre will be considered.

Two papers, one on the design options for the visitors' centre on the North Pier and another on plans to develop a transit berthing facility, will be discussed at the meeting in the Corran Halls, which is open to the public.

New schools get the go-ahead

THE CONTRACT to deliver Campbeltown and Oban's new £56 million secondary schools has been signed between Argyll and Bute Council and Hibernia Scotland in Edinburgh.

Construction is due to begin on both soon, with completion by spring 2018.

Oban's new school, to be built on the current school's rugby pitch, will allow for an increased capacity of up to 1,300 pupils. All work will be to the south of the school and will be accessed independently. The school will function as normal during the work.



CalMac improves customer alerts

FERRY operator CalMac is changing the way it alerts customers to disrupted services after feedback from passengers.

An additional service status of yellow is being added to the existing green, amber and red categories on its website to give passengers clearer information about potential disruption.

The yellow alert will be used

to tell customers to remain aware and check for updates to their service before travelling, as there is a possibility of disruption.

Amber alerts will now be used to inform customers that one or more sailings are disrupted, including significant delays, cancelled sailings, suspended sailings, diverted sailings or

vessels turned back unable to berth.

The red alert will continue to be used to indicate when all sailings on a route are cancelled for the remainder of the day.

The new alert system will go live on www.calmac.co.uk on Monday (April 11) and will also apply to Argyll Ferries' service from Gourock to Dunoon.

Fears cuts will hit school results

ATTAINMENT in Argyll and Bute schools will suffer because of a £1.4 million hit the area's education services are due to take this year, according to a former leader of Argyll and Bute Council.

And the removal of school librarians will only make matters more difficult for children, says James Robb.

Councillor Robb was speaking after website Parentzone published attainment figures showing that both Oban High School and Hermitage Academy in Helensburgh have fallen in the average tariff

figure for pupil pass marks. Over all in Argyll and Bute, Oban High School currently sits in eighth place, with pupil attainment falling from 862 tariff points to 803.

Hermitage Academy achieved only 996 tariff points after reaching 1,076 last year. The school still clings on to top spot in Argyll and Bute.

Mr Robb said: 'The unnecessary £1.4 million cut to education this year and the removal of school librarians can only make matters worse.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute explained the council's position: 'As it states on the Parentzone website, it is important to realise that all schools operate differently and are no longer compared with each other.'

'The entire context of each school must be taken into consideration to fully understand how well it's doing – for example, the curriculum on offer.'

'A key priority of Scottish education is to improve the employability skills of our young people. This is result-

ing in changes to the way the curriculum is offered.'

'Many young people do fewer formal qualifications than previously, but benefit from stronger engagement with colleges and local employers.'

'This leads to achievement awards and industry standard qualifications.'

'Figures show that the number of school leavers from Oban High School going on to further education, employment or training opportunities in 2014/15 was 95 per cent – 2.1 per cent above the Scottish national average.'

THE ARGYLL FURNITURE STORE

DISPLAY STOCK TO CLEAR

NEW YORK CORNER SUITE

WAS £1500 NOW £999

Breadalbane Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NZ
Tel/Fax: 01631 564443

B LASTA

@ The Royal Hotel

Blasta is open 7 nights a week from 5.30pm till 8.30pm, available for functions, weddings and private hires.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

We offer an early bird special from 5.30pm till 6.30pm - £14.95 for 2 Course or £17.50 for 3 Courses.

Blasta offers a wide range of Gins, Vodkas, Malts, Rums, Premium Lagers, Fine Wines and much, much more.

www.blastaroyal.com www.facebook.com/BlastaRoyal

Now You Can Correct Your Short Sight, Long Sight & Astigmatism WITHOUT GLASSES or Day-time Contact Lenses And Without Risking Invasive & Irreversible Laser Eye Surgery ... All While You Sleep

For more information and a free report call us TODAY at the **West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic** 01631 563170, 11/12 Argyll Square, Oban

WALLACE optometrists **KODAK LENS VISION CENTRE**

Raasay residents' frustration over lack of nurses

NHS HIGHLAND has refused to set a date for a meeting with community representatives on the Isle of Raasay this year, despite the 175 residents being left without out-of-hours nursing cover since July 2015.

Raasay Healthcare Matters (RHM), the group set up to campaign for a full-time nurse on Raasay, requested a meeting with NHS Highland on January 27 after the advertisement of fixed-term posts failed to secure a nurse, and has repeated that request in writing several times since.

When asked why a further meeting had not been arranged, Tracy Ligema, NHS Highland's area manager for north and west, said: 'It has been important for NHS to take stock on what the service needs/requirements are for the community.'

She said NHS Highland was exploring services for Raasay, including ongoing community nursing and an alternative way of delivering primary care out-of-hours, possibly using rural support workers.

Ms Ligema continued: 'We would like to work closely with the community to build a resilient and sustainable model of care for the future.'

In the meantime, Independent councillor John Gordon has promised his support, and Dave Thompson SNP MSP, SNP councillor Ian Renwick and SNP candidate Kate Forbes have managed to meet with RHM this year.

Anne Gillies, chairwoman of Raasay Community Council, which now incorporates RHM, said: 'The last meeting with NHS Highland took place on November 17, 2015. This is not my idea of working closely with the community.'

The Isle of Raasay has no resident GP or nurse, and currently only has a nurse present 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday. Outside these hours residents are advised to call 111 or 999.

This year, so far, the Scottish Ambulance Service has coordinated six emergency evacuations from the island.

Man rescued after he is left hanging by broken foot

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN Mountain Rescue Team saved the life of a man who was hanging upside down by his broken foot in low temperatures in the middle of Sunday night on the Drochaid Ghlas summit near Taynuilt.

If it wasn't for the climber's foot being lodged between rocks and his partner contacting the mountain rescue team immediately then things may have turned out very differently for the 50-year-old.

Oban rescue team leader Ross Lilley said: 'The casualty had slipped from close to the Drochaid Ghlas summit into the north eastern corrie.

'His foot somehow got wedged, stopping a further fall. Although the casualty's partner had quickly alerted the police,



OBAN mountain rescue spent the night on the mountain helping a man who was hanging upside down by his broken foot.

the casualty was left hanging upside down from a broken foot for several hours until we could

reach them, unable to right himself or secure himself to the icy cliff above a stomach-churning

drop. A harrowing predicament. Needless to say we are pretty impressed with their toughness to hang in there.

'Low cloud and poor weather meant a helicopter ride at this point was impossible, so the casualty's ordeal continued for another couple of hours whilst he was hauled back up to the ridge before a 1.5km stretcher ride and 600m bumpy decent back to the vehicles.

'Now below the cloud as the weather improved, R999 could rapidly transfer the casualty to hospital.'

Mr Lilley added: 'All at Oban MRT wish the casualty a very speedy recovery. Thanks to R999 for their efforts to get to the casualty in poor weather and Strathclyde Police MRT for standing by. And sorry to those Facebook friends who were curious – we don't have a photo of someone stuck on a cliff hang-

ing upside down by their ankle. The rescuers lowered down to the casualties were preoccupied ensuring he didn't continue on a downward journey, and the medics were too busy treating his broken foot and imminent hypothermia to take any selfies.

'The rigging team above could have taken a photograph but were just too busy having fun with all the shiny toys and 100s of meters of static rope.'

He added: 'Also thanks to our employers who after only 3.5 hours' sleep had to put up with us being more rubbish than usual.

'Incidentally, this is the second training day in a row, at two separate locations, where after a full day's training we have returned home only to be called out to the same venue later in the evening. Spooky.

'At least we've been sick when we get to the casualty.'

Candidates 'grilled' at Oban breakfast husting



Mick Rice, left, Donald Cameron and Derek Connery, who chaired the meeting, with Alan Reid and Michael Russell.

ARGYLL and Bute candidates vying for a seat at Holyrood were in Oban on Friday for a breakfast hustings in the Bay Great Western Hotel.

Local businesses had been invited to discuss three topics at the meeting – the A83 Rest

and Be Thankful, domestic rates and the national minimum wage versus the living wage.

The question time was organised by Bid4Oban, and was chaired by Derek Connery, the organisation's chief executive. Michael Russell (SNP), Alan

Reid (Lib Dem), Donald Cameron (Conservative) and Mick Rice (Labour) all had the opportunity to have their say on each subject, before Mr Connery fielded questions from the audience.

Mr Connery said: 'I would like to thank the prospective

candidates for taking the time to come to our hustings and, as importantly, the manner in which both they and the audience behaved. Everyone had a fair opportunity to make their points, which in turn resulted in a debate that was not only lively,

but also informative and entertaining. I hope that there will be similar events in the future, even post-election, offering an opportunity for the public to engage with both elected politicians and their opponents on relevant matters.'

Youth allowance expanded

MORE THAN 32,000 young people from low-income families who attend school or college received payments through the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) last year.

In total, 31 per cent of all school pupils aged between 16 and 19 years old and 20 per cent of full-time college students in the same age bracket received a payment in the 2014-15 academic year, with more than £25 million in total being distributed.

The money received does not have to be paid back. In 2014/15, 35 per cent of those receiving EMA funding came from the 20 per cent most deprived areas in Scotland.

Changes to EMA, announced in January, will see an increase in the number of young people eligible for the allowance, including, for the first time, part-time college students.

Council supports campaign

NATIONAL Stalking Awareness Week, which takes place from April 18-25, is being supported by Argyll and Bute Council.

One in six women and one in 12 men are stalked at some point in their lives and now the council is helping to highlight the issue as part of a national campaign.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Stalking is repeated, unwanted intrusions into your life that cause you to feel scared or distressed.

'It doesn't have to include threats of violence and will usually be carried out by someone you know.

'If you or someone you know is being stalked and you are not sure what to do or who to talk to, you can contact the National Stalking Helpline on 0808 802 0300.'

Manifesto for children

A CHILDREN'S charity has launched an election manifesto for improving care for babies, children and young people in the country.

Maria McGill, chief executive for Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS), said: 'Our 2016 election manifesto highlights a range of measures that politicians need to address to ensure that babies, children and young people and their families have access to the best holistic palliative care services possible.

'To reach this significant group we need to work with politicians and policy makers to ensure that CHAS has the right support from our partners across the NHS and local authorities to meet the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.'

Correction

IN A report last week we stated that Scottish Natural Heritage believed there were too many deer on the land.

The organisation that has made the claim is in fact the Scottish Wildlife Trust. We apologise for this error.

MULL lines

Warden wanted for Iona retreat

TOBEN LEWIS, the warden of Bishop's House retreat on the island of Iona, will be leaving the post this summer.

Mr Lewis has held this position for the past four years and has said he has enjoyed the work.

He said: 'It's been a very intense and very rewarding experience.'

He is leaving the post to return to his previous career in graphic design.

Islands Retreats Limited is now looking to appoint a new warden to take on duties including welcoming guests, Christian worship and retreat leadership, marketing and public relations,

housekeeping, reservations, as well as the management of catering, staff, building and finance.

This is a permanent, full-time position with accommodation provided within Bishop's House.

Further information and application packs can be requested by email from office@argyll.anglican.org or from St Moluag's Diocesan Centre in Oban.

Rain fails to stop Bunessan fun runs

THE number of adults participating in both the main Bunessan Easter Run and in the 'Loopy Run' were disappointingly low, writes event organiser Jack Degnan.

But the number of children taking part was on the rise, with a holidaymaker and local boy taking first and second place.

Organisers have speculated on the reason for the poor turnout, believing one of four reasons could have been the cause – Easter being so early this year, the fact that the schools' spring break was less than a week away, the inclement weather forecast, or people forgetting to turn their clocks forward on Saturday night/Sunday morning may have been to blame – or maybe a combination of all four.

Certainly the clocks going forward resulted in one less runner for the main run when a visitor to the island came at 12.50pm to register for the

race only to be told that it had started 20 minutes before.

The number of spectators was also, disappointingly, down on previous years, despite there being the opportunity to purchase wonderfully barbecued burgers or sausages, or to try some delicious home-baking supplied and made by members of the local branch of the RNLI and of Bunessan Primary PTA.

The children, however, put the adults to shame with more than 30 of them taking part in their race.

The Children's Race was won by Haylie Whittle, on holiday from Edinburgh, with Adrian Lawson of Fionnphort a very close second. Both received their prizes in the aged 10-12 category.

In the under-10 category, twins Ellen and Gemma MacRae from Salen each received an Easter Egg for being the first girl home, while Archie Johnston received one for being the first boy home.

The Loopy Run was won in a canter by Abie Cato from Knockvologan, Fionnphort, who was the first woman home in that race as well as the first local woman.

Young Stewart MacDougall was the first man home in the Loopy Run.

John Coyle, Tobermory, came in just over three minutes ahead of second-placed Brian MacLeod, also Tobermory, in the main run.

The first woman home in this was Haylie's mum,

Pamela Whittle – obviously running is in the family blood. Lynn MacLeod, Tobermory, took home the prize for the lady veteran and Brian Thomas, Bunessan for the veteran gent over 50.

Michael Gibson, also Bunessan, won the prize for the veteran gent over 40, just sneaking in at that age range. The prize for the first local woman went to Billie Jones of Fionnphort.

The organisers would like to thank all of those who helped in any way and for their support for the event.

In particular they would extend their grateful thanks to PDK Shellfish and Knights Offshore Support for the generous and continued sponsorship of this event.

OBAN STOVE CENTRE



Old Crofters Yard, Soroba Rd, Oban, Argyll, PA344HU
Tel: 01631564790 Fax: 01631562919
info@obanstovecentre.co.uk



Money Matters with Iain Cairns

Don't waste money paying tax when you don't need to!

It's always a good idea to regularly review your investments and your wider financial situation to make sure you're on track for the future you want. Many of my clients like me to carry out a thorough review at this time of year. With the new tax year just starting, it makes sense to check you're minimising your tax liability while also maximising all your potential investment returns. By taking action during the tax year, I may be able to save clients' money by making sure they're taking full advantage of all their tax reliefs and exemptions. If you don't use them within this tax year, you may lose them forever.

The financial website www.unbiased.co.uk predicts that UK taxpayers will waste £4.9 billion this tax year by paying tax they could have avoided with a little forward planning. The average amount each individual is set to waste this year is £165, even though 45% of savers think they're already paying as little tax as possible.

I can help you take advantage of all the tax-saving measures open to you. You have a number of options available to you to reduce your tax bill and maximise the returns from your investments:

- Pensions - Make full use of your annual allowance of £40,000.
- Use any unused annual allowance available to carry forward from the previous three tax years.
- Make sure you're getting tax relief at the appropriate rate if you're a higher or additional rate taxpayer.
- Consider how to efficiently pass death benefits to your beneficiaries using a suitable nomination or trust form.
- ISAs - Use your full annual ISA allowance as you can't carry it into the next tax year.
- Understand the rules around transferring ISA allowances to the surviving spouse or civil partner should one of you die.
- Transfer existing investments where you pay tax on any investment growth into an ISA.
- Use your annual ISA allowance to accumulate a tax-efficient investment portfolio.

There are plenty of avenues to explore to help you keep more of your money for yourself. Some of them may seem complicated, but that's where I can help you plan the best approach for you. I'm delighted to discuss these approaches, the issues involved and any actions you'd like to take. Remember that the value of investments can go down as well as up and you may get back less than you invested. You should also bear in mind you can't take money out of your pension until you are 55 and that tax rules may change in the future. Contact me on 01369706198 or info@argyllfinancial.co.uk to help us secure your financial future.

The purpose of this article is to provide technical and generic guidance and should not be interpreted as a personal recommendation. It represents our interpretation of current and proposed legislation and HMRC practice as at the date of publication. These may change in future. Argyll Financial Services Ltd are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

ARGYLL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

27 Ferry Brae, Dunoon, Argyll PA23 7DJ
t: 01369 706198
f: 01369 705691 m: 07775870721

Dunollie Halls, Dunollie Rd, Oban PA34 5PH
t: 01631 562525



Stafford Street cycling concerns continue

YOUNG people are going to 'destroy' the new glasswork around the pedestrianised area in Oban's Stafford Street, if something is not done to stop them using the area for bike jumps, skateboards and football, Oban Community Council heard last week.

Marri Malloy, chairwoman of Oban Community Council, said: 'Young boys are riding their bikes on Stafford Street and they are causing bother.'

'Could we not put a sign up to stop people with bikes or footballs in that area?'

Mrs Malloy described a recent incident where the youngsters had given 'cheek' to some visitors to the town.

She continued: 'If the council can't put a notice up saying no ball games and no cycling then what can we do?'

'Argyll and Bute Council should have thought about this beforehand. What a waste of money on stained glass that is only going to be destroyed if the area continues to be used the way it is at the moment.'

'I know people need to be able to get out and to play. But in this case children need to be reminded that they cannot do what they like all the time.'

Inspector Mark Stephen said: 'Anyone could put a sign up but who would then enforce it? At the moment being in that area is not a criminal matter.'

He explained that Stafford Street was a 'public space' and unless someone was causing a breach of the peace or another criminal offence his team could not arrest anyone.

'Someone who is being verbally abusive is something that we take very seriously and we would certainly send out officers if that became a problem.'

'Young people have rights as well. The councillors are trying to find a site to build an area where young people can use their bikes.'

'On the whole the police will take every opportunity to get to know the kids that are playing in the town centre.'

'I would encourage anyone who is having problems at the area to dial 101 and we can take the appropriate action.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'We are working with the young people [to find a space for them to build a bike park].'

'They are moving on with support from West Highland Housing Association and are getting lots of encouragement to take it forward.'

Son inspires Dunbeg dad's charity cycle challenge

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

A DUNBEG father will cycle more than 900 miles in order to raise not only money for charity, but also awareness of his son's condition.

Graham West, 41, is planning to ride his bike from John o' Groats to Land's End to raise money for the Dwarf Sports Association.

Mr West's son Lewis, who uses a ventilator at night to help him breathe, was born with Achondroplasia, a bone growth disorder that affects one in every 15,000 to 40,000 births and is one of the most common forms of short limb dwarfism.

Mr West said: 'Eighty per cent of the births are to average height parents, so it was quite a shock for us when we found out that Lewis had this condition, but we wouldn't change him for the world.'

Catriona Currie, Mr West's partner and Lewis's mum, said: 'It will be good to highlight the charity as it's not really recognised. It is such a rare thing and



Graham, Catriona and Lewis test out the terrain in Dunbeg, by Dunstaffnage Castle. 16_tgraham03

the condition is often ridiculed. It's an actual disability, but people take the micky out of dwarfism. They don't think about the problems associated with it – this wee one [Lewis]

stopped breathing when he was a week old.

'So no-one thinks about the problems associated with the condition. It's good to highlight it and the Dwarf Sports Association

are good – there's a national games at the end of April.'

The national games allow children and adults to compete on a level playing field against competitors who are the same

age and suffer from the same condition.

Mr West is planning on doing the bike ride over 10 days – May 31 to June 9 – and Ms Currie and Lewis will be driving alongside him in his support vehicle.

Mr West said: 'I'm looking forward to it now. I just need to start my training programme. We'll be averaging about 100 miles on the bike every day. I just need to build up to that kind of distance over the next month or so.'

'With stops, I imagine I will be riding for, on average, seven or eight hours every day.'

Mr West has travelled this route before, in 2009, but he cycled from Land's End to John o' Groats.

He continued: 'I've done it before, but it's meant to be a bit harder this way as you've got the prevailing winds against you. It should be interesting.'

Charity tins will be situated in Atlantis Leisure and the Pokey Hat in Oban. So far, Mr West has raised £1,407.50.

To donate, visit mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/graham-west1#vrip00vwsn0.facebook.

98mph biker fined

A MOTORCYCLIST has an unfortunate souvenir of his touring holiday in the West Highlands: a £400 fine and six points on his driving licence.

Daniel Brett Johnson, 42, of 17 Halliday Gove, Langley Moor, Durham, admitted speeding at 98mph on the A85 near to its junction with the A82 at Tyndrum on September 19 last year; he was one of three bikers clocked by police after an overtaking manoeuvre.

He apologised to police when he was stopped.

A friend travelling with him had appeared before Oban Sheriff Court at an earlier sitting.

'I shall fine you the same,' said Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC.

Deferred sentence

A MAN who has 'fallen back into heroin' must show he can behave himself for six months.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that Paul Alexander Nicol of Ty-an-Mor, Glenmore Road, Oban, had been clean for four years but began using the drug again after becoming unemployed.

He admitted having the drug when police entered his girlfriend's home in the town on October 27 last year. The officers, who had a search warrant, discovered drug paraphernalia including two spoons containing a burned residue which was analysed as heroin.

His defence agent Jane Thomson said Nicol 'took ownership from the very beginning'.

She said: 'He had not been using for a period of four years. There was the breakdown of a relationship and he lost his job; he fell back into heroin.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC was told Nicol had gone for help and was receiving counselling.

The sheriff deferred sentence until September 13 for Nicol to be of good behaviour.

The power of love...



OBAN couple John and Helen Duncan celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary recently with a cruise and a card from the Queen.

John and Glasgow-born Helen met at a dance in Oban's Corran Halls in 1954, married at the Old Parish Church two years later, and lived most of their married life on Polvinister Road, from 1976 until 2013.

The 82-year-olds have three children – John, Clark and Alison – six grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

After Helen retired as a charge nurse and John as a foreman for Alexander Black Builders, the couple travelled the world, visiting Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Kenya, China and, most recently, a Mediterranean cruise for their diamond anniversary.

Asked for the secret to a long marriage, John replied: 'Never go to bed angry. She gives me a kiss goodnight, not goodbye.' Helen added: 'He's also my best friend. We don't even need to talk about things – we just transmit it.'

Ambassadors return

POPULAR town centre ambassadors Joe Reich and Kay McDonald have returned to their posts in time to show tourists around the town during the school holidays.

Since the ambassadors started, they have interacted with more than 30,000 people, with BID4Oban recording and reviewing the statistics. These results show that 40 per cent of the enquiries are for directions, whilst Scots are most likely to ask for the toilets.

Foreign visitors tend to travel in larger groups.

Although not recorded, it was felt that there was a significant increase in dog tourism.

This year, in addition to their nor-

mal duties, the two ambassadors will undertake some town tidy campaigns, beginning with an attack on cable ties – it is surprising the number of stray cable ties around the town.

Gold for distillery

OBAN is one of three whisky distilleries in Scotland to have been presented with Gold accreditation – the highest accolade for environmental quality from leading sustainability charity, Keep Scotland Beautiful.

All three distilleries awarded are owned by global drinks business Diageo, and were recognised for their exceptional efforts across a wide range of criteria, including environmental quality, waste management and community participation.

ACHA secures funding for Connel housing

A THIRD phase of affordable homes in north Argyll has been given the green light after Argyll and Bute Council confirmed planning approval last week.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) has now been able to acquire a site to build a third phase of affordable homes in the village of Connel, north of Oban.

The previous Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council and ACHA had given a commitment earlier to fund the new development.

The project will be made up of 10 homes for affordable rent comprising four three-bedroom houses, two two-bedroom houses and four two-bedroom flats. The total cost of the project will be in the region of £1.6million. The total number of affordable units on the site will be 28.

The first phase of eight units was completed in May 2015, the second phase of 10 units is currently due to be completed in October. It is intended work on the third phase will start this summer.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'This is good news for those in housing need, for jobs, and the future of Achaleven Primary School in the village as the family homes will bring in young children.'

'This is not just about homes for the future but jobs, as 50 construction workers, including five apprentices, will be employed on the site during the contract duration.'

Have you registered?

TIME is running out for anyone who hasn't yet registered to vote if they want to have their say in the Scottish parliamentary elections.

Monday April 18 is the last day for people to register. By doing so now, voters will also be registered in time for the European referendum on June 23.

Particular emphasis is being put on 16 and 17-year-olds who will be eligible to vote in the Scottish Parliament elections for the first time.

To register, or to check you are still registered, visit: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Kebabish

CURRY HOUSE

Curries • Kebabs
Pizzas • Burgers

We only use SUNFLOWER Oil for cooking & frying

We only use lean cuts of Meat

We only use reduced fat Yogurt and Mayonnaise

We keep Salt & Sugar to a minimum

We only use 100% Mozzarella cheese

Our food is always made with your health in mind

We are committed to providing and supporting healthier eating for all our customers.

Excellence in Food Hygiene
Awarded 2012-2015

Awarded 2012, 2013 & 2014

Awarded 2012-2015

We are proud to be the only Pakistani / Indian takeaway in Scotland that holds these awards

OPEN FRIDAY & SATURDAY UNTIL 1.30AM

GEORGE STREET, OBAN

TEL: 01631 563900 or 01631 566885

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT www.kebabishcurryhouse.com

• HOME OFFICES • WORKSHOPS •
SUMMER HOUSES • SHEDS • GARAGES • FENCING • STABLES • DOG KENNELS

Beaver Timber Ltd

Barcaldine, by Oban.
Telephone: 01631 720 353
Mobile: 07861 247 237
www.beavertimber.co.uk
email: info@beavertimber.co.uk
Established over 30 years

WE SPECIALISE IN DELIVERY TO THE ISLANDS

BEAVER TIMBER WILL DISMANTLE YOUR OLD SHED, DELIVER AND ERECT YOUR NEW SHED

Manufactured on our own premises and fitted by our own trained staff - no sub-contractors

All our buildings are made from 19mm T&G boards and come complete with 18mm flooring

GARAGE BASES PREPARED

* THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE INSURANCE QUOTATIONS

BROCHURE & FREE QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST

Show sites open at Beaver Timber

NEW SHOW SITE NOW OPEN AT THE TREE SHOP, CAIRNDOW

Emergency hub plan for fire stations

HIGHLANDS and Islands Fire stations are to be used as communication hubs during emergencies.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) stations in Highland, Shetland, Orkney and the Western Isles will become bases for the community and responders under the Highlands and Islands Response Plan.

These hubs will be set up by multi-agency partners and will be especially helpful during power cuts and communication outages, which have been numerous over past years due to weather conditions and technical faults.

When these hubs are activated an operational officer will be instructed to open the fire station and initiate communication with whoever is taking part in the local emergency co-ordinating group in that area.

SFRS's local senior officer for Highland Scott Hay said: 'We are delighted to be able to utilise our fire stations in this way and to provide a vital link with our communities during emergency situations.'

He went on: 'We have had discussions with partners such as SSEPD (Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution) and feedback from the Highlands and Islands Local Resilience Partnership Telecommunications Workshop and it was agreed there was scope to make positive use of fire stations and build that into response plans.'

'The concept of using the fire stations during emergencies is not a new one, but this plan aims to make this a routine option during emergencies, particularly taking into account the remote and rural landscape of the Highlands and islands.'

Shaping our digital future

LOUISE GLEN

lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A RESEARCH project is under way that will assess how the Scottish Planning System can effectively support delivery of world class connectivity in Scotland.

Bidwells and FarrPoint are jointly undertaking the project on behalf of any future Scottish Government to produce evidence-based recommendations on the scope for legislative changes to further increase permitted

development rights for electronic communications infrastructure.

Digital communication is an essential part of society – economically, socially and environmentally – enabling countries, regions, towns and communities to maintain their competitiveness through connectivity.

The research will take into consideration the expansion and investment needed in current infrastructure to meet digital objectives, including the technological development and innovative implementation tech-

niques required to meet coverage scenarios and service needs.

This is particularly evident in rural Scotland where realising a world class digital connectivity vision presents a challenge for delivery to remoter communities.

Previous Scottish governments have been committed to working in collaboration with industry and stakeholders to improve mobile coverage in Scotland, particularly in hard-to-reach areas or those parts of Scotland likely to be outwith the commercial rollout of 4G services.

Head of planning at Bidwells, which has an office in Fort William, Corinne MacDougall said: 'The Scottish planning system has a key role to play in supporting a Scottish Government's vision.'

'We are considering how any future Scottish Government can use the range of legislative levers at its disposal to assist this process.'

Jan Miszalowski, principal consultant at FarrPoint, added: 'Bidwells and FarrPoint have engaged with industry, planning

authorities and stakeholders to gather an evidence base that will form a key component of our assessment when making recommendations.'

'This research work will be a key element in deciding how the Scottish planning system can support operators in building the communications infrastructure required to ensure that everyone in Scotland can participate in the digital age.'

The research was due to conclude at the end of last month, as the parliament was dissolved.

Satellite broadband subsidy to boost connectivity

HOMES and businesses in some of Scotland's most remote and hard-to-reach can now get a discounted satellite broadband connection if they are currently unable to obtain an affordable broadband service of at least 2 Mbps.

The scheme forms part of the UK Government's commitment to make sure every home and business in the UK can access speeds of at least 2 Mbps and an estimated 300,000 properties across the UK are able to make use of the offer.

The current rollout of superfast broadband is on track to deliver coverage to 95 per cent of the UK by 2017, and has reached an extra 550,000 homes and businesses in Scotland. However, the UK Government was determined to help those with the slowest connections by providing an immediate boost to their available speeds ahead of any future improvements planned.

The initiative will be administered by Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband, which will provide a code to eligible homes and businesses upon request.

They can use the code with one of a selected number of retail service providers to obtain a subsidised satellite broadband service, including a free satellite dish and installation in most cases.

It is thought the use of the code will cut the total cost of installation, commissioning and 12-monthly subscriptions by around £350.

Apprentices wanted

ALDI in Oban is set to take on two apprentices this year.

The training will take three years to complete and will cover everything relating to retail management.

Apprentices will earn a Retail Apprenticeship Level Three.

Applications are now being accepted at www.aldirecruitment.co.uk/apprentice.

Active cash

MONEY seized from criminals will be used to support projects aimed at getting young people active.

Community organisations working with disadvantaged young people in Argyll and Bute can apply for a share of the £2 million CashBack facilities fund to upgrade equipment and improve facilities in a bid to get more young people involved in sport and physical activity. Visit www.cashbackforcommunities.org.

Health board sets its sights on innovative new smart glasses

NHS HIGHLAND is working with Inverness technology company Summit Wearable Solutions in collaboration with a Taiwanese company, Jorjin Technologies, to investigate potential applications for new 'smart glasses', writes Katie Carabine.

The glasses are a form of wearable computer or smart phone.

While online, images are displayed on the lenses of the glasses without impairing the visibility or functionality of the wearer.

The glasses are fitted with a high-resolution camera and also voice recognition software, which can dictate as the wearer speaks.

The NHS has established a medical board to discuss possible applications for this new technology and is welcoming input from colleagues, academics and businesses.

Alan Whiteside, an innovation consultant with NHS Highland's research, development and innovation department, thinks surgeons and A&E staff may be keen on trying the glasses.



NHS Highland will work with Jorjin Technologies to develop the 'smart glasses' for various medical applications.

He said: 'Several clinicians have already indicated that they are very interested in the glasses and have suggested some possible applications.'

'The plan is to turn these ideas into reality and take it from there. If things go as we hope, the smart glasses could help to put NHS Highland at the

forefront internationally of a technology with vast potential.'

Chris Bryson, one of Jorjin Technologies' vice presidents, said: 'NHS Highland's interest is hugely important for us.'

'The idea is that we supply the platform – the glasses themselves, which will use Jorjin's minimising technology

– and NHS Highland will help us to develop the applications for them.'

Mr Whiteside added: 'If this is commercially successful we would have intellectual property rights and it's possible that this project could ultimately yield a significant income for us.'

'This is the first place in Europe seriously developing digital eyewear for healthcare. I have no doubt that it could help put NHS Highland on the map as a centre of technological innovation.'

Professor Stephen Leslie is one of the Highland clinicians to have seen the glasses. He said he was interested in the potential for the glasses to be used to get remote visualisations of patients long distances away.

Dr Leslie also thought they could be used to get visuals of heart arteries without the need to consult multiple screens to check patients' vital signs such as pulse rate and blood pressure.

He also suggested the glasses could be used for maintaining legal medical records of patients' treatments.

LORN lines

Inner Wheel raise £347 for support group

A COFFEE morning run by Oban's Inner Wheel Club raised £347 for a group of Parkinson's disease sufferers and their carers.

Members of the all-female organisation presented the cheque to the Parkinson's Support Group at Oban's North Argyll Carers Centre, which meets on the last Thursday of every month at Rockfield Community Centre.

The progressive neurological condition affects one person in 500, but there is currently no cure.

Support worker Jim Bowers explained that the support group offered sufferers peer support and a safe environment to talk about how the disease affects their

day-to-day lives. He continued: 'People share ideas – the wee things that can make a big difference. The biggest problem is people who have been diagnosed don't want to come because they don't want to see what the disease involves. That can be difficult. We help provide emotional and physical support.'

Cheryl Howe, a specialist nurse for Parkinson's disease, explained further: 'It slows movement down and can cause stiffness and tremors, but it also affects people's mood, how your gut behaves, how you feel pain, and your ability to communicate and eat. Peer support can be very important for people affected, and their family and friends.'

'It's good for people to have a point of contact – someone who can guide them to services.'

Ursula Parry, president of Oban Inner Wheel Club, said members were organising more events this year, including a 10km sponsored run to raise money for girl guiding in Lorn, raising £1,000 so far.

Inner Wheel members Julie Beamish, left, and Liz Crawford present the £347 cheque to support worker Jim Bowers, looked on by club president Ursula Parry and specialist nurse Cheryl Howe.



£20,000 boost to help Trees for Life tackle deforestation

TREES For Life's Rewilding the Highlands project has won £20,000 in a global competition to help tackle deforestation and loss of biodiversity in the Highlands.

The success allows the charity to plant 50,000 native trees and 10,000 rare montane tree species, supporting wildlife including pine marten, red squirrel, golden eagle and Scottish wildcat, at its Dundreggan Conservation Estate in Glenmoriston west of Loch Ness.

The initiative won the Alpine category of the 2016 European Outdoor Conservation Association Conservation Vote, securing more than 7,000 votes in an online poll between March 8-22.

It was Scotland's only finalist in the competition's three categories, which also featured projects from central Asia, Brazil, the Caribbean, Ecuador, Madagascar and Nicaragua.

Trees for Life also promises to boost the Highlands economy by promoting as tourist destinations Glenmoriston and Dundreggan: 'a lost world biodiversity hotspot' where more than 3,000 species have been discovered, including 10 found nowhere else in the UK, and others that are extremely rare.

Support will be given to a community project at Invergarry, to enhance biodiversity at its Glangarry Community Woodland.

Oban Times newsdesk 01631 568000

We're unlocking the secrets of an ancient Scottish pinewood

WOODLAND TRUST SCOTLAND

Fringing the shores of Loch Arkaig in the Highlands of Scotland is one of the last remaining fragments of ancient Caledonian pinewood.

The Loch Arkaig Pine Forest is full of hidden treasures and alive with rare and important wildlife – such as the sea eagle, osprey, pine marten and otter.

We've been given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to buy this beautiful landscape and restore it for the benefit of the nation.

Experience the magic at woodlandtrust.org.uk/pineforest

Loch Arkaig Pine Forest: Steeped in history, teeming with wildlife, and under threat

The Woodland Trust is a charity registered in Scotland no. SC038885 and in England and Wales no. 294344.

Hotels shortlisted in top awards

A NUMBER of West Highland hotels have been shortlisted in this year's Scottish Hotel Awards in Edinburgh on April 24.

Bridge of Orchy Hotel, Taychreggan Hotel, near Kilchrenan and Taynuilt Hotel are up for accolades, as well as Loch Awe's Ardanaiseig Hotel, Ardtorna B&B by Barcalaine, and The Pierhouse in Appin.

Arran's Auchrannie Resort, Douglas and Glenisla Hotels are also shortlisted, as well as Skye's Dunsdale House and Skeabost Hotels. The Glenfinnan House Hotel is also up in three classes.

Dawnfresh signs up to green pledge

DAWNFRESH Seafoods Ltd, one of the UK's largest trout farms and processors, this week signed up to the Courtauld Commitment 2025.

Dawnfresh signed up alongside other organisations such as Warburton's and Premier Foods to tackle key issues in the food and drink industry reducing food waste, water use in the supply chain and greenhouse gases.

The Courtauld Commitment 2025 is a voluntary agreement, led by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), with three aspirational targets: 20 per cent reduction in food and drink waste, 20 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas intensity of food and drink consumed and a reduction in the impact associated with water use in the supply chain.

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Alan Moore

Tourist injured in fall on Colonsay

ON FRIDAY April 1 a 66-year-old male visitor from Dumfries was airlifted to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley after sustaining serious injuries in a fall.

The man had been reported missing on the island of Colonsay, sparking a search by police and the RNLI lifeboat from Islay.

Attempted theft – witnesses sought

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a man tried to steal two lambs from Dunolliebeg farm, Connel Road, Oban.

The incident occurred about 3.20pm on Sunday April 3.

A man, who appeared to be heavily intoxicated, was seen in the area gesticulating and shouting at passing motorists.

The man is described as around six foot, medium build, dark brown hair, with glasses, wearing a black jacket, light-coloured shirt and dark jeans.

Anyone who has any information should visit Oban police office or call 101.

Villagers' anger as timber lorries rip up Argyll roads

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

HEAVY vehicles driving through Loch Awe villages have been condemned by residents who say that up to 39 logging lorries a day are destroying their fragile roads.

The problem should have been a thing of the past, they say, as three years ago a specially-commissioned forestry road was built with £1 million of taxpayers' money for a local wind farm and timber extraction. But it seems the road is hardly used.

Back in 2012-13, Alloa-based renewable energy developer GreenPower built the 20-turbine Carriga Gheal Wind Farm north of Loch Awe.

According to its website, a community benefit was the construction of the West Loch Awe Timber Haul Route

(WLATHR), shared by GreenPower to construct Carriga Gheal Wind Farm and by Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) for timber extraction from 5,500ha of forests at Nant, Inverinan, Inverliever and Salachary.

The route's purpose was to divert the majority of timber lorries away from the B840 and C30 single-track roads and associated villages, namely Kilchrenan, Annat, Inverinan, Dalavich and Ford, and 'minimise impact' on rural roads and communities in terms of traffic volume and wear and tear.

The Scottish Government's Strategic Timber Transport Fund contributed £1 million – 20 per cent of the cost – towards building the new 35.75km haul route.

FCS's website hails the route as a case study among 99 pro-

jects the fund has supported between 2005-15, saying: 'It will greatly improve haulage from the forests and take 4,000 lorry loads, or around 100,000 tonnes of timber from the public road each year.'

But residents say these commitments are being ignored.

Last year Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council began receiving complaints concerning the number of timber lorries driving through the Loch Awe-side villages of Kilchrenan and Dalavich.

One Kilchrenan resident began logging the number, time and registration of timber lorries rumbling through Kilchrenan each day and night, beginning as early as 4.23am and ending as late as 9.37pm, counting 185 last month. The number peaked at 39 on Thursday February 25.

Another, Marilyn Henderson,

told *The Oban Times*: 'We're fed up with these lorries passing day in and day out.'

'One day I counted 60 lorries. People in Dalavich are bothered by the lorries too.'

Her husband Graham added: 'It's unsafe – you can't walk on the road; the number of people who've been off the road and in the ditches. It's wearing the road out with 40 tonners coming over it on a daily basis.'

'We were promised we wouldn't get this and that promise has been broken. For a very short while lorries went on the route, but that's all. It's proved not to be a benefit at all.'

When contacted this week, a spokesperson for Forestry Commission Scotland said: 'A number of pieces of remedial works are to be conducted on the WLATHR during 2016 by GreenPower as a result of

some defects in its construction being identified. Short-term emergency works commenced [on Tuesday March 29] to allow timber traffic to return to the haul route.'

'There will be periods this year when the route will be closed to allow remedial works but, to help reduce the impact of diverted traffic, we are seeking to reduce our sales of timber from this area in 2016.'

'Once the remedial works are completed, Forestry Enterprise Scotland (which is responsible for managing FCS's forests) will assume full responsibility for the WLATHR, and it is expected that the full benefits can be delivered.'

The Oban Times asked GreenPower for a comment but it responded: 'GreenPower has no comment to make in respect of these matters at this time.'

Courier fined £400

A VAN courier who 'cut in' after overtaking a coach on the A82 was fined £400 and had five points added to his licence at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

John Bernard Barrett, 41, of 9 Etive Drive, Airdrie, admitted careless driving when heading south near Bridge of Orchy on August 28 last year.

He overtook the coach, which was carrying a party of 46 people from Hungary, and had to cut back in quickly; his van spun round and ended up off the road.

The court heard he was not driving too fast and that no-one onboard the coach was hurt.

Unpaid work order

A 38-YEAR-OLD man must do 100 hours of unpaid work in the community as part of a community pay-back order.

Scott Cooper, of Creel Cottage, 64 Elleanbeich, Seil, had previously admitted behaving in a threatening and abusive manner at a property in the village on September 13 last year; his sentence had been deferred.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC imposed the order for 12 months, along with the 100 hours' unpaid work and instructions to attend any counselling or treatment his supervising officer deems necessary to help Cooper overcome alcohol-related problems.

Driver banned

POLICE discovered that an Oban man who had been stopped as part of a routine roadside vehicle check in the town was over the drink-drive limit.

Patrick Stephen Crawford, 31, of 9 Polvinster Gardens, admitted being over the limit on March 13 this year.

His reading was 49 micrograms per 100 millilitres of breath; the limit is 22.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC was told that Crawford had helped a friend move house the night before, had stayed for drinks and 'completely miscalculated' when it was safe to drive again.

He was fined £500 and disqualified from driving for a year.

Oban Times
newsdesk
01631 568000

Climber to rescue after drone stuck in tree

CLIMBER Jamie Peden came to the rescue after a drone was stuck in the highest beech tree at Bonawe House in Taynuilt, writes Louise Glen.

The drone had been taking shots of the house and grounds, but was possibly hit by a bird and had come down in the tree in its outer branches, some 30 metres up.

Jamie scaled up the enormous five-trunked beech tree in increasing darkness last week using a rope and slings for protection.

When he got near the drone, the idea of shaking the branch or poking with a long stick was dismissed, as the drone would have been caught by branches below it, so Jamie carefully used three branches to support himself and shimmed along to reach out and grab the drone 10m away from the main trunk.

He then secured it to a harness so he could lower it down as he climbed down himself.



Jamie Peden, right, scaled the giant beech tree to retrieve the drone, and above, Bonawe House, which the drone had been taking pictures of before it got into difficulties.

Jamie said: 'That was quite a challenge and much higher than any tree I've climbed before – it's

great to have done it successfully'. Thankfully, the drone still had the footage on it from the day.



Man fined £500 over argument

AN ARGUMENT with his partner cost a hotel worker £500 when he appeared before Oban Sheriff Court.

Terrance Martin Quinn, 41, last week admitted behaving in a threatening and abusive manner, shouting and swearing in a guest house in Oban on March 23.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said the owner of the guest house had heard someone crying and discovered Quinn's

partner in the hall; Quinn had put her out of their room.

'The owner tried to reason with Quinn,' the fiscal said.

The police were called and did their best to placate Quinn but he remained abusive and was arrested.

Quinn gave his address as that of his new employer, Redwood House Hotel, on Skye, and the court heard he had been drinking before the incident.

'He has little recollection of what happened,' said Edward Thornton, defence agent.

The couple were on their way to Skye where he is to take up a new job.

'Both parties had a disagreement but the relationship is a strong one,' said Mr Thornton.

Used drug for pain relief

AN OBAN man was fined £300 for possessing drugs at his home on January 18 when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Craig Munro, 35, of 8B Corran Brae, admitted the offence when he came before Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC. The court heard that he had taken heroin for pain relief after an injury.

Warrants issued over charges connected to counterfeit notes

SHERIFF Ruth Anderson QC issued warrants for the arrest of three men who failed to attend Oban Sheriff Court last week to answer charges of having and spending counterfeit £50 notes in Oban.

The men, two from Palmers Green in London and one from Leicester, are accused of inci-

dents which happened in three different shops in the town on February 2.

They were denied bail on first appearance at Oban Sheriff Court following their arrest, but were later granted bail following an appeal in the high court.

'I am amazed that bail was allowed,' said Sheriff Anderson.

Advertorial
New team at Oban Dental Care



Dr Mustafa and his team at Oban Dental Care.

Dr Mustafa Mustafa attended Poznan Medical University in Poland, qualifying as a dentist in 1997, and, after a five-year comprehensive speciality programme in orthodontics, gained the title of Specialist in Orthodontics in 2006. During this period Dr Mustafa attended a research and PhD programme at the orthodontics department and he further was awarded the title of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD in Orthodontics) in June 2006.

Specialist in orthodontics
In 2007 Dr Mustafa moved to the UK where he has been practising as a specialist in orthodontics. He has twice been the proud recipient of a prestigious dental award

related to a yearly orthodontic competition organised by the British Orthodontic Society, called 'Against the Odds'. Dr Mustafa's cases were considered 'best treated case of the year' in 2011 and 2012, as the orthodontic treatment he provided was life-changing for the patient.

Post Graduate Diploma
In 2013 he gained a Post Graduate Diploma in lingual orthodontics from Warwick University, England, and has gained a lot of education and experience by attending local and international courses and conferences in orthodontics and lingual orthodontics. He is a member of British Orthodontic Society, British

Lingual Orthodontic Society, World Federation of Orthodontics and American Association of Orthodontists.

Orthodontic Treatments

Dr Mustafa has a monthly clinic at Oban Dental Care, 17 Lochside Street PA34 4HP, where he welcomes both NHS and private patients for orthodontic treatment. He provides a wide range of orthodontic treatments including, but not limited to:

- Conventional metal appliances
- Ceramic fixed appliances
- Self-ligating appliances
- Removable and functional appliances
- Lingual (fitted behind the teeth) appliances

Oban distillery supports young shinty team with cheque for tracksuits

OBAN Camanachd Under-14s were presented with a cheque for £500 from Oban Distillery last week to buy tracksuits in the shinty team's colours of red and black stripes.

'We'll be the best dressed team,' said coach Stephen Sloss.

'It's very important to make the Under-14s feel part of the sports club and it's hard to find sponsorship for the kids' kit.'

Carol Bennett, brand home manager at Oban Distillery, added: 'Shinty's close to Oban's heart, and it's good to support young talent.'



Carol Bennett with Oban Camanachd Under-14's Daniel Sloss, Ross Campbell and Dougie MacDonald, and Oban Distillery guide Frances MacMillan.



17 Lochside Street, PA34 4HP
Tel: 01631 562791
info@obandentalcare.co.uk



Inveraray

A SHOP in Inveraray, which is to be upgraded, will create 10 jobs in the area.

The Co-operative food store, which will replace the existing Co-op, will also hire a member of staff for its community pioneer position. This will see a member of the team encourage involvement in community activities such as local fundraising initiatives and help to develop solutions to meet community needs. The store upgrade represents a £600,000 investment.

Paul Nelson, manager of the store, said: 'We are thrilled to have made such a significant investment in Inveraray and delighted that we have a fantastic new food store with which to serve the community.'

Taynuilt

TAYNUILT'S whist contest raised £140 from seven tables on Friday March 18, to help send a guider on a servicing project to Mexico. The winners were, in the gents' section: 1 Matthew and Joe Corns, 2 Jim Grout, and 3 Ewan McDougall. In the ladies' section: 1 Morag Robertson, 2 Allison Davies, and 3 Angela McDougall.

Gary Goldie and Sandra Scott picked up the consolation prizes in each section, while Derek Lewis and Sandra Scott were awarded the travelling prizes. The cardmaster was Jim Grout.

Western Isles

A WESTERN Isles community has completed the purchase of its local estate, in just one year, for £85,000.

The Keose Glebe Steering Group announced at the weekend it had bought the former church land on Lewis.

The estate lies on a peninsula between the sea lochs of Erisort and Leurbost and covers about 1,200 acres. It also includes seven small islands and has a population of some 40 people.

The not-for-profit Keose Glebe Estate Ltd, which is seeking charitable status, will now operate it on behalf of the community.

Tobermory

TOBERMORY High School recently held its third annual Gaelic Week, organised by S4 and S5 pupils and aimed at getting more children speaking Gaelic.

There was a Gaelic assembly, performances by both primary and high school pupils as well as some guest speakers, including Gaelic weather presenter Kirsteen MacDonald, singer James Graham and BBC Alba reporter Andreas Wolff.

Later in the week pupils heard about Gaelic careers in a presentation by Bord na Gaidhlig's Joanne McHale.

The week also included a primary ceilidh and game of Gaelic Pointless, with the highlight been a Gaelic fashion show, with staff and pupils on the catwalk, modelling clothes provided by MESS Island Castaways. The show raised £62 for Riding for the Disabled.

AT THE end of term staff and pupils at Tobermory school said a fond farewell to a much-loved member of the support team. After more than 20 years working at the school, supporting young children and children with complex needs, Mags Baird retired and will move off the island to be closer to her family.

Principal teacher of the school's primary department Karen Durie said: 'Mags' commitment to her role in supporting the children has been greatly appreciated by all who worked with her. She is a true professional and great support to children and colleagues alike. She will be very much missed.'

TOBERMORY High school welcomed P7 pupils from its cluster schools recently to help raise money for Sport Relief.

Activities included a non-uniform day, with pupils encouraged to come to school wearing clothes from their chosen sport.

In the afternoon the entire school donned their sport kits and took part in dodgeball, ultimate frisbee and capture the flag. A fantastic £489 was raised for Sport Relief.

Tiree

PRIMARY one to four pupils from Tiree High School's Gaelic and English classes recently enjoyed an afternoon visit to Hynish to learn all about Alan Stevenson (uncle of Robert Louis Stevenson) and his signal tower, which is a unique piece of industrial archaeology.

The children were treated to an informative tour, as well as some cake and juice afterwards.



Ploughing match winners

John MacCormick, left, beside his uncle Donnie MacCormick, was crowned overall winner of the Lorn Vintage Ploughing Match at Kilmarnaig, Connel, on Saturday March 26, taking home the Argyll Agricultural Engineers Trophy, The Oban Times Trophy, the Dochie Buchanan Memorial Trophy and the Brogan Fuels Trophy for Best Start. Last week, in error, we printed a photograph of Neil MacPhail of Glenbarr, Kintyre, and his horseman with the above caption and we apologise for the mistake.

Great year for RSPB garden birdwatch

MORE than 36,000 people across Scotland took part in an annual bird watching event, with participants counting 626,355 birds.

The results of the Big Garden Birdwatch, organised by the Royal Society of the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland, showed that one-third of gardens in Scotland were visited by long-tailed tits, an increase of 166 per cent compared to last year.

RSPB experts are linking the rise in sightings of long-tailed tits, as well as other smaller garden birds such as coal tits and great tits, to the milder weather in the months leading up to the event, which took place at the end of January.

Keith Morton, species policy officer at RSPB Scotland, said: '2016 was another great year for Big Garden Birdwatch in Scotland.'

'We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who spent an hour of their weekend in January taking part; the data collected by you helps us build a better picture of how our garden birds are faring year to year.'

Around 7,500 school children in Scotland took part in the parallel survey, Big Schools' Birdwatch, and children spent an hour outdoors counting birds.

Blackbirds remained the most common playground visitor with 86 per cent of participating schools spotting one of these birds.

Both of these events are part of the RSPB's Giving Nature a Home campaign, which asks people to provide a place for wildlife in an outdoor space such as a nest box for birds, creating a pond for frogs or building a home for hedgehogs.

Fairtrade in school spotlight



Pupils at Lochside wore pyjamas for their breakfast.



Glenceo primary pupils made Fairtrade banana muffins.



Duror primary seven pupil Danny enjoys a croissant.

SCHOOL pupils enjoyed a Fairtrade breakfast as part of Fairtrade Fortnight.

Children at Glenceo primary learned about Fairtrade through discussion of products, understanding sustainability and about the process of growing bananas.

This was followed by a breakfast taster, including their own baked banana muffins.

Pupils at Duror primary enjoyed a French-themed breakfast with croissants, pain au chocolat and toast.

Lochside primary also held a Fairtrade breakfast and even wore their pyjamas. They were given food donations from their local Co-op shop.

MORVERN lines

Pair's entrepreneurial skills have withstood the test of time

IF THERE are two men whose names are writ large and bold across the horticultural history of Argyll and whose vision and entrepreneurial skills have withstood the test of time, it is those of John Campbell (1723-1806) and Thomas Kennedy (1769-1849).

The first was a duke and the second a gardener and plantsman.

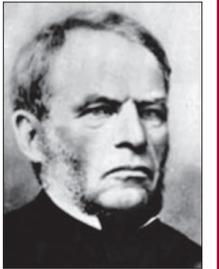
John, 5th Duke of Argyll, was an improver and a man on a mission. When he inherited the large Argyll Estate from his father in 1770, he took it from feudalism into modernity by replacing dues in work, produce and military service with a cash economy. He encouraged the building of stone houses, barns and enclosures and the planting of millions of trees for commercial, agricultural and ornamental purposes.

His family were among the first landowners in Argyll to employ professional gardeners and plantsmen bringing visitors from far and near to marvel at what had been achieved at Inveraray and elsewhere in Argyll.

By way of encouraging his tenants to plant trees, Duke John made sure that every so often they presented themselves at Inveraray where they were given a crash course in forestry and a bundle of saplings to plant around their own homes. Descendants of some of these trees have been pointed out to me at Laudale, Savary and Finuary and elsewhere on the old Argyll Estates in Morvern.

Further information on John, 5th Duke of Argyll's remarkable work can be found in the late Eric Cregeen's excellent book, *Argyll Estate Instructions, Mull, Morvern and Tiree 1771-1805*, published for the Scottish History Society in 1964 and *Inveraray and the Dukes of Argyll* by Ian G Lindsay and Mary Cosh (1973).

Thomas Kennedy first rose to public prominence on the publication in 1837-8 of *Memoirs of the Life of Sir Walter Scott* by Scott's son-in-law, John Gibson Lockhart. In 1814, the year in which he published his poem *The Lord of the Isles*, Scott (not then 'Sir') embarked on a six-week cruise round Scotland on the lighthouse yacht *Pharos* as a guest of the commissioners of Northern Lights. He landed at Oban on September 1 and recorded in his diary: 'Heard of an active and industrious man, who had set up a nursery of young trees, which ought to succeed, since at present, whoever wants plants must send to Glasgow; and how much the plants suffer during a voyage of such length, anyone may conceive.'



Thomas Kennedy.

Thomas Kennedy was born at Kirkoswald, Argyshire. Aged 24 he took up the post of gardener at Ardcattan Priory on the north shores of Loch Etive, where he stayed until 1805 when he leased an area of ground in burgeoning Oban from the Campbells of Dunstaffnage on which the old United Free Church and the Argyllshire Gathering Hall now sit. Here he set up a nursery supplying trees and seeds to most of the proprietors in the county including Mull and most likely Morvern and the islands.

His business must have been a great success because soon he was leasing other properties in Oban. He was the principal founder of the Secession Church and its adjoining schoolhouse which was built on Tweeddale Street in 1835.

Here Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, John Bright (a Quaker, British radical and Liberal statesman, one of the greatest orators of his generation and a promoter of free trade policies), Herbert Spencer (English philosopher, biologist, anthropologist, sociologist, prominent classical liberal political theorist and a frequent guest at Ardornish) and scores of other distinguished visitors worshipped as it was the only church in Oban at the time where English was preached, all the others having a Gaelic service in the forenoon.

In his garden nursery Thomas Kennedy built an accurate sun dial which provided the correct time for the local watch and clock makers to set their time pieces to. So popular had he become he was elected one of the first four town councillors when Oban was erected by charter into a Burgh of Barony in 1820.

So popular had he become he was elected one of the first four town councillors when Oban was erected by charter into a Burgh of Barony in 1820.

So popular had he become he was elected one of the first four town councillors when Oban was erected by charter into a Burgh of Barony in 1820.



The Kennedy family gravestones at Glencruitten, Oban.

He died, aged 80 years, in the house he had built in George Street and was buried in the Old Parish Church graveyard, Glencruitten Road, alongside his wife, Mary Forsyth, who predeceased him. There were at least six children.

Although Thomas's family are said to have followed in his footsteps, I can find no references to them continuing to run the nursery after his death. Recognising the importance of Oban as a sea port, his eldest son Robert had a schooner built about 1816 which traded regularly between Argyll and Glasgow. It was named the *Anne and Jean* after his two sisters. He also owned a yacht called the *Nora Creena* and another vessel with a screw propeller powered by manual labour.

To this small fleet was added a second schooner or wherry, the *Isabella*, built to carry tourists to Staffa and Iona long before the arrival of David MacBryne's ships. Thomas, the second son, left Oban and went to Kilmarnock where he started up an engineering business called *Glenfield & Kennedy* and invented the world's first water meter. The lucrative business lives on as *Glenfield, Dams Reservoirs and Hydro Solutions*.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

Like like us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

subscribe to

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Subscribe from £22*

Call subscriptions on
01371 851868

or subscribe online at

www.obantimes.co.uk/subscribe

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8260 Thursday 27 August 2015 www.obantimes.co.uk

Agenda:
● the people
● the issues
● the back story

THIS WEEK
Mike MacKenzie
"There's something wrong about people who are unable to afford housing costs in a country like Scotland which is meant to be a welfare state"

Macaulay Cup
match report and photos from the 2015 final

Nicola's
a class act say pupils as school visit leaves them on a high

TIMESLINE
Annual review on the cards for NHS

Subscribers should note that to keep down the cost of postage, some special supplements may, on occasions, be excluded from the subscribers editions of the paper. *£22 for 3 month UK subscription.

Community council steps up pitch plans

THE SURFACE of the Lovat Memorial Field in Morar is to be improved.

At a meeting of Morar Community Council in February, games field committee representative Nick Murray announced that after taking advice from Arisaig Community Trust, they had been in discussions with the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC).

SAC has since given the committee a draft report containing their recommended plan for future work, including drainage.

The total cost of the work is expected to be around £178,000, and the games field committee has plans to look into getting funding for this in the future.

Morar Community Trust has been helping source funding and has already submitted applications for a total of £10,000

to various organisations including the Postcode Lottery Communities Fund.

It is also looking into getting funding from Highland Council.

A group of volunteers, led by Gavin Johnston, helped to maintain the field over the summer, carrying out tasks including raking moss.

A meeting has been arranged with Highland Council's transport, environmental and community services to inquire about the possibility of using their equipment for the field, although the field committee already has a small tractor for grass cutting.

There is currently no official organisation or monitoring of use of the field and as such there is no charge to use it at present. Any group or organisation wishing to use the field should contact Mr Murray.

War memorial to be restored

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has been awarded a grant of £132,000 to help restore the Lewis war memorial.

This grant, from the War Memorial Trust's First World War Memorials Programme, combined with the comhairle's capital allowance of £100,000 will allow 'significant' restoration and repair work to be carried out.

The work is likely to start this month, which will result in the structure being surrounded by scaffolding.

The external works will primarily consist of stonework pointing, stone replacement

where necessary, replacement of 15 slim windows with new louvers and refurbishment of four windows on the fourth floor.

Restoration will be done to the three overhanging turrets and the turret steps, entrance door ceiling and slit windows.

The internal work will involve the removal of existing cement render, plaster and paint to expose the inner rubble stone surfaces to walls.

It is thought it will take most of the summer for the work to be carried out and the scaffolding will be left for a number of months to allow for further inspections.

Bùrach hit all the right notes at Pan Celtic

BÙRACH Gaelic choir, Scottish rural choir representatives at the Pan Celtic Festival which was held last week in Carlow, Ireland, returned home with a clutch of silverware, prizes and good memories, writes *Hector MacKechnie* of Lochaline.

Bùrach, based on the Morvern Peninsula but drawing membership from Sunart, Ardnamurchan, Skye and Lewis, represented Scotland in the rural choirs competition, where they were placed second. In the traditional unison group singing competition, a smaller group – Bùrach Beag – performed two songs and were again placed second.

Ronnie Murray, conductor of Lochs Gaelic Choir and also a Bùrach chorister, took up the baton for the area choirs competition where he led a 50-plus strong Scottish choir, comprising choristers from all over the country, including Bùrach, to victory against strong Welsh

competition, with an emotional rendition of *Sine Bhàn* and a spirited performance of *Nuair Bha mi na mo Mhaighdinn*.

Riona Whyte and Raymond Bremner led the same choir to a creditable third place in the accompanied choir section, with its rendition of *Cearcall a' Chuain* and *Tillidh Mi*.

Joy Dunlop, conductor of Argyll male voice choir, Còisir Ceann an Tuirc, led a scratch male voice choir comprising members from Ceann an Tuirc, Coilich a Chinn a Tuath, Lochs, Melvich, Mull and Bùrach to second place, again against strong opposition, with renditions of *Iain Mac 'Ic Fhionghain* and *Mo Shùil ad Dhèidh*.

Speaking at the prizegiving, Riona Whyte, conductor of Bùrach, said: 'We are proud to be here as Scottish representatives in the rural choirs competition and delighted to have been placed second today.'



Bùrach Beag came second at the International Pan Celtic Festival in Carlow.

We are a relatively young choir, only having been formed in 2012, which makes it all the more special to be singing on the Pan Celtic stage today.

'The festival is all about friendship between choirs and today we had friends from Back, Melvich, Mull and Tainuill Gaelic choirs joining us on stage. We performed a song called *Eilean na h-Oige*, which was written by our Gaelic tutor Alasdair MacIllebhain – winner of the New Song Competition in the Traditional Group Competition this year – which makes the occasion even more special.

'It's great to have success to take home to share with the community, who support us at fundraising events. We were also fortunate to receive funding from Morvern Community Trust; Lochaline Quartz Sand; Ardnornish Estate Community Hydro Fund and Sunart Community Council towards the costs of our trip.'

TIMESLINE

Delays expected as A82 is resurfaced

A SECTION of the A82 trunk road north of Tyndrum will be resurfaced between Monday April 11 and Friday April 22, and is likely to cause traffic delays.

BEAR Scotland, on behalf of Transport Scotland, will be carrying out the 'essential works' on weekdays between the hours of 7am and 7pm.

Traffic lights and a 10mph convoy system will be in place.

A 30mph speed limit will be in place outwith working hours.

Teenager lines up in pageant final

A YOUNG woman from Lochaber has been selected as a finalist in the Miss Junior Teen Great Britain.

Zuzanna Kruk, 14, from Fort William has beaten off competition from all over the country to make it to the beauty pageant finals, which will be held in Blackpool on October 23.

The finalists will compete for the crown as well as a selection of prizes, including £500, dresses from The Dress Studio, and cosmetics.

Country house on course for award

A COUNTRY house hotel with a nine-hole course has been shortlisted as one of Scotland's top golfing hotels.

The only hotel on Skye with its own golf course, Skeabost has been bracketed along with world-renowned properties for Golf Hotel of the Year in the 2016 Scottish Hotel Awards on April 24. Others shortlisted for awards include Loch Leven Hotel, Ballachulish, Glenfinnan House Hotel and Inverloch Castle Hotel, Lochaber.



Woodland trust in forest cash appeal

WOODLAND Trust Scotland has launched a public appeal to raise £500,000 to purchase and restore an ancient Caledonian forest in Lochaber in partnership with the local community.

The Loch Arkaig Pine Forest near Spean Bridge is home to rare wildlife and was a training ground for Second World War Commandos.

The forest covers 2,500 acres over two areas, representing 10 per cent of the remaining ancient Caledonian pine forest in Scotland.

The forest is in a degraded condition but it is home to some of Scotland's most iconic wildlife, including ospreys, sea eagles and red squirrels, and may host species such as wildcats and Scottish crossbill.

If the appeal is successful, the Woodland Trust Scotland will work with Arkaig Community Forest to restore the forest back to native woodland.

Arkaig Community Forest will take ownership of around 120 acres of the site.

Jobs fear as hydro shop closures are announced

SCOTTISH Hydro Electric has announced that all of its shops in Scotland – including outlets in Kyle of Lochalsh, Ullapool, Lochboisdale, Portree, Stornoway, Oban, Tiree and Tobermory – are to close.

Among those also affected are stores in Bowmore, Brodick, Campbeltown and Lochgilphead.

SSE, formerly known as Scottish and Southern Energy, announced the closures earlier this week.

Located mainly in communities across the north of Scotland, the shops sell electrical and white goods and are expected to shut by May 15. An associated online store

will also close. A consultation process has begun for 119 staff, with the company saying it wants to avoid redundancies wherever possible, aiming instead to redeploy workers elsewhere.

The SSE group, headquartered in Perth, employs around 6,000 in Scotland.

In a statement released by the company, SSE director of domestic retail Stephen Forbes said changing shopping habits and more consumer choice meant that the shops had been running at a loss for several years.

He said: 'Customers shopping habits have changed considerably since these shops

were first opened with more and more people shopping online, especially for larger electrical items.

'We know some of these shops have been on local high streets for a long time so we did not take this decision lightly but footfall and sales have reduced considerably and there is, unfortunately, no realistic prospect of that long-term trend reversing.

'Our priority is to ensure our colleagues are fully supported during this time and we will work to redeploy staff within the SSE group where possible.'

As well as placing valuable jobs at risk, the move comes as a blow to rural consumers,

with the shops regarded as something of a community resource where customers can pay bills and receive help and advice. The service provided is also valued by those who find it easier to organise the purchase of goods and services in person, or who might have limited access to the internet.

Most large nationwide chains offer delivery to anywhere in the UK. In practise, however, rural customers face having to pay a penalty on the delivery costs of large appliances, with additional carriers often hired to complete deliveries from distribution centres to rural areas with associated costs passed on to the consumer.

The Oban Times understands that staff coming to terms with the news this week have been conducting talks with public service union UNISON, which represent members of the workforce.

Danny Phillips of UNISON said: 'This is disappointing news. UNISON has been working hard to represent our members through these difficult times.'

'We are working with SSE to look at the redeployment opportunities in the company and to negotiate the severance pay we can for UNISON members. But this is a stressful time for the families of all those who are losing their jobs.'

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES



QUESTION TIME

THE OBAN TIMES' FIRST HUSTINGS

Join the debate ahead of the Scottish Parliamentary Elections 2016 – Argyll & Bute – at The Oban Times' first Hustings.

**Oban Phoenix Cinema,
140 George Street, Oban**

Thursday, April 28 - 7pm to 8pm

(Seat holders must arrive no later than 6.30pm).

Followed by a drinks reception

The panel of candidates:



Be part of our audience, have your question answered* - APPLY NOW:
ONLINE: Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/hustings

POST: Complete the form and post it to **The Oban Times, Hustings Application, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.**

All applications must be received by TUESDAY, APRIL 19.
Terms and conditions: Tickets are not available for purchase. Application only. Over-16s only. Seat holders must arrive no later than 6.30pm. Applications are for one ticket only. Number of seats is limited. Successful applicants will be contacted by email by 5pm Friday April 22. If you do not hear from us, please assume you have not been successful. Appropriate photo identification will be required on the door. Please note that this event will be live streamed on The Oban Times website. *A number of seat holders will be chosen to ask one of their questions, as put forward on their application form, and will be contacted in advance. Should time allow, there will be opportunities for the audience to ask the panel additional questions.

APPLICATION FORM

To help us ensure there is a broad and balanced audience at The Oban Times Hustings 2016, please complete the following application form and post it to **The Oban Times, Hustings Application, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB by Tuesday, April 19.** You can also apply online by visiting www.obantimes.co.uk/hustings. The information is completely confidential and will only be used for the purpose of balance. It will not be shared with any other parties.

Name

Address

..... Post Code

Daytime telephone number

Mobile number

Email

What is your first question that you would like to ask?

Question:

.....

.....

To which candidate or all?:

What is your second question that you would like to ask?

Question:

.....

.....

To which candidate or all?:

If any, what party did you vote for in the last election?

.....

How do you think you will vote in the EU referendum?

Leave the EU Remain in the EU Don't know

If any, what political party will you most likely vote for in the Scottish Parliamentary Elections 2016 or are you undecided?

.....

Are you a member of a political party? YES NO

What is your gender? Male Female

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? YES NO

If disabled, do you require wheelchair access? YES NO

Successful applicants will be contacted by email.
Please tick here if you would rather be contacted by post.

The Oban Times may wish to send you information on other events and promotions.
Please tick here if you do NOT wish to be added to our mailing list.

Please note your voting preferences will not be stored on file on this mailing list.

Special partnership raises £1½m in six years for charity

Oban-based MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust is well known in the town and across Argyll for its generosity towards a wide range of deserving groups and projects

KATIE CARABINE
editor@obantimes.co.uk

OVER the six years that it has been running, MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust (MBCT) has managed to raise between £50,000 and £100,000 annually.

In this time more than £500,000 has been raised and donated to the Oban and Lorn community and organisations all over Argyll and beyond.

The MBCT is managed by a team of five trustees. Graham MacQueen, one of the directors of MacQueen Bros Ltd, is a trustee along with two other employees of the removal and storage firm – Linda Fraser and Gary MacEwan. The team is rounded off by Frank Walton, a former president of the Rotary Club of Oban, and Morag MacKenzie, both of who are very well known in the community. Ms MacKenzie is one of the volunteers who run the charity shop.

The trust began as a by-product of MacQueen's removal and storage firm.

The company began to sell unwanted furniture, from removal jobs, from its warehouse, which went on for many years.

However, there was always surplus, especially when donations of furniture and other items started coming in. It then became clear that an actual shop and formal recognition as a charity was the logical next step.

Six years ago Argyll and Bute Council gave the MCBT the use of the White Building on Oban's North Pier and the trust became a registered charity.

Mr MacQueen is understandably proud of what it has achieved to date. He said: 'It started in a fairly small way in the warehouse and it's grown from there.'

'Over the years, we have helped a huge number of organisations all over Argyll and further afield.'

For example, the trust is the main sponsor for the Argyllshire Gathering, which is one of the largest annual events held in Oban. It also recently sponsored the Argyll Sports Hall Athletics final in the town's Atlantis Leisure centre. MBCT was also involved in bringing the Royal National Mod to Oban in 2015 with a donation of £27,500. A donation of £7,500 has also been made to the Oban War and Peace Museum.

The trust has supported the Oban Communities Trust by making a donation towards purchasing the Rockfield Centre from Argyll and Bute Council for its use.

Other notable donations include the Lorne Ladies Shinty team, Kinlochleven Prisoner of War Camp Memorial, Cancer Research UK, the Roses Charitable Trust on Coll and Bunnessan Primary School on Mull.

There have also been donations made towards local pipe bands and Duke of Edinburgh Awards



The Community Charity shop in The White Building which Argyll and Bute Council has kindly allowed the Trust use for free for the past 6 years. T07macqueen1

projects as well as projects on the Islands of Luing and Lismore.

Of course, none of the great work done by MBCT would be possible without the support and donations from the community.

'The generosity of the local community is amazing. We get all manner of things donated. People could easily sell it themselves but they choose to donate it to us,' Graham said. Mathesons Furnishings also donates furniture, which MBCT is grateful for.

Donated furniture, or unwanted pieces collected during MacQueen Bros Ltd's removal service are still processed in the warehouse of the removal firm.

The containerised storage part of the business is useful for the charitable trust as it means there is always room to store donated items until there is space for it in either the warehouse or shop.

The lower quality items may be kept in the warehouse and sold from there while anything of higher quality is brought to the shop where things are generally easier to sell and also tend to make more money.

'People have come to rely on our shop for second-hand furni-

ture,' Graham added. The aim is to raise money, and because a £145 fee (+VAT) is incurred per turn for dumping any unsold items, the charity is understandably selective with the furniture it uses.

Even so, there are items coming in to the warehouse and leaving again constantly.

The trust's Community Charity Shop operates six days a week from the White Building on Oban's North Pier which the council generously allows MCBT to use rent-free.

'We really appreciate the council giving us the building and it's in such a good location,' Graham said.

The same team of volunteers, including trustee Morag MacKenzie, have been running the charity shop for the six years that it has been open.

Glynis Dewar, one of the volunteers at the shop, said: 'It's very worthwhile working here. The trust does lots for the community.'

'You get to meet so many interesting people from all over the world,' Isobel Cormack, another volunteer, added.

George Cormack, who volun-

teers in the furniture section of the shop, said: 'What I like about it is that it all stays local.'

'People are very generous and we don't get paid so the costs are low.'

As well as furniture, the shop sells a range of books, bric-a-brac, books, paintings, home ware, jewellery, collectables and tested electrical items. Books are particularly good sellers.

Some of the more unusual items to have been donated to the shop over the years include a life-size fibreglass horse, a Polynesian 'totem pole', a functioning model lighthouse and a large piece of Chinese wall art.

It can sometimes be difficult to know the value of some items, such as pieces of jewellery, and therefore pricing items for sale can be tricky. Quite often research is required on the items for this purpose. Responsibility for this often falls to Fiona Woodrow, another volunteer at the shop.

Mr MacQueen expressed his appreciation for the part *The Oban Times* has played in the success of the trust.

He said: '*The Oban Times*' under £100 section has been very

effective over the years to help us raise more than half a million pounds over the past six years for local causes. It's free advertising and we usually get instant responses from it.'

Radio station Oban FM also supports MBCT.

Use of the council's building and free advertising are just two of several ways to keep costs down, therefore maximising profits and enabling more grants and donations to be given out from it.

MacQueen Brothers collects furniture for nothing with its removal vans and the firm covers all overhead costs for the shop, such as insurance, heating and administration. Unusually for a charity, there is no paid management which is yet another cost-cutting strategy.

Mr MacQueen said: 'It's a great partnership between people donating, the community and the removal and storage company.'

'It all works really well together.'

Saleable items can be donated to the shop or MacQueen Bros warehouse or by calling the company on 01631 564848 for free uplift.



From left, charity shop volunteers Chrissie Grant and Mary Tindall with trustee Graham MacQueen outside the charity shop. T07macqueen2



The Rockfield Centre, run by Oban Communities Trust, a donation recipient of MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust. T07macqueen4



Volunteers Fiona Woodrow, left, and Glynis Dewar with a piece of Chinese wall art recently donated to the charity shop. T07macqueen3



Winners at the Argyll Sports Hall Athletics final, sponsored by MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust. T13athletics02

Community Charity Shop

Run entirely by unpaid volunteers

Thank you to all those who continue to donate so generously
We need your generous donations of bric-a-brac, ornaments, jewellery, dishes, curios, pictures, books etc.

The White Building, North Pier, Oban, Argyll PA34 5QD Tel: 01631 564848
Opening hours Mon-Sat 10am-4pm



Council's extra cash for schools and roads

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar is to invest £4million in additional capital spending in the Outer Hebrides over the next two years, including £1million for education and £800,000 for road improvements.

Other projects include £240,000 for new library vans, £240,000 for coast protection works at Craigston and South Ford and £130,000 for culvert repairs on the access road to Lews Castle. The comhairle has also allocated £340,000 for the replacement of sport and health equipment if old equipment is made available to communities.

A total of £660,000 has been set aside as match funding for economic development or housing projects.

Fort Dun excavation in society spotlight

THE LAST session of Lochaber Local History Society will cover a topical local subject which brought some excitement to the area last year.

In 2015 the first of three sessions of the excavation of the vitrified Fort Dun Deardail was completed.

Jamie Humble will be speaking about the discoveries so far and plans for this year's further work. Roddy Mainland will also give some insights into his experiences with the vitrification process.

Everyone is welcome to attend at 8pm tonight, April 7, at the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William.



Bikers mourn death of top Six Days Trial star Martin

MARTIN Lampkin, a regular at the Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT) motorcycle event, held annually in Fort William, has died aged 65.

To put his achievements into perspective, Martin Lampkin was to motorcycle trials what Jackie Stewart was to Formula 1 motor racing.

Martin followed his older brothers, Arthur and Alan Lampkin, to the most gruelling motorbike event, organised by Edinburgh and District Motorcycle Club and held in Fort William every spring, over six days, testing the bikers' skill and endurance over the toughest terrain of any trials bike event in the world.

The sections chosen often include some of the most rugged and remote hills and moors in Scotland and are regularly up steep Highland burns flowing over rocks in Glen Coe and the Great Glen and even manoeuvring up some rocky sections of the UK's highest mountain, Ben Nevis.

Martin Lampkin became the first World Trials Champion in 1975. He was the first trials rider to achieve a 'clean' day at the SSDT, completing an entire day of trial sections across the Scottish Highlands and the need to even put a single foot down for balance.

The world's leading motorcycling production companies flock to Fort William each year to test out their new machines

and the endurance of prototype components and tyres.

The Lampkins and other top champion trials riders were offered the chance to be works riders for the leading brands from across Europe and Japan.

Local residents join thousands from across the UK who make the annual pilgrimage to the Highlands each year to watch elite riders compete against regular club riders from Lochaber and throughout Scotland.

Martin Lampkin's son, Dougie Lampkin, used to join the family in Fort William and was spotted as a youngster, balancing on a monocycle, similar to those used by circus balancing acts, around the park ferme -



Martin Lampkin.

event car park - while waiting for the riders to return after their day of competition was completed. His skills and balance were noted and, coming from the elite Lampkin family of trials riders, the spectators knew that a world star was in the making. Dougie Lampkin soon emerged from the shadow of his father and uncles and went on to win the SSDT and became World Trials Champion multiple times. Dougie Lampkin is now a regular on TV and features stunt riding on his trials bike and completes charity events.

The Lampkin family dynasty has inspired two generations of trials motorcyclists across the UK and beyond.

TIMESLINE

Thieves strike in Fort William

POLICE in Lochaber are looking for information about a theft from an address in Brown Court, Fort William, between 12.30pm and 8.30pm on Friday April 1.

The property was entered and a number of items were removed.

Anyone with information about vandalism in the old Fort William Primary School, between March 13 and April 3, should contact police on 101. Damage has been caused to the school.

Anyone who has information about a break-in at Upper Achintore Primary School in Fort William between January 1 and April 1 should contact officers in Fort William. The break-in at the premises on Zetland Avenue has caused damage within the building.

Access panel hosts public meeting

LOCHABER Disability Access Panel is hosting a public meeting next week with candidates in the Scottish parliamentary election.

The meeting, on Wednesday April 13 in St Andrew's Church Hall, High Street, Fort William, at 7pm will focus on issues related to disability and the elderly.

Sgoil Lionacleit reunion planned

FORMER pupils of Sgoil Lionacleit, Benbecula, who made up the first S1 in 1988 when the school opened, or joined S3 in 1990 from Daliburgh or Paible, are being invited to attend their first school reunion since they left more than 23 years ago.

The reunion is being planned to coincide with the EDF Festival over the weekend of July 29 and 30. A Facebook event has been started to invite people and at least 70 people have been made aware of the reunion plans.

Rescue of ill-prepared climber prompts appeal

LOCHABER Mountain Rescue Team has urged climbers to be suitably prepared before setting out after a woman wearing summer clothes was rescued from the summit of Ben Nevis in blizzard conditions.

Sara Albone, from Brighton, was found in a disorientated condition by a group of climbers, who offered up extra clothes, food and water before volunteering to help her down off the mountain.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team leader John Stevenson told *The Oban Times*: 'We would urge people to be properly equipped. We're still in full blown winter up on the Ben and on mountains across Lochaber and it can be a very dangerous place.'

'It's very irresponsible to set out without warm clothing and winter kit, and if something does go wrong, you could be in serious trouble. Although we're now getting into spring,



Sara Albone climbed Ben Nevis dressed in summer clothes.

conditions can change quickly, and it can be very cold, even in May and June.'

Reportedly a keen fell runner, Ms Albone, 28, made a spur-of-the-moment attempt on the Ben over the Easter weekend while passing through Lochaber on a mountain biking tour of Scotland.

Dressed in shorts and trainers, she was carrying a bag of holiday gear and a selfie stick - but no ice pick, supplies or emergency shelter.

Taking to an online climbing forum to thank the climbers involved in her rescue, Ms

Albone admitted: 'I was that t** that all proper climbers talk about. I kind of knew I was under-prepared and didn't actually intend on getting to the top. I just sort of thought - oh I've got this far - it's not too bad - let's carry on.'

Acknowledging that she could have died, she added: 'The people I met up the mountain that day are real life super heroes. I honestly cannot thank them enough.'

'You'll be pleased to hear I'm booking myself in for a mountaineering course as soon as I get back.'



Conditions were treacherous when Sara reached the summit.

Successful year for Skye youth hostel

SYHA Hostelling Scotland has celebrated a successful first year in Portree, hosting 14,500 guests since opening a new hostel there last March.

Sitting on the renovated site of the former Bayfield Backpackers and adjacent Bayview Guest House, the site's popularity has led to further development, with an extended lounge, dining room and self-catering kitchen and two bedrooms being added.

Donation delight for support group



Zac Wallace, left, and his mum Annie, chairwoman of Lochaber Autism Support Group and treasurer Jenna Abberley, right, receive £435.20 from Samantha Brecker, customer care lead at McDonalds, Fort William. The money was raised through a raffle, sale of tablet and donations. The presentation was made at a fundraising sponsored bounce in the Salvation Army Hall, last Saturday. The group also received £200 from Ballachulish Autism Parent Support Group. Photograph: John Paul Peebles, Abridgeside Photography.

Model club talent on display at show

THE LOCHABER Model Show returns later this month, promising a host of new attractions alongside new projects from the best of last year's exhibitors.

Running from 10am until 4pm at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Halls, Fort William, on Saturday April 30, admission is £2.50 for adults and £1 for children and concessions.

Among those showcasing their talent will be engineering modeller Harry Cline and miniature aeroplane builder Donald McGavin.

There will also be a collection of hand-crafted dolls houses and shops on display from Edith Knowles and a detailed set of 1:18 scale model cars from Eddie Donaldson.

The show will also include a small-scale railway display and a replica of Glenfinnan Viaduct courtesy of model train enthusiast John Barnes, as well as working model fairground rides built by Martin Gentle.

Elsewhere, there will be a stall from Heilan Toys N Collectables, a prize raffle and an exhibit from members of Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club outside the church halls.

Sponsored by Campbell Plant Hire, Caley Timber and Building Supplies, Highland Titles and LBS, proceeds from the event will again be donated to Lochaber Mountain Rescue Tervise, after nearly £1,000 was raised at last year's show.

Ullapool high takes on quiz challenge

A TEAM from Ullapool High School was among those featured in the last event to be sponsored at the Scottish Parliament by outgoing Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson.

The SNP politician was supporting the Scottish Young Consumers of the Year Final Quiz for 2016, bringing together teams of 14-17-year-olds from schools around the country for an evening of questions on consumer issues.

Winners of the event were Boroughmuir High School from Edinburgh, which goes on to compete in the UK final in London in June.

Mr Thompson said: 'In this culture of consumerism, it is important to encourage knowledge of individual rights and responsibilities in our youth.'

MAY ISSUE OUT NOW

Lee McKenzie

TALKS AYRSHIRE

10 OF THE BEST SPOOKIEST SCOTS UFO SIGHTINGS

TOM McCLEAN: SAILING IN A WHALE SHAPED BOAT

A shaggy bull story Red squirrels on the march Who is Mary Somerville?

WIN £2,000 WORTH OF VOUCHERS FROM SOFA WORKSHOP

www.scottishfield.co.uk

TITLE SPONSOR

EUROPEAN PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

piping @ FORRES

MARCH IN JUNE TO THE FORRES BEAT

Saturday 25 June 2016

Bring the whole family along to one of the largest events in the north of Scotland.

The hills of Forres really will be alive with the sound of over 3,000 Pipers & Drummers.

With over 100 craft exhibitors, food stalls and bars there really is something for all the family to enjoy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT www.pipingatforres.com

MEDIA PARTNER

BERRY BURN COMMUNITY FUND

Viewpoint

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

It has been another week of closures in Argyll and Bute as a high street stalwart announced the imminent closure of its shops and online store.

Last Friday SSE said it plans to close its remaining 37 outlets with the potential loss of jobs in Oban, Mull, Tiree, Skye, as well as Islay, Arran, Campbeltown and Lochgilphead.

Not only is this a blow to the workers whose jobs are being put at risk – the company has said it will try to

avoid redundancies where possible – but it is a blow to the many rural customers who have relied on the company when buying electrical and white goods.

SSE blamed a move to online buying for the demise of the business.

This is a timely reminder to all of us that unless we support our local businesses we run the risk of losing valuable services, not to mention vital jobs that help ensure the vitality of our communities.



Argyll Youth Theatre - January 2006

This week's flashback photograph comes from the files of The Oban Times. It features members of Argyll Youth Theatre Group which staged Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of being Earnest* at the Corran Halls, Oban, in January 2006. The *Oban Times* reported that it was a pity that more people didn't turn out to watch the show and support the production. Digital versions of flashback photos for *The Oban Times* can be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk or prints sent to the editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped-addressed envelope.

Appalled at decision to axe library post

Sir, I was appalled to hear the librarian at Tobermory High School will be made redundant on August 14.

This is a disgraceful decision by Argyll and Bute Council and the 19 councillors who voted through these shameful cuts last month.

As a former employee at Tobermory High School, I saw at first-hand the hard work and dedication put in by the librarian as she supported learners of all ages with kindness and enthusiasm. Mrs Penny is highly regarded by students, parents and staff for her helpful direction and support, often in her own time.

Those who made this disgusting decision should be ashamed of themselves and I question if they have any idea what the duties of a school librarian entail.

I had heard even before the 'cuts meeting' that an alternative scheme had already been discussed which would see term-time opening with an unqualified person in-post which, as far as I can see, is no real option. I now hear this model is, in fact, being discussed. It seems our councillors would rather have someone to merely stamp books on a low wage instead of maintaining the sterling work of our librarian.

We all have a duty to support those who are fighting to have this ludicrous decision reversed. Our young people depend on us to ensure their learning continues to be supported by the excellent service our librarian provides.

The mobile library service must also be retained. Without it many members of our outlying communities across Mull will be left without this vital statutory service, isolating the elderly and housebound who depend on it so much.

It is amazing our elected members seem to think that hanging baskets are more important than the learning and the futures of our young people

and the well-being and pleasure of our elderly and frail.

Douglas MacNeillage.

Argyll losing a vital educational service

Sir, I have just paid my last, much appreciated, monthly visit to the delightful Gordon in his library van.

Every month he has brought the joy of the world of books to young and old. How is it that vast amounts of money can be found for Argyll and Bute Council's disruptive vanity projects in central Oban when there is none for an essential educational service for Argyll?

As an 85-year-old taxpayer who has been a life-long user of public libraries, I feel both bereft and angry.

Ranee Davidson, Tobermory, Mull.

Working together on management review

Sir, You have wrongly attributed the Association of Deer Management's (ADMG) response, published March 31, in the deer issues debate your pages have been carrying, to statements put forward by Scottish Government agency Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) - 'Deer bad press is misinformed says DMG's chairman'.

SNH and ADMG are working together to deliver the 2016 review of deer management and are making considerable progress with this. Misinformation, supposition and historical data, of little, if any, relevance to issues as they are now, is being promoted by other organisations.

It was such an opinion (Deer cull needed to protect environment, says trust), and not any statement from SNH, that was carried in your report of March 24 and to which ADMG was responding.

Richard Cooke, chairman, The Association of Deer Management Groups, Fort William.

Deer are a valuable asset to Scotland

Sir, I refer to the Scottish Wildlife Trust's tirade against deer which appeared in *The Oban Times* of March 24.

It must surely be of concern to the trust's members and donors to read that this once popular and trusted conservation body has, apparently, aligned itself with a single-minded movement to rid the countryside of deer for political reasons.

An example of the SWT's new 'see a deer and kill it' policy is to be found in Argyll.

In 1975 the late Christopher Cadbury, Quaker philanthropist and conservationist, gifted 1,750 acres of Morvern to the nation for the establishment of a wildlife reserve which the SWT ultimately inherited for £1.

There was a tacit understanding there would be no shooting on the unfenced Rahoy Hills Nature Reserve.

The purpose of this was to provide herbivores and birds with a small piece of undisturbed ground where they might find sanctuary if their numbers began falling in the neighbourhood.

Now, despite there being fewer deer in Morvern than ever before, the SWT is discussing bringing in contractors to kill the very same deer on the flimsy excuse they are eating herbage that has flourished on the reserve since the last Ice Age.

SWT members might wish to question the direction in which the organisation is now moving when considering renewing their subscription. The trust, before it loses its way altogether, should not forget what a valuable asset deer are to Scotland and remember that it was our own Queen's father, King George VI, who so rightly said: 'The wildlife of today is not ours to dispose of as we please. We have it in trust. We must account for it to those who come after.'

Iain Thornber, Morvern.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON
robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



International success for Scotland

AFTER my first visit to the International Pan Celtic Festival last week, I have been warned by the good people who headed across on the bus from Glasgow to remember when writing this article that 'what happens at the Pan Celtic stays at the Pan Celtic'.

It was, however, such a fun and successful week for the Scottish representation that I feel I must make an exception to the rule.

There was a big number there from Scotland - some flew over from Inverness, some flew over from Glasgow, and I was with the group who went over on the bus and ferry.

I was surprised and delighted to win the solo competition for traditional singing and honoured to compete as part of the choirs who all did Scotland proud - winning the accompanied song against strong opposition including some wonderful Welsh choirs.

It was also a pleasure to perform alongside Alasdair Whyte in the folk group, which won the prize for performing one of his self-penned new songs as part of that competition.

There is so much more to the Pan Celtic, however, than the competitions. I thought I would try to immortalise the week in poetry...

Scotland's trip to the Pan Celtic

We're not much use at football
And rugby's not our thing
But there's damn few who can match us
When we dance and pipe and sing

So we gathered in our hundreds
And sailed across the foam
To compete for Caledonia
And bring some trophies home.

But our admirable intentions
Were almost led astray
By the wild town of Carlow
Full of Irishmen at play.

The Welsh, the Bretons, Cornish,
Manx,
They all joined in the party
And soon were sharing songs and tunes

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



'S E FÌOR dheagh bheachd a th' ann an co-ionannachd cothruim dhan a h-uile neach.

Tha fhios gum bheil leithid de dh'amas a' coileanadh gach feallsanachd, co-dhiù tha e a' gabhail ri eachdraidh a' chruthachaidh san t-Seann Tiomnadh neo ann am beachd Darwin, gun tàinig sinn uile bhon agus fhreumh agus gum bheil sinn uile co-ionann. Air an adhbhar sin bhiodh e nàdarra dha daoine reusanta uile ghàirdeachas a dhèanamh ri ire tuarastail nàiseanta a bhith ga stèidheachadh feadh na dùthcha, agus tha mi a' creidsinn gun d' rinn mòr-chuid den t-sluagh sin.

Agus nach math an naidheachd dha na millean luchd-obrach, agus mòran dhiubh sin boireann, a tha gu bhith suas ri mìle not sa bhliadhna nas fhèarr dheth agus air chomas barrachd airgid a ghleidheadh neo 's dòcha ruigheadh air rudan a ceannach air nach b' urrainn dhaibh a chuireadh roimhe.

Aon rud nach eil mi idir a' tuigsinn 's e carson a tha an ire tuarastail seo a' tòiseachadh aig aois còig bliadhna fìchead, is mìltean de luchd-obrach nas òige na sin a' dèanamh nan aon obraichean agus a-nise a' cosnadh nas lugha.

Ma tha riaghaltas a' creidsinn ann an co-ionannachd cothruim, tha fhios nach còir crìochan a stèidheachadh a tha dol a dh'achaidh a' cheartais dha cuid den t-sluagh? Tha fhios cuideachd nach eil an suidheachadh sin gu bhith fallain ann an ionadan-obrach agus cha b' iongnadh ged a dh'èireadh aithreit na lùib.

Gun teagamh 's e ceum cudromach a tha seo air slighe ceartais dha mòran luchd-obrach nach eil air a bhith a' faotainn ceartas gu ruige seo, ach mar a tha fìor ann an tionnsgal sam bith, feumaidh cosgais tuarastail a bhith air a chosnadh cuideachd!

Agus sin far am bheil a' cheist a bhios air inntinn mhòran den t-sluagh cuideachd, is iad gu bhith a' cumail sùil mhionaideach air prìsean nan seirbheisean air an robhas a' pàigheadh nan tuarastalan beaga gu ruige seo. Bidh e

And stories hail and hearty.

With Robert Nairn upon the box
Our spirits reached a fever
With songs from Jimmy Cameron
And the bold John A MacIver.

The Irishmen assured us
That the only way to win is
With a couple uisge-beathas
And a hearty pint of Guinness.

We gratefully accepted
This useful local remedy
And by the time we'd all partaken
We could have sung for anybody

The tunes and songs were such good craic,
We all became delirious
But, for those who were competing,
We had to start being serious

We proudly donned our kilts
In the true Highland tradition
Then marched up to the theatre
To commence the competition

My solo somehow won first prize
As did Ally Whyte's new song
A good day of competitions
And the Scots were looking strong

The choirs they all did Scotland proud
Three seconds and a first
Burach, Piseags Mealbhaich
And the men from Ceann an Tuirc.

We could leave with heads held high
When the time it came to go
But thanks to all the carry ons,
Some heads were hanging low

And so I pass my grateful thanks
To our friend Allan MacColl
For a week of brilliant memories
Enjoyed by one and all.

Irish humour

ONE OF many examples of the famous Irish wit we experienced over in Carlow was when I walked into a bar in my full kilt regalia.

A gentleman rushed up to me and extended his hand, looked at my kilt and said: 'I'd just like to welcome you to Ireland and to my home town of Carlow. I can see by your attire that you are American!' Absolutely brilliant!

Ceòl's Craic Club Film

AS WELL as the Ceòl Mòr Ostaig event in the Centre for the Contemporary Arts (CCA) on Saturday April 16 that I wrote about last week, Ceòl's Craic will also be featuring at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Tuesday April 12 during its Club Film - also in the CCA on Sauchiehall Street.

The film it is screening is a look back at almost 40 years of the Gaelic college on Skye and a chance to see archive footage displaying how the college has developed. Screening starts at 6.30pm and is preceded, from 6pm, by a conversation class by Janet Evans.

What's on

Friday April 8: Clydebank Highlanders' Erskine Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick.

Saturday April 16: Ceòl Mòr Ostaig with Ceòl is Craic, CCA, Sauchiehall Street.

Friday April 29: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, Beith Street.

Friday April 29: An evening with Stirling Gaelic Choir, a tribute to the work of past conductor Chic Bonar, with pink Champagne and Fiona Johnston, 7.30pm, Victoria Hall, Dunblane. Tickets £8/£6.

Saturday April 30: Glasgow Skye Association Annual Spring Concert (Wee Skye), Crawford Hall.

Pub scene

Islay Inn: Friday April 8 - The Keelies. Saturday April 9 - Twist of Fate. Wednesday April 13: Quiz Night. **Park Bar:** Friday April 8 - Jamie Macdonald and Murray Willis. Saturday April 9 - Gunna Sound. Sunday April 10 - Morino Day.

Send your letters to Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB

Ailean Caimbeul

inntinneach gu dearbh fhaicinn am bi cuid de ghnìomhachasan a' fastadh barrachd de luchd-obrach fo chòig bliadhna fìchead gu ire tuarastail nàiseanta a sheachnadh. Ged a tha e na thogail a bhith a' cluinntinn leithid de dheagh sgeulachd, ann an dòigh eile dh' fheumaiste faighneachd an e seo an t-àm as fhasa a leithid a dhèanamh. Tha an Riaghaltas a tha a' cur air adhart tuarastail nàiseanta aig an aon àm a' fàgadh ionnhas poblach agus a' gearradh sheirbheisean agus shochair, rudan a tha a' bualadh cruaidh air na daoine as mìosa dheth. Tha a h-uile càil an urra ri fàs eaconamach na dùthcha, oir ma tha luchd-ceannach sheirbheisean gu bhith a' pàigheadh airson an àrdachaidh tuarastail seo, cha bhì ann ach cìs eile air a' mhòr-shluagh.

THE INTRODUCTION of a national wage is a welcome step, but equality surely means this should also apply to workers under 25.

Sustaining a national wage depends on economic growth because extra costs to service users will be just another tax imposition.

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

Le taic bho

SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG

www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

Press policy

WE AT The Oban Times endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephoning the editor on 01631 568046; writing to the Editor at The Oban Times,

Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can

either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines.

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, 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.

Subscribe to our digital e-edition

Visit obantimes.co.uk/digital



The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

pocketmags.com
Discover Read Enjoy

Now also available on iPad, iPhone and Android devices.

- > cinema, radio and what's on listings
- > leisure ideas
- > local events

Arena

Lifetime achievement award for Shirley



Shirley Spear with Fred MacAulay, left, and Mike Wijnberg, head of consulting at Scotland's Rural College, the category sponsor. Photographs: Angus Blackburn

SKYE businesswoman Shirley Spear, of The Three Chimneys in Dunvegan, was honoured with a lifetime achievement award at the second Scottish Rural Awards and Gala Dinner.

The award was one of two accolades presented to business people who have made special contributions to the Scottish countryside.

The Rural Hero Award was jointly presented to Toby and Mary Fichtner of Irvine, who have played key roles in developing the Isle of Muck.

An Lanntair, in Stornoway, Lewis; Salar Smokehouse of South Uist; and the Hebridean Isles Trading Company, based on the Isle of Skye, were among the finalists.

The event, held at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh, was launched last year to celebrate the innovation, dedication and enterprise of those living and working in rural Scotland.

The awards were held in partnership between *Scottish Field* magazine – part of the Wyvex Media Group, which also owns *The Oban Times* – and the Scottish Countryside Alliance.

Comedian Fred MacAulay took to the stage as compere for the evening, with his audience of 400 including representatives from the award sponsors Aldi and the Bank of Scotland, among

others, and high-profile finalists such as Marine Harvest, The National Trust for Scotland, Crieff Hydro and NB Gin.

More than 200 nominations were received across 10 categories, encompassing every aspect of rural life, from aquaculture to agriculture, tourism and food and drink.

Richard Bath, *Scottish Field's* editor and a Scottish Rural Awards judge, said: 'Showing our readers the joys of the Scottish countryside is one of the main aims of *Scottish Field*, so our partnership in the awards is a perfect fit. I was amazed by the quality and attention to detail showed by the nominees across each category.'

The winners in each category are as follows:

EDUCATION (sponsored by Strathallan School)

Winner: The Royal Highland Education Trust (Edinburgh)

Runner Up: An Lanntair (Stornoway, Isle of Lewis)

Highly Commended: Making The Most of Moorlands Project (Langholm, Dumfriesshire)

Finalists: Dig It! 2015, Elgin Youth

Development Group, Food For Life Scotland

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT (sponsored by the University of Stirling Management School)

Winner: Communities Along The Carron (Camelon, Falkirk)

Runner Up: Belhaven Hill School Conservation Club (Dunbar, East Lothian)

Highly Commended: The Borders Forest Trust (Ancrum, Jedburgh)

Finalists: Lochaber Geopark, The National Trust For Scotland

RURAL ENTERPRISE (sponsored by Kilgraston School)

Winner: Kezie Foods (Duns, Berwickshire)

Runner Up: Salar Smokehouse (Loch Carnan, South Uist)

Highly Commended: We Hae Meat (Girvan, Ayrshire)

Finalists: Hebridean Isles Trading Company, Denfind Stone, Enterprising Eastern Perthshire, Clare Brownlow Pheasant Feather Art, Knockando Woolmill, Gordon Castle

AQUACULTURE (sponsored by Fish Farmer Magazine)

Winner: Firth of Forth Lobster Hatchery (North Berwick, East Lothian)

Runner Up: Scot-Hatch (Achnasheen, Ross-shire)

Highly Commended: The Loch Ryan Oyster Fishery Co. Ltd (Stranraer, Wigtownshire)

Finalists: Wester Ross Salmon, Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre, Cooke Aquaculture, Marine Harvest, The Scottish Salmon Company, Seafood Shetland, FAI Ardtoe

BUSINESS DIVERSIFICATION (sponsored by Clarendon Planning & Development)

Winner: Arbiekie Highland Estate (Inverkeilor, Arbroath)

Runner Up: Rock Machinery (Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire)

Highly Commended: Gordon Castle (Fochabers, Moray)

Finalists: Hebridean Isles Trading Company, We Hae Meat, The Enchanted Forest, Laggan Outdoor

RURAL TOURISM & HOSPITALITY (sponsored by HW Energy)

Winner: The Enchanted Forest (Pitlochry, Perthshire)

Runner Up: The Storehouse (Foulis Ferry, Dingwall)

Highly Commended: Craigatin House & Courtyard (Pitlochry, Perthshire)

Finalists: Laggan Outdoor, The Three Chimneys, Crieff Hydro, Auchrannie Resort, Glenegedale House

BUSINESS START UP (sponsored by Gillespie MacAndrew)

Winner: Uan Wool (Kirriemuir, Angus)

Runner Up: Scotsburn Croft (Invergordon, Easter Ross)

Highly Commended: Phabulous Pheasant (Penicuik, Midlothian)

Finalists: Rannoch Studio, The Damn Fine Cheese Company, Finhunter UK

AGRICULTURE (sponsored by the Bank of Scotland)

Winner: Peelham Farm (Foulden, Berwickshire)

Runner Up: Albert Bartlett (Airdrie, North Lanarkshire)

Highly Commended: Simon and Ashley Hogg, Kersmains Farm (Kelso, Scottish Borders)

Finalists: Air An Lot (On The Croft), Knockraich Farm, Carmichael Estate

ARTISAN FOOD (sponsored by the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland)

Winner: Iain R. Spink's Original Smokies from Arbroath (Arbroath, Angus)

Runner Up: Golspie Mill (Golspie, Sutherland)

Highly Commended: Galloway Chillies (Wigtown, Dumfriesshire)

Finalists: Balgove Larder, Macsween, Saladworx, Highland Crackers, Inverawe Smokehouse

ARTISAN DRINK (sponsored by Aldi)

Winner: Arbiekie Highland Estate (Inverkeilor, Arbroath)

Runner Up: The Black Isle Brewing Co. (Munlochy, Inverness-shire)

Highly Commended: Summerhouse Drinks (Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire)

Finalists: The Gin Bothy, Cuddybridge Apple Juice, NB Gin, Isle of Arran Brewery

WIN 2 VIP tickets to Oban Live!
WORTH £99 EACH!

PLUS a pair of 2 day standard tickets for a runner up
Only in next week's *The Oban Times*



Arena

> cinema, radio and what's on listings > leisure ideas > local events

Music with Jonathan Rimmer



SONGWRITER Mike Nisbet kicked off his European tour with an intimate free show at Oban Chocolate Company on Thursday, March 31. The Dunbeg performer played the first of a series of gigs in houses and small venues with Glasgow artists Rosie Bans and Anna MacDonald, jointly known as The Artpack Collective.

After captivating the crowd with his own style of introspective blues, Mike closed the night by performing *Wild Mountain Thyme* and other traditional Scottish songs with his touring partners.

Meeting in Glasgow but now based in London, The Artpack Collective are set to embark on their fourth tour together, travelling to England, Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands.

Mike said: 'The idea was that pulling

our resources together would be much more fun. The unplugged vibe works really well for us and playing in smaller places like this mean it's easier to make it look full.

'We didn't initially know if a tour together would work. We were worried that our styles would clash as Rosie does power pop, I'm more bluesy and Anna is closest to Scottish trad. Luckily, the gigs have been a great success because everyone usually finds something they like from one of us.'

Mike released *Vagrant*, his first solo project, in 2011 thanks to funding from Creative Scotland. The album was aptly named as the Oban-born musician earned a following in the underground scenes of Glasgow and London.

'I've travelled around a lot and my

sound has changed with it,' said Mike. 'I've become more and more blues-influenced since *Vagrant*. I don't know what it is that attracts me to that kind of music.'

'I think it's the power and the pain of the music that appeals. I love a lot of these finger-picking guitarists from the American deep south; guys with guitars sitting in a field drinking whisky, singing about troubles I'll never fully understand.'

Singing in a gravelly voice and playing guitar and harmonica simultaneously at points, Mike's set was something of a tribute to the earthy genre. On top of his transatlantic inspirations, Mike was also keen to emphasise the influence of his home town.

'I think there's a romantic connection

with Scottish folk music,' said Mike. 'I enjoy Oban a lot more than when I was a kid and it's great playing here again. Tonight's a nice and simple DIY show and I think there's more of that starting to happen in Oban.'

'I remember music being a big deal when I was in school. There used to be regular gigs at the Corran Halls but then everybody kind of moved away afterwards. I saw Citizen 9 in the winter and they were great. I think there are signs of a scene developing again.'

As well as recording a new compilation album with The Artpack Collective, Mike has just finished his latest solo album. The unnamed LP, his first project since last year's *The Ballad of Body and Soul*, is set to be released in June or July.



Mike Nisbet kicked off his European tour with a free gig in Oban.

Social scene Oban Toy Cupboard celebrates 25th anniversary Corran Halls event proves treasure trove for youngsters

THE TOY Cupboard celebrated its 25th anniversary on Saturday with a birthday party in the Corran Halls, which included two fantastic face painters, a bouncy castle, a touchpool from the Sealife Centre, animals from Pets at Home, all sorts of stalls, cakes and dancing from Claire Hutchison 'Born to Move', from Atlantis Leisure, and Adele Askew's wonderful Highland dancers.

The original founders and members joined in the celebrations; Sue Porter, Alison MacKenzie and June Bleazard, and Susie Hutchison – who until very recently was the able secretary and mother of Claire, who led the dancing – and patron Joy Blakeny, who was involved in setting up toy libraries in Scotland.

Toy Cupboard began as Lorn Toy Library which lent toys for a small weekly fee and has grown to offer three weekly play sessions, including one in Gaelic, as well as lending toys to families and local children's organisations.

Visit www.facebook.com/obantoycupboard



Mum Lindsey Elliot and daughters Eddie and Alex had a busy time making handprints at the event.



Double trouble for grandpa Peter Macdougall with twins Charlie and Aidan Michie.



Some of the ladies and their little helpers who organised the celebrations and made sure everyone had homemade refreshments at the afternoon event.

A delighted Bella Johnston with her butterfly painted face at The Toy Cupboard's 25th celebrations held in the Corran Halls.

Saltire Society grants on offer to help young people involved in cultural activities

THE Saltire Society has unveiled a £50,000 funding programme to support young and emerging Scottish artists as part of its 80th anniversary celebrations.

The charity's Inspiring Scotland bursaries will allow up to 20 awards to be made during 2016, to support aspiring young people involved in cultural activities, including music, dance, theatre, film, poetry and prose.

The international element of the programme will allow one promising Scottish artist to

spend a three-month residency in New York, co-funded by the Steven Campbell Trust. Four International Student Travel Bursaries in literature, architecture, visual arts and music will also be available, funded by the British Council Scotland.

The Inspiring Scotland funding programme was included as part of the Saltire Society's official anniversary programme launch, which took place at Dundee Contemporary Arts centre on Tuesday April 5.

Scottish Book Trust is looking for your secrets and confessions



SCOTTISH Book Trust will be running a free Gaelic writing workshop on May 14 at the Furan Gaelic Centre in Oban's Corran Halls.

The workshop aims to help any writers wishing to write a story in Gaelic for the trust's new project *Secrets and Confessions*, which is running until June 21.

As part of the project, the Scottish Book Trust is currently looking for budding writers in Scotland to submit pieces, in English or Gaelic, detailing

their deepest secrets, lies and regretful acts. The pieces can take the form of a story, poem, lyrics, play or sketch, letters or a diary entry, for example, and should not exceed 1,000 words.

All articles submitted will appear on the Scottish Book Trust website and some of the most successful pieces will be distributed for free during Book Week Scotland in November.

Short fiction writer Alison Lang will be leading the workshop from 11.30am-2.30pm.

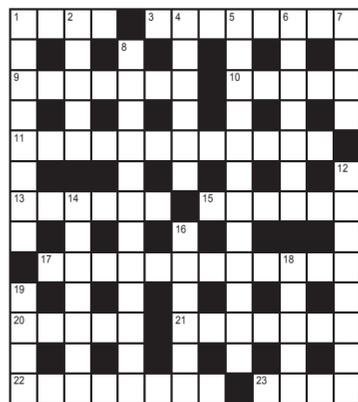
SCOTS Heritage Magazine SPONSORS



THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

WINTER EDITION OUT NOW

www.scotsheritagemagazine.com



Across

- 1 A single time (4)
- 3 Bedtime drink (8)
- 9 Party with alcohol (5-2)
- 10 Bury (5)
- 11 Will not rot (12)
- 13 Complain (6)
- 15 Soporific (6)
- 17 Full of get up and go! (4-8)
- 20 From out of this world (5)
- 21 Shabby (3-4)
- 22 Surgeon, at the end of the line? (8)
- 23 Those people (4)

Down

- 1 Under the influence of two universities (8)
- 2 Child's throat condition (5)
- 4 Mischievous (6)
- 5 Next in line (4,8)
- 6 Indian Bean tree (7)
- 7 Benefit (4)
- 8 Nervous exhaustion (12)
- 12 Inclination (8)
- 14 Hole (7)
- 16 Town in northern Portugal (6)
- 18 It is necessary for chewing (5)
- 19 Wall part under this rail (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



CASK & Still MAGAZINE

A NEW Free 84-PAGE WHISKY MAGAZINE

Visit www.caskandstillmagazine.co.uk for your FREE digital version



Accolades and curtain calls as judge heaps praise on another successful drama festival

THE performers of the 19th Lorn Drama Festival 'should be very proud of themselves', competition judge Michael Emans told a packed house last week at Oban's Corran Halls.

The festival presented five plays by Argyll drama clubs on Tuesday and Wednesday, after a sixth, *Getting It Right by All Right On The Night*, withdrew from the final night.

Awarding the prizes, Mr Emans said: 'We had a really high standard of committed and creative groups. There's so much love, enthusiasm and energy in this festival.'

In third place, taking

The Oban Times Salver, was Lochgilphead Drama Club's production of *Mrs Meadowsweet*, written by David Campton. The sinister comedy was set in a small country guesthouse run by a creepy landlady, who steals residents' bad memories to make them happier, but ends up erasing their identities. The 'zombie' tea lady Inga, played by Sally Gray, won the Adjudicator's Award for stepping into the role at the last minute.

Romance by John Reason, performed by Campbeltown drama group Accent Players, came in second place, taking The Chalmers

of Oban Quaich. The play followed the wasted life of a woman in three stages, as a girl (played by Elise Glendinning), in middle age (Maureen Johnson), and as an old lady (Martha Rennie). Its producer Kenny Johnson picked up the troupe's armful of awards, for Moment in Theatre, Highest Marks for Dramatic Production and Stage Set, and the Stage Management Award.

Benderloch and North Connell Drama Club 'A' drew many audience laughs with *Parentcraft*, Stephen Smith's comedy set in a weekly pre-natal class, which the judge praised as 'really enter-

taining, bright, breezy comedy, and a lovely end to the festival.' He gave the Moment in Comedy Award to Emma Law, who played imbecilic Siobhan. Equally humorous were the quirky character performances by the club's junior actors, who won the Junior Section prize for Geoff Bamber's *The Chair*: the adventures of an old chair passing through the hands of woodcutters, comen, kings and

queens, tramps, cops and robbers. But first prize, the Robin Banks Trophy, went to the black comedy *Jilted Lovers' Helpline*, written by Johnny Grim, produced by Mike Rowell and performed by Benderloch and North Connell Drama Club 'B', in which two shallow call-centre agony aunts try to counsel disastrous romances, interspersed with comically vacuous

chit-chat. 'They have these soft, fluffy voices, but obviously don't give a toss about the callers,' Mr Emans explained, praising the repartee between the two characters – Mary played by Nicole O'Brien and Jasmin played by Kate MacGregor.

Lorn Drama Festival chairman David Price also paid tribute to all the cast and crew, and those who came to watch, saying: 'If you've got good quality plays, a good audience and a good adjudicator, you've got a good festival. 'As always, we'd encourage more teams to compete, and we're keen to hear suggestions how to encourage the next generation to take part.'



Nicole O'Brien as Mary and Kate MacGregor as Jasmin in the *Jilted Lovers' Helpline*, which earned first prize for Benderloch and North Connell Drama Club 'B'. Image: Bob Batty



The sinister guesthouse of *Mrs Meadowsweet*, performed by Lochgilphead Drama Club. Image: Bob Batty



Trophy winners, from left: *Mrs Meadowsweet* producer Jim Morrison, Moment in Comedy award winner Emma Law, *Romance* producer Kenny Johnson, *Parentcraft* actress Anuschka Miller with *The Chair*'s narrator Saskia Miller, adjudicator Michael Emans, and Mike Rowell, producer and stage manager of the winning play, *Jilted Lovers' Helpline*. t15lornfestivalwinners1



From left, Emma Law, Elish Thomson, Anuschka Miller, Sarah-Jane Pugh and James Coogan in *Parentcraft*. Image: Bob Batty



Elise Glendinning and Maureen Johnson in *Romance* by Campbeltown's Accent Players. Image: Bob Batty



Benderloch and North Connell Drama Club Juniors presented *The Chair*, featuring Calum McLuckie as the woodcutter and Saskia Miller as the narrator. Image: Bob Batty



community-owned and run
Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

8 - 14 April

10 CLOVERFIELD LANE | 12A | 125 MIN
Fri: 15.00, 20.00 Sat: 15.00, 20.00 Sun: 16.45 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 15.00, 20.00

Waking up from a car accident, a young woman finds herself in the basement of a man who says he's saved her life from a chemical attack that has left the outside uninhabitable. Tense, original thriller by the best director in Hollywood.

BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE | 12A | 170 MIN
Fri: 12.00 Sat: 13.00 Sun: 12.30 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 12.00

Fearing the actions of Superman are left unchecked, Batman takes on Superman, while the world wrestles with what kind of a hero it really needs. With Batman and Superman fighting each other, a new threat, Doomsday, is created by Lex Luthor. It's up to Superman and Batman to set aside their differences along with Wonder Woman to stop Lex Luthor and Doomsday from destroying Metropolis.

EDDIE THE EAGLE | PG | 125 MIN
Fri: 17.30 Sat: 18.30 Sun: 18.00 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 17.30

The film details the inspiring exploits of Michael Edwards, better known as "Eddie the Eagle", the most famous ski jumper in British history. The film's portrayal of Edwards' never-say-die approach to the sport, celebrates the human spirit and resilience in the face of extraordinary odds and challenges. Taron Egerton, who made his feature film starring debut in *Kingsman: The Secret Service*, portrays Eddie the Eagle, and Hugh Jackman plays a ski jumping expert from Lake Placid who helps Eddie train for the Calgary Olympics.

HIGH RISE | 15 | 130 MIN
Fri: 19.45, Sat: 20.45, Sun: 19.00, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 19.45

HIGH RISE is a suspenseful adaptation of J.G. Ballard's 1975 novel about the breakdown of society within a high-rise apartment complex.

Stars: Tom Hiddleston, Jeremy Irons, Sienna Miller, Luke Evans, Elisabeth Moss, James Purefoy, Keeley Hawes, Dan Renton Skinner, Sienna Guillory, Enzo Cilenti, Peter Ferdinando, Reece Shearsmith Visionary, breath taking film making.

KIDS CLUB: RATATOUILLE | PG | 110 MIN
Sat: 11.00

Children's Classic. RATATOUILLE is the animated tale of a Parisian rat who is also a gourmet cook, and his friendship with a down-on-his-luck kitchen help who becomes the talk of Paris's restaurant thanks to the rat's culinary skills. Adults & Children £2 entry. Modern kids' classic.

SILVER SCREENING - THE STING | PG | 129 MIN
Sun: 14.30

Silver Screening - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £2.50! Includes complimentary tea.

Classic. In Chicago in September 1936, a young con man seeking revenge for his murdered partner teams up with a master of the big con to win a fortune from a criminal banker.

ZOOTROPOLIS | PG | 128 MIN
Fri: 12.30, 15.00, 17.30 Sat: 12.30, 16.00, 17.30 Sun: 12.00, 15.30 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 12.30, 15.00, 17.30

In the animal city of Zootropolis, a fast-talking fox, who's trying to make it big, goes on the run when he's framed for a crime he didn't commit. Zootropolis's top cop, a self-righteous rabbit, is hot on his tail, but when both become targets of a conspiracy, they're forced to team up and discover even natural enemies can become best friends.

OBAN Community Radio - your local radio station
Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at www.obanfm.com

For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

MONDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1700 Drivetime With Marcus, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen

TUESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey

WEDNESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves

THURSDAY: 0800 Morning show, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with Stephen, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY: 0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300-1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lawn

SATURDAY: 0800 Breakfast Show, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crosher, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

SUNDAY: 0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Sunday Brunch, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

What's on at **The Nevis Centre**

Superbowl open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm

SPECTRUM soft play area

Suitable for children of all ages. Baby area 0-2 years, toddler area 2-5 years and older children can be let loose in all the other areas.

The Nevis Centre An Aird, Fort William
Tel: 01397 700707 www.neviscentre.co.uk

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Tea Dance featuring **ThatSwing Sensation Dance Band** and local group **'The Boogies'**

Saturday 9th April 3pm - 5pm in the **Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban**

Tickets £6 which includes afternoon tea

Tickets are available from **Argyll & Bute TSI** 21 High Street Oban or call Maggie on 01631 564839 or email maggie@argylltsi.org.uk

Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club

Inveraray Inn
Wednesday 13th April
At 8.00pm
Guest Artistes From Oban

Hector MacFadyen & his Scottish Dance Band
Supporting players most welcome

Advertise in the Community Noticeboard for just £16.67 (plus VAT)

This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.

All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page. Please ask for details

DUNOLLIE CASTLE CONSERVATION

"BEHIND THE SCENES" EVENING

A fascinating insight into the consolidation of Dunollie Castle and Telling the Castle Story Community Programme with...

Gary Simpson, Heritage Consolidation Ltd - Contractor

Roddy Regen, Kilmartin Museum - Archaeologist

Melanie Davies, Dunollie Projects - Community Engagement Officer

At Rockfield Community Centre
Tuesday 12th April 7.30 pm
Free Admission

Refreshments and Home Baking provided by **The Kettle**

Everest Fit the best

TRIPLE GLAZING AVAILABLE ON SOME WINDOWS AND DOORS

Also available Garage Doors, Patio and Bi fold doors, Porches, Flat Roofs, Gutters, Fascias, Soffits, Bargeboards, Driveways

ASK ABOUT SPECIAL DEALS

Do you want a new conservatory roof?
Contact Consultant Peter Ramsay
Tel 07816 934364

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on

Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

★★★★ "Your local paper - a must-see"

Regional Press closer to home

Find us on **Facebook**

www.facebook.com/obantimes

Arena

> cinema, radio and what's on listings > leisure ideas > local events

Bodach

In this series, *The Oban Times'* resident Bodach (Gaelic: old man, and by experience often a storyteller) looks through archive material for articles and pictures that preserve moments from the past. There is always a back story – and sometimes a future one.



Get in touch with your stories at bodach@obantimes.co.uk

Motorsport is boost to local economy



LOOK at the cluster of wee boys in the uniform of the 1970s – anoraks and wellington boots – and the gleeful anticipation of the start of a stage of the Scottish Rally Championship. Considered a proving-ground for British Rally Championship rounds and the famous Lombard RAC Rally events, this tour was established in 1968 and has run every year since, apart from 2001 when it was cancelled on account of the foot and mouth disease outbreak.

This particular stage start is Inveraray and it may have included local forest sections. I remember getting up really

early one morning in the summer holidays to see a stage in Knapdale Forest in the mid-1970s, and the sheer thrill of being so close to the action.

Argyll and the islands have a proud motorsport history, and an enthusiasm for it that grows every year.

The modern era has brought us the Mull Rally – an amazing spectacle that lights up the island every year and injects welcome cash into the visitor economy outside the traditional holiday season.

Team and spectator numbers increase every year, as do competition, performance and skill.

The continued success and popularity of the Mach 1 Stages Rally at Machrihanish testifies to growing interest locally and further afield, and it may yet be possible to re-establish the Rally of Argyll that debuted in Kilmichael forest in 2010.

The prospect of the Rest and Be Thankful Scottish Motorsport Heritage Centre at its namesake on the A83 is tremendously exciting, and its appeal will go beyond the petrolheads.

Here is an opportunity to create and sustain a multi-use space in an outstanding setting, and I can't wait to see it happen.

Lessons to be gleaned from voting history



JOHN J MACKAY MP tucks into a burger at the Lorn Show. Mr MacKay was a Conservative Member of Parliament for Argyll (later Argyll and Bute) from 1979-87 and was a former head of mathematics at Oban High School.

His election successes demonstrate that Argyll and Bute has never been a safe seat for any political party.

He was preceded by Iain MacCormick of the SNP and defeated in the 1987 election by Liberal Ray Michie. John MacKay, who was awarded a life peerage as Baron MacKay of Ardbrecknish, continued in government service and died in 2001.

The burger stall is promoting beef and lamb, and it is interesting to note that a good price for beef cattle in the mid-1980s was around

£1 per kilo. In 2015 the Scottish average was £1.72 per kilo, so in real terms livestock market prices have not kept pace with inflation or the Retail Price Index.

The costs of rearing cattle have quadrupled in 30 years, yet the market prices have barely doubled. Some farmers do seem to get a raw deal.

I remember asking my parents – who were cattle farmers – why they voted for different parties in general and local elections, and the candour of the response still resonates with me today.

They told me that they voted according to principle for the good of the country, and that they voted for the candidate whom they thought would deliver the most for them at a local level. If everyone did that, there would be no safe seats anywhere.

Kinlochleven industrialist's long-term impact on UK

COULD this be Sir Ian MacGregor, famous son of Kinlochleven and international industrialist? Sir Ian certainly maintained links with Argyll, owning a home near Lochgilphead in the late 1980s. Having made his fortune in post-war America, he returned to British industry in 1977 as a director of British Leyland, the struggling nationalised car manufacturer, and was appointed chairman of British Steel in 1980. By 1983 he had reduced staff numbers by more than half and the operating deficit by £1.5 billion, but at significant cost to steel-working communities and the wider economic and social welfare of large parts of the UK.

The same year Sir Ian was appointed chairman of the National Coal Board, and employed similar measures to increase productivity and reduce losses. Cutting jobs and closing pits led to the national miners' strike of 1984-85, from which the UK coal industry never recovered. He retired from the National Coal Board in 1986 and split his time between Scotland, the United States and the Caribbean where he had numerous business and private interests. He died in 1998.

Argyll and the Highlands may not have felt the effects of the miners' strike most acutely, but the long-term impact on the cost of solid fuel and national economic decline eventually touched every household. A number of min-



ers moved into the region to find alternative employment; some of them settling, raising families and living here to this day – making contributions to rural and fragile communities that might otherwise have been missed. For them at least, things worked out well.

Oban High pupils help to fight cancer with £5,397 fundraiser



Oban High School's senior student 'sports coaches' organised and ran a Race For Life for Cancer Research UK, inspiring 500 pupils to take part, and raising £5,397 - the highest amount ever raised for a charity, teachers said.

OBAN High School pupils organised and ran a Race For Life for Cancer Research UK last month, raising £5,397 – their highest amount ever for a charity.

More than 500 pupils set themselves a target to run 5km on the school circuit, with some achieving 10km, between 2.30pm-3.15pm on Thursday March 24. Each pupil also aimed to raise at least £5, but one pupil, from Diarmid house, raised £200 alone.

'I'm chuffed to bits with them,' said PE teacher Murray Hamilton. 'We all know somebody who has been affected by cancer – that's why they raised so much.'

The pupils, he said, ran with badges, remembering someone they know who's fighting the disease, survived it, or died from it.

Receiving the cheque, Cancer Research UK campaigner Christine Pearson said: 'It's amazing. Young people sometimes get a bad name, but this just proves the opposite. They made the effort to help others less fortunate than themselves.'

Mr Hamilton's class of senior students, called Sports Coaches, had to organise an event from start to finish for their SQA qualification and chose to sign up for a Race For Life fun run.

One student, 17-year-old

Carla, explained: 'We thought a whole class event would be good and we split ourselves into groups.'

The teams handled each element in event organising, from raising publicity in classes and assembly, down to warm ups and marshalling.

Another organiser, 16-year-old Brian, said: 'I've learned how to plan an event, and not take an event for granted.'

Ms Pearson's fellow branch volunteer Glynis Dewar praised the pupils' commitment, saying: 'It's absolutely fantastic; the effort they've put in and the money they've raised.'

'It's good to see young people thinking of others.'

ADVERTORIAL

West Highland College UHI open day

WEST Highland College UHI is holding an open day in Fort William on Saturday April 16.

The event is a great opportunity to meet staff, see around the building and find out about what courses are available at the college.

West Highland college has expanded the range and level of courses it offers so students can now study over several years, increasing their opportunities for the future.

The newly-refurbished training kitchen delivers professional cookery that can be studied for three years, starting with the basics and progressing up to HNC. The college has also extended its early education and social care study options up to HNC.

Many of these progressions can lead in to degree study with the University of the Highlands and Islands.

West Highland College's new NC Computing with Digital Media course offers students up-to-date technical and creative computing skills. With the use of ICT in all business sectors growing and requiring

employees – it is an exciting time to be studying computing.

The college open day runs from 11am until 3pm on April 16.



Gaelic speakers enjoy chat, cake and ceilidh at free fortnightly get-together in Oban



Gaelic speakers enjoy a few tunes at the meetings.

ELDERLY Gaelic speakers, who meet for a free fortnightly chat, cake and ceilidh at Oban's Lynn Court, say it is now the only chance they get to speak their first language.

The group, which gathers at the Bield retirement home every two weeks at 2pm on Tuesdays, was set up to help tackle loneliness and isolation in the older generation, and to keep alive the language they learned in their family home.

'This gives older people the chance to use their first language,' said Maggie Dougall, community resilience worker for Argyll and Bute Third Sec-

tor Interface, who co-organises the senior ceilidhs. The sessions are also hosted by fluent Gaelic speaker Duncan MacNeil from Barra, an administrator at the Gaelic Centre Furan in Oban's Corran Halls. The language centre, he said, 'is geared towards Gaelic learners, but we wanted to do something for Gaelic speakers'.

When *The Oban Times* visited, entertainment featured tunes from singer Angus Smith, accordionist Ian Maclean, and piper Alasdair Macdonald, as well as storytelling from Mr MacNeil.

'Oban has a very strong Gaelic-speaking community, mainly made up of islanders,' he said. 'This is sometimes the only event they'll go to in a fortnight, and the only opportunity they'll get to speak to anybody in Gaelic.'

One attendee, Joan MacEwan from Benbecula, agreed: 'I love it, because Gaelic is my first language. I miss speaking the Gaelic. A few speak it, but none of my friends do. It's just here I hear it.'

Another, retired Tise crofter Alec Maclean who lives in Lynn Court, said: 'This is the one chance I get to speak Gaelic. Since I came to Oban, I've hardly missed a day.'

Catherine Macgregor, who grew up on Stornoway, added: 'It's a get-together to keep Gaelic alive.'

Mr MacNeil, who worked in TV and theatre before taking up his post at Furan when it opened in 2013, praised the group's organisers. He said: 'Without the generosity of the singers and players it wouldn't be possible, and the quality of the cake is exceptional.'



The fortnightly event is the only chance for many to hear and chat in their first language.



Angus Smith and accordionist Ian Maclean.

BUSINESSpeople

editor@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568000

Gateway workshops set to boost businesses' digital know-how

TRAINING workshops aimed at helping Argyll and Bute-based businesses adopt digital technology have been launched, as part of a national programme.

The DigitalBoost events have been designed to help small-to-medium-sized businesses improve their website presence, understand and communicate with their customers better, and ultimately increase sales.

The events will run throughout April and May, covering digital marketing, data analytics and back office systems.

DigitalBoost has been developed by Business Gateway, Scottish Enterprise and Highland and Islands Enterprise on behalf of Digital Scotland.

The comprehensive programme of fully-funded workshops has been designed specifically to support SMEs' development into digital technologies and ultimately to bring business benefits.

The free half-day workshops taking place across the region include:

Digital Marketing Strategy – Oban, April 20, Inveraray April 22.

This workshop aims to show businesses a practical strategy for successful digital marketing, including content creation, content publishing and how to drive traffic.

Website Data Analytics – Helensburgh, April 19, Oban April 20, Inveraray April 22.

This workshop aims to help businesses find out how many people are accessing their website and what they are doing when they get there, then plan how to use that information to make the website work harder.

Digitise Your Business Processes – Oban, April 21.

This workshop aims to help businesses see what systems are available to help operational efficiency, financial management and customer relations management.

Online guides to all of the workshop themes will be available.

As well as the local workshop programme, one-to-one adviser sessions with digital specialists are also available to eligible businesses that would benefit from extra support on digital topics. Access to one-to-one support is by referral from a business adviser based in a local Business Gateway office.

The new digital programme also sees a DigitalBoost diagnostic tool live on the Business Gateway website at bgateway.com/digitalboost, helping businesses assess their current digital know-how through a series of questions.

The results will guide them to relevant online guides and workshops that might assist them further.

Ann Scott from Business Gateway Argyll and Bute said: 'Digital technologies open doors to bigger markets as well as providing opportunities to improve the efficiencies of individual businesses.'

'The DigitalBoost events aim to give a greater understanding of this fast-moving sector and the real business benefits it can bring.'

For more information on the free workshop programme, including exact times and locations, call 01546 604555 or visit www.bgateway.com/events. DigitalBoost support enhances the workshops available from Business Gateway covering website development, online trading and social media.

Energy firm in major deal with Argyll manufacturer

EDF ENERGY Renewables (EDF ER) has signed a five-year agreement with Wind Towers Scotland (WTS) for the Argyll-based company to supply turbine towers for all its onshore wind farm projects in the UK.

The contract has already seen the Campbeltown firm win an order to supply towers for EDF ER's Beck Burn wind farm near Carlisle.

The signing of the agreement took place in Edinburgh before the dissolution of parliament in the presence of the then energy minister Fergus Ewing.

Mr Ewing said: 'The skills and experiences within the Scottish supply chain is something that I have been a champion of for a number of years, so the signing of this five-year agreement is excellent news and shows a real commitment by EDF ER. 'From this initial order, I'm



Alasdair Gammack, seated left, Wind Towers Scotland business development manager, Matthieu Hue, right, CEO EDF Energy Renewables and, Fergus Ewing, centre. Photograph: Iain McLean

Wind Towers are establishing such a strong partnership.'

Following the signing of the agreement Wind Towers is planning to broaden its product, service and customer base to support and expand its existing manufacturing activities and grow its business in the Scottish and UK renewables market.

Alasdair Gammack, business development manager for Wind Towers Scotland, said: 'This is an important deal for us. EDF ER's commitment is very welcome as we strengthen our position as the UK's only large-scale wind tower manufacturer for onshore and

confident that EDF ER's partnership with Wind Towers Scotland will flourish in the coming years and benefit all concerned.'

Matthieu Hue, CEO, EDF Energy Renewables said: 'We have a large wind portfolio in Scotland, including a large pipeline of projects in development. Our strategy has always been to focus

on supporting local economic growth and to use local companies where practical to support the construction and operation of our UK-based wind farms.'

'As Wind Towers is at the forefront of wind tower manufacturing in the UK and has a modern factory in Campbeltown, I am delighted that EDF ER and

now offshore. With a workforce of more than 150 people and growing and an annual wage bill in excess of £5 million, it is hard to exaggerate the importance of the wind towers factory to the Kintyre economy. We applaud EDF ER's pledge to support local economic growth; this deal is a very real demonstration of that undertaking.'

'We have worked closely with EDF ER to build this relationship and we look forward to a long and fruitful association. It is testament to our highly-skilled workforce that we continue to produce towers of the highest quality.'

'We believe this can be the first of many orders fulfilled for EDF ER for projects all across the United Kingdom and Ireland and we look forward to delivering our towers to the Beck Burn Project in the coming months.'

£18M to aid 'circular economy'

HIGHLAND and island businesses are urged to apply for an £18million fund, launched by Zero Waste Scotland last week, to help develop Scotland's 'circular economy'.

Instead of a traditional linear economy which makes, uses and disposes, a circular economy keeps resources in use for as long as possible, extracts the maximum value from them in use, and then recovers and regenerates products and materials at the end of each service life.

'A circular economy is good for the environment and good for business,' explained Linda Hanna of Scottish Enterprise, which is managing the Circular Economy Investment Fund. 'Reusing, repairing and sharing resources is proven to increase productivity and stimulate new markets, new products and new services.'

'Practically, it means companies often unlock hidden potential from their supply chains and materials, and we're keen to support Scotland's small and medium-sized enterprises to take hold of this opportunity and help grow their business.'

The fund is part of a wider £70million programme launched by the previous Scottish Government in February, called Making Things Last.

Visit www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/circular-economy for more details and to apply.

Bespoke furniture-maker sees his business grow after return to Oban

AFTER spending 15 years studying and working in Glasgow as a cabinet maker, Michael Acey decided to return home to Oban and set up his own company specialising in bespoke furniture and interiors.

Formed more than a year ago, Michael Acey Furniture and Bespoke Interiors creates quality custom-designed high-end products from individual pieces of freestanding furniture, to built-in interiors such as staircases, kitchens and doors.

Mr Acey works with both domestic and commercial clients with commissions coming from as far afield as Chicago.

Now, with a steady stream of orders coming in and support from Business Gateway Argyll and Bute, Michael plans to move to a bigger workshop where he will have the potential to eventually have the space to showcase and sell his designs.

Michael said: 'I studied Furniture Construction and Design and went on to work for an established cabinetmaker for eight years. After this, I set up on my own and for six years, along with a business partner, ran a company in Glasgow.'

'But then my wife and I decided to move back home and after putting out the feelers, I realised there was demand for a similar business here.'

'I started doing some small jobs and mainly through word-of-mouth I began to get more and more work. Now, I have someone working alongside



Michael Acey's bespoke furniture is so much in demand that he is planning to move to a bigger workshop, with the potential to showcase his designs.

me and when he moves on in his training I'd like to take on another apprentice and hopefully continue this process. This will not only allow me

to train people to the same standard I was, but it will also be the creation of regular jobs for young people in the area.'

Mr Acey's service is proving

to be in demand and he offers his impressive craftsmanship in both traditional and contemporary styles.

The move to a bigger work-

shop will hopefully result in him increasing his staff levels and offering apprenticeship opportunities, and he is confident that turning some of his space into a shop will capture opportunities from the retail market.

He added: 'Whilst my focus will remain on bespoke items, I do feel there is a market for having a small shop for locals and tourists to browse my work.'

'The high influx of visitors who are always on the lookout for products that embody the west coast of Scotland could result in another strand of the business and help us to grow.'

'The support I've had from Business Gateway has been great.'

'The free courses and advisers are informative, knowledgeable and make sure you're always going in the right direction.'

Angela Vernel, business adviser for Business Gateway said: 'Michael has returned home to Oban and is using his talent and experience to run a growing business.'

'Despite knowing what is required when setting up a company, Michael sought our advice and support as he knows how important impartial expert advice can be for any business owner.'

For more information visit www.michaelacey.co.uk

To find out more about how Business Gateway can help to set up and develop a business call 01546 808 363 or visit www.bgateway.com/argyll-and-bute

Employee award

OBAN estate agent Mairi Kennedy has won Bell Ingrams' best employee award out of its 130 UK staff, after receiving a host of positive feedback from customers. The estate agency negotiator was praised by one client as 'tireless throughout the whole process, leaving no stone unturned', while another stated they were 'absolutely delighted with the service and her professionalism'. Mairi, who was presented with a magnum of champagne, said: 'It is amazing to have my efforts recognised. This award is really an award to the team here in Oban.'

Three of the best

FUEL distributor James D Bilsland Ltd has achieved three new standard certifications – for quality management, environmental management and for health and safety.

These standards are in relation to the company's fuel haulage and supply, including biomass, tank installation and monitoring.

Managing director James D Bilsland said: 'We are extremely proud of these awards and the work that has gone into achieving them. This certification is an extremely important step in assuring customers they continue to receive the best quality and service from James D Bilsland Ltd, and that we operate safely, efficiently and have an effective environmental management system. It also shows our commitment to maintaining the highest standards and our dedication to excellent customer service.'

Grant boost for Ardnamurchan guest house

A GUEST house situated within the heart of Moidart in the Ardnamurchan peninsula is expanding so that it can be open all year round.

Mingarry Park Guest House, previously known as the Clanranald Hotel, reopened in 2012 after being completely modernised under new ownership.

Four new jobs, including waiting and manager posts, will be created at the five-bedroom guest house following this additional expansion.

John Macdonald, who owns the business along with his wife

Emma, has received a £13,800 grant from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) which, along with the couple's own finances, will enable them to extend the current kitchen.

They plan to expand by offering lunches and evening meals to residents and non-residents, as well as employ a full-time chef to run the kitchen.

As a semi-professional Olympic clay pigeon shooter, John also represented Scotland at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. With his successful clay shooting sporting career,

the business has a unique opportunity to provide clay pigeon shooting weekend packages to guests.

The business also benefits from having Mr Macdonald's father, who is the well-known accordion player Fergie Macdonald, regularly playing at the guest house's Bothan Bar, which is situated next door.

Elaine Jones, development manager at HIE, said: 'John and Emma have shown a real commitment to developing a business within a fragile economic area. 'The guest house is well placed

for visitors to experience wildlife such as red deer, pine marten and wildcat, which improves the guest experience.'

'Mingarry Park aims to offer accommodation and a restaurant that complements other tourism businesses close by, and the creation of new jobs will be a welcome boost to the area by supporting further growth of the business sector in Ardnamurchan.'

A herd of tame red deer on the grounds and surrounding croft land allows guests to feed, photograph and interact with them specifically through Red Deer

encounter packages.

Mr Macdonald said: 'We are delighted that HIE is assisting us with our new venture and we look forward to the busy season ahead. Now that we will be open all year round, we can expand the potential for sales and help us cater for a larger number of visitors.'

A biomass boiler was installed at the time of the renovations in 2012, making it more energy efficient than the old building.

The Macdonalds are now looking to fit solar panels to heat the building during the summer.

Get the best from your business with help from Business Gateway.

Free, practical advice and support to help grow your business. Call your local office on 01546 605 459 or visit www.bgateway.com/argyllandbute

business gateway
slighe gnothachais

Oban Times
newsdesk
01631 568000

Outer Hebrides

The remote Outer Hebridean isles beckon those looking for the ultimate tranquil holiday. Each island is a gem that weaves a spell over visitors with ethereal landscapes, rich wildlife and deep history - where one can escape the hustle and bustle to the far edge of Europe, where Gaelic culture thrives and the ghosts of Vikings wander the heathered hills.

Lewis

Called the 'The Heather Isle' by ancient poets, Lewis makes visitors feel as if they have travelled back in time with stone circles, thatched cottages and peat cutting farmers. Archaeological sites dot the island, including the Callanish stone circle and Dun Carloway broch. South Lewis, along with Harris and North Uist, is designated as a National Scenic Area, where visitors can spot golden eagles, red deer, otters and seals. Foodies find lots to love in Stornoway, home of the famous black pudding, the Hebridean Brewing Company, and traditional smoked kippers and salmon from Stornoway Fish Smoker. Lewis comes alive with the sound of music each July for the Hebridean Celtic Festival. Adjoining the Isle of Lewis, Harris boasts some of the most varied landscapes in Britain, from sugary beaches to the highest peak in the Outer Hebrides - and some of the oldest rocks in the world. The main settlement, Rodal, is home of the St. Clement Kirk, of the finest surviving medieval church in the Hebrides, after Iona Abbey.

North Uist, Berneray and Grimsay

History and natural beauty define North Uist. Water lovers swim and snorkel at Traigh Lingeigh, while wildlife watchers spot Arctic terns, gannets and corncrakes. Golfers can enjoy a round or two overlooking the shimmering Atlantic at Sollas Golf Course. And with half the island covered in fresh and salt-water lochs, it's a fisherman's paradise. Once the home of vast Viking settlements, history comes alive with primeval stone circles, burial cairns and one of the oldest crannog sites in Scotland. Connected to Uist by a causeway, the isle of Berneray is renowned for its serene setting. Sacred stone circles and remnants of Viking occupation remind visitors of Berneray's ancient history. Beachcombing is a favourite pastime, with miles of unspoiled sand framed by lush green grass and vibrant wildflowers. Also connected to North Uist via a causeway, Grimsay belongs to the sea. With a booming shellfish and traditional boatbuilding industry, this charming island is dotted by small crofts and fishing settlements.

Over the causeway from Barra is Vatersay, renowned for its secluded beaches, where otters, seals and herons frolic. Bonnie Prince Charlie's flower, Calystegia soldanella, is found only in Scotland on Vatersay and Eriskay, where legend has it the Prince himself dropped seeds he brought from France.

South Uist

Known as 'The Dark Island' in Gaelic poetry, Benbecula lies between North and South Uist and is home to a legendary mermaid who is said to be buried here. Housing a military base, this tiny island offers one-stop shopping with supermarkets, local shops, eateries and coffee houses.

South Uist has more than its fair share of history, scenery and wildlife. It boasts sandy beaches and crystal blue waters that rival the Caribbean along with a dramatic mountain range. Settled since Neolithic times, it is home to the largest the Viking settlement

Eriskay

Winner of a 'Most Beautiful Island' competition, Barra is a superb spot for kayaking, beach combing, nature watching and castle exploring. It is celebrated for its white beaches and abundance of sea lochs brimming with brown and sea trout. Golfers will relish a round at Barra Golf Club, the western-most golf course in the UK.

Barra and Vatersay

Known as 'The Dark Island' in Gaelic poetry, Benbecula lies between North and South Uist and is home to a legendary mermaid who is said to be buried here. Housing a military base, this tiny island offers one-stop shopping with supermarkets, local shops, eateries and coffee houses.

Known as 'The Dark Island' in Gaelic poetry, Benbecula lies between North and South Uist and is home to a legendary mermaid who is said to be buried here. Housing a military base, this tiny island offers one-stop shopping with supermarkets, local shops, eateries and coffee houses.

Benbecula

Known as 'The Dark Island' in Gaelic poetry, Benbecula lies between North and South Uist and is home to a legendary mermaid who is said to be buried here. Housing a military base, this tiny island offers one-stop shopping with supermarkets, local shops, eateries and coffee houses.



Guide Inner Outer

ARDMAREE STORES and LOBSTERPOT TEAROOM
 WI-FI available. Open Mon-Sat all year.
 9am to 6pm May till September.
 Winter 9am till 5.30pm.
 Any changes of times on web site.
 Licensed store and tea room.
 Shop and tearoom 500yds from ferry terminal on Berneray.
 5a Borve, Berneray, Isle of North Uist.
 Tel/Fax: 01876 540288 www.ardmaree.co.uk

Visit the magnificent Standing Stones of Callanish
 Calanais Visitor Centre, Isle of Lewis
 Enjoy a variety of main meals, soup, sandwiches and delicious cakes in our café.
 Food and drinks served all day.
 Exhibition and Gift Shop with souvenirs, Harris Tweed, Celtic and Gaelic music, arts and crafts.
 www.callanishvisitorcentre.co.uk
 01851 621422

Self Catering Farmhouse in Callanish
 www.callanishfarmhouse.co.uk
 Situated in the grounds of the Calanais Visitor Centre this four star self catering property is ideally situated to enjoy a magical Hebridean Holiday.

Temple View Hotel
 An outstanding small family hotel in the Western Isles
 Harvey & June McLean Ross
 Temple View Hotel
 Isle of North Uist
 Western Isles HS6 5EJ
 Tel: 01876 580676
 templeviewhotel@aol.com
 www.templeviewhotel.co.uk

HEBRIDEAN Gift Centre
 Harris Tweed Gifts | Island Gallery | Local Books | Souvenirs
 MacGillivray's, Balivanich, Isle of Benbecula
 Tel: 01870 602525 e: sales@macgil.co.uk

HARRIS TWEED HEBRIDES
 WOVEN BY HAND IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES OF SCOTLAND
 25 North Beach
 Stornoway
 Isle of Lewis
 Scotland
 HS1 2XQ
 t: 01851 700046
 www.harristweedhebrides.com

Like us on facebook
 www.facebook.com/obantimes

Ardhasaig Filling Station and Stores
 Isle of Harris
 Licensed grocer
 Calor Gas, Coal
 Bicycle Hire
 01859 502066

ceolas 2016
 Dileab EOST: Song Conference 29th April - May 1st
 Taigh Sgìre Shollais & Lochboisdale Hotel.
 Speakers/Singers: Jo MacDonald, Naomi Harvey, Allan MacDonald, Gillebride MacMillan
 Summer School: 3-8th July: Ceolas week in Daliburgh School, South Uist.
 Tutors: Rachel Walker, Christine Primrose, Alasdair C Whyte, Patsy Seddon, Fin Moore, Griogair Labhruidh, Mats Melin, Frank McConnell, Jayne MacLeod, Shelley Campbell (Cape Breton) Calum MacKenzie (Cape Breton) Angus Nicolson, Allan Henderson and Gaelic Tutors, Catriona Black, Catriona MacIntyre & Alex Bhaltos MacDonald. Musicians: Sarah Hoy, Seonaidh MacIntyre and Kilphedar Sound.
 Linking Landscape and Legend 30th Sept, 1 & 2nd October.
 Heritage and Language weekend.
 Winter Festival & Sgoil Chullaig 28th December to January 1st

de to the er and er Hebrides

THEY boast some of the world's most inspiring and tranquil settings, but Scotland's Hebridean islands are often a mystery - even to people on the country's west coast. Their beauty and status have been given immortality through hundreds of songs, poems and stories, with nicknames such as 'Queen of the Hebrides' and the 'Jewel of the Hebrides'. But how much do people know about this unique gathering of islands, each one with its own traditions and claims to fame?



Inner Hebrides

Featuring three of the 'Best Islands in Britain' according to TripAdvisor - Skye, Mull and Lewis and Harris - the Inner Hebrides beckon the traveller looking to escape the ordinary into an ethereal coastal landscape where Gaelic culture is alive and well.

Islay

The Isle of Islay is well known for its booming whisky industry - the island of little more than 3,000 people sustains eight (soon to be nine) distilleries. But the 'Queen of the Hebrides' offers more. There is so much to explore on the island and it is a great place for those who love the outdoors. Islay's landscape has inspired a thriving cultural scene of arts and music, with festivals held almost every month of the year. The Malt and Music festival, beach rugby tournament and agricultural show bring thousands to the island in the spring and summer months.

Jura

Jura is reached by vehicle ferry from Islay or passenger ferry from Tayvallich and has a world-famous distillery of its own. But that is where the comparison to Islay ends. Jura has undergone a renaissance in crofting in recent years, bringing young families back to the island and helping the small community to thrive. Jura is synonymous with the world-famous whirlpool, the Corryreckan. Its main settlement of Craighouse hosts a hotel, community shop, village hall, church and the distillery, but it is easy to lose oneself in this wild and largely undeveloped island.

Colonsay

Just 10 miles long and two miles wide, there are about 130 people on the island of Colonsay. It has become a popular day trip destination through its ferry and air links to Islay and Oban. It may be small, but Colonsay punches well above its weight and can rightly be considered one of the Hebrides' hidden gems, hosting several festivals through the year.

Gigha

The Isle of Gigha received national recognition in 2002 when the community bought the island and set about reinventing the population. The subsequent mix of native islanders and skilled settlers makes for a

thriving community sparked a recovery most islands would envy. Those who want a glimpse of beautiful landscapes and wildlife will be spoilt for choice here.

Mull and Iona

Mull, the largest of the Inner Hebrides, is a popular destination, partly because of its proximity to Oban - a ferry trip is just 50 minutes long from the mainland port. There is something for active visitors on this island, including a swimming pool, numerous walks, golf courses and some challenging hill climbing routes. From the bustling village of Tobermory, to peaceful beaches and proud castles, from an abundance of sea life and wild birds to award-winning restaurants and local produce, there is something to satisfy everyone's tastes. The island regularly enjoys annual events such as the Mull Music Festival and the Isle of Mull Rally.

The tranquil Isle of Iona, the cradle of Christianity, is only 1.5 miles wide by three miles long, but it would be easy to spend a day or two there and still have more to see. A pilgrimage to Iona Abbey is a common reason for as visit, so say around 130,000 visitors to the island every year. There is plenty accommodation on the island but booking well in advance is advisable.

Coll and Tiree

Coll and Tiree embody many of the qualities for which the windswept Scottish islands are best loved: clean, sandy beaches, diverse and thriving wildlife, and a lively, welcoming culture. Tiree is the big sister, with its largely flat, fertile landscape and curran bun-like cottages. It is one of the world's top windsurfing spots, hosting the Tiree Wave Classic. The An Iodhlann museum introduces visitors to Tiree's visible past, but its most arresting historic attraction is the 19th century Skerryvore lighthouse, located on treacherous rocks about ten miles south-west of the island.

Coll is rockier and more rugged than its neighbour. Its beaches are mostly accessible on foot, which makes for a wonderful sense of isolation. The island, which has virtually no light pollution, has achieved 'dark skies' status, and is one of the best places in Europe for stargazing. From otters and basking sharks to wild flowers, both islands are havens for wildlife, and have become particularly known for their corncrakes, an endangered species that flourishes here.

Kerrera and Lismore

A little closer to the mainland are the islands of Kerrera and Lismore. The tiny island of Kerrera has two ferries linking it to Oban and visitors can be on the island in minutes. It is a self-sustaining island, with most residents offering services or working the land. Lismore, or 'The Great Garden', which also has two ferries and can be reached from Oban or Port Appin, is aptly named. Its lush, green landscape and fertile land lends itself well to the island's agricultural industry. Lismore is a popular day trip island and the heritage centre there includes a café and museum.

Luining and Easdale

The picturesque Isle of Luining must be seen to be fully appreciated, boasting lush pasture, abundant wildlife and stunning views to Mull, Scarba, the Garvellachs. A real island community, many of the residents still work the land and are involved in fishing and farming.

Easdale is the smallest island on the list. This friendly island has a bar, restaurant and a community hall, which hosts regular concerts, ceilidhs and productions. The island has gained international status as the site of the International Stone Skimming Championships. This annual September event brings competitors from all over the world.

ISLAY PHARMACY

Locally owned independent pharmacy, providing full range of NHS Scotland Services. Medicines, toiletries and seasonal products in stock with Consultations and advice available from a range of qualified staff for all.

01496 301591 islaypharmacy@hotmail.co.uk
42 Main Street, Bowmore, Isle of Islay PA43 7JJ

lochaline DIVE CENTRE

Explore the Sound of Mull above and below water!

Scenic Boat Trips
See amazing wildlife such as seals, eagles and dolphins and learn about the historic shipwrecks beneath the surface!

Snorkel Safaris
Now the whole family can dive in and explore the underwater world! Courses and coaching also available!

Basking Shark Trips
See these huge but harmless sharks from the comfort of the boat or take the plunge and swim along with them!

For booking and details on everything here at Lochaline Dive Centre, including accommodation and the O2 Café, please check online at www.lochalinedivecentre.co.uk or contacts us on dive@lochalinedivecentre.co.uk. We hope to see you this Summer!

www.lochalinedivecentre.co.uk • 01967 421627 • email: dive@lochalinedivecentre.co.uk

EXPERIENCE GAELIC CULTURE AT THE

LISMORE GAELIC HERITAGE CENTRE

FASCINATING EXHIBITIONS & 19th CENTURY CROFTER'S COTTAGE
STUNNING ISLAND WALKS CYCLING & HERITAGE TRAILS
CAFÉ & GIFT SHOP WITH PANORAMIC VIEWS

OPEN DAILY APRIL-NOVEMBER 11AM - 4PM
FERRIES to ISLE OF LISMORE from OBAN & PORT APPIN
lismoregaelicheritagecentre.org Tel: 01631 760020

Guided walks

at RSPB Scotland Islay nature reserves

The Oa: Tuesdays at 10 am
Loch Guinart: Thursdays at 10 am

£2 RSPB members
£4 non-members
01496 850505

giving nature a home

Carol's Cabs

The Islay Taxi Service

24hr Service, Island & Whisky Tours
Self Catering Ground Floor Flat
Port Ellen. Private garden
• Bay views

Phone: 01496 302155
Mobile: 07775 782155
taxi@carol-cabs.co.uk

The Islay Woollen Mill Co. Ltd

An eclectic selection of
Tweeds Tartans Caps
Rugs Scarves Ties and
Country Clothing

Open 9am to 5pm Monday
to Saturday
Tel: 01496 810563
www.islaywoollenmill.co.uk

Start your Isle of Jura adventure with the journey

Mainland (Tayvallich) to Jura in under an hour
Brand new, comfortable boat
Twice-daily crossings, six days a week
£20 each way • Bikes free • Advance booking required
07768 450000 • jurapassengerferry.com

THE ISLE OF COLONSAY

Come to our Festival of Spring 25 April - 15 May 2016
Three weeks of activities and events, celebrating Spring on our beautiful unspoilt Hebridean Island

Nature | Craft | Cooking | Art | History | Music | Foraging
Or hop over for one of our other annual festivals

www.colonsayevents.co.uk
www.colonsay.org.uk

Travel by ferry or plane from Oban or Islay

PORT ASKAIG HOTEL

Tel: 01496 840245 • Email: hotel@portaskaig.co.uk

Special Offers Available

FOOD at the FERRY - BISTRO and TRADITIONAL MALT WHISKY BAR

- Specialising in fresh seafood and local produce
- Great choice of the 'Fine 9' Islay & Jura Malts
- Wide selection of freshly brewed coffees and Speciality Teas

Now 13 en suite rooms
Full Lunches 12 - 2.30pm. Bar and Bistro Evening Meals 6pm - 8.30 pm from your Bistro table watch the ferries arrive and the fishing boats tie up.
Live Music most Fridays - please check to avoid disappointment
Enjoy a beer by the pier at this Gateway Port
Shop open daily 9 - 5pm ex Sunday, 7.30pm - 8pm Fridays. Open for all other ferry arrivals incl. Sunday.
Stores P.O and fuel on site

Bridgend Hotel
The Heart of Islay

Located in the idyllic village of Bridgend, the three star Bridgend Hotel offers the perfect base to explore the island, sample great Islay Hospitality or taste seasonal local produce at its best! Each of our eleven ensuite bedrooms is individually decorated to a high standard to ensure your comfort and relaxation.

Opening Times
Tea/Coffee From 11.00am
Dinner from 6.00-9.00pm
Lunch from 12.00-2.00pm
Bar Menu in Katie's Bar 6.00-9.00pm

Bridgend Hotel,
Isle of Islay, PA44 7PB
+44 (0) 1496 810212
info@bridgend-hotel.com
www.bridgend-hotel.com

West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

LETTINGS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SALE PROPERTY REVIEWS PROPERTY NEWS LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

Home Comforts: Guidance on using ventilation, heating and renewable energy systems

MANY people struggle to get to grips with the operation and maintenance of ventilation, solar, heat pump and control systems commonly used in today's homes. Published by NHBC Foundation, Home Comforts: Guidance on using ventilation, heating and renewable energy systems, gives homeowners much-needed free advice on how to use these systems.

The incorrect use of home ventilation, for example, can lead to increases in condensation, mould and air pollutants, which can affect health and the comfort of the home.

The guidance has been developed for inclusion on the NHBC Home User Guide (HUG), a secure online portal for homeowners containing all of the information about their NHBC Buildmark warranty and insurance policy as well as useful guidance about moving into and living in a brand new home. HUGs are provided free of charge to new home buyers and are also freely available for house builders and housing providers.

Home Comforts is a practical, easy-to-understand guide on the operation and maintenance of:

- Ventilation
- Solar energy systems
- Heat pumps
- Heating controls

In each case the guidance explains what the particular system does, how it works and its main benefits - enabling homeowners to take full advantage of the benefits these technologies bring.

Previous NHBC Foundation research shows that new homes use around half of the energy used by a typical (improved) home built in the Victorian era, however, many of these systems are relatively recent introductions with technology that may be unfamiliar to homeowners. As a result, patterns of use can vary between different households, sometimes resulting in poor or disappointing performance. Understanding how to operate and maintain these systems is vital in ensuring they work effectively and efficiently.

Neil Smith, head of research and innovation at NHBC, said: 'New homes offer excellent levels of comfort and energy efficiency, but some homeowners are left baffled by the latest ventilation, heating and energy saving systems. So that these systems work properly, it's essential for people to know how to use the controls, can make sure their homes are properly ventilated and understand how renewable technologies operate. From the basics of thermostat control to the maintenance of solar energy systems, this practical guide from the NHBC Foundation enables homeowners to take full advantage of these technologies.'

To download and read the guide visit: <http://www.nhbcfoundation.org/Publications/Guide/Home-Comforts-NF68>

To find out more about HUG visit: <http://www.nhbc.co.uk/Productsandservices/homeuserguide/>



MOVING CHECKLIST



Some say that moving home is one of the most stressful life events, 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 companies 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.

Klondyke, Craignure, Isle Of Mull

- Features**
- Detached House
 - 5 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
 - Beautifully renovated 3 years ago
 - Stunning panoramic views
 - Close to Craignure Ferry Terminal
 - EPC Rating - D(67)

Description - Klondyke - A bright and spacious detached 1 storey house in an elevated position, enjoying panoramic views of Loch Linnhe and the mountains beyond.

Rooms: Hall - Kitchen - Utility - Lounge - 2 Bathrooms - 5 Bedrooms - Car Port



OIRO £285,000



W CLA Zoopla LAS LANDLORD ACCREDITATION SCOTLAND irpm
 COUNCIL OF LETTING AGENTS MEMBER AGENT
 rightmove.co.uk The UK's number one property website
 The Property Ombudsman

w: www.west-property.co.uk e: info@west-property.co.uk t: 01631 569 466

TO LET

FLAT TO LET CORRAN BRAE

2 bedroom ground floor flat with garden area. Fully furnished. References. No pets or smokers. Available April. £500 pcm plus c/ tax and utilities.

Tel 01631 710450/ 07729 790503

TO LET

2 bed bungalow in Glendaruel, £500 per month plus bills and Band D Council Tax. Sorry no dogs, dss or smokers.

Available April
 Landlord reg: 82457/130/16010
 Telephone 01369 820209

ANDERSON BANKS

Solicitors : Notaries : Estate Agents



GUIDE PRICE £156,000

Inveralt Cottage, Barcaldine, PA37 1SF
 A traditional and charming extended, detached cottage situated in a quiet rural setting. Inveralt Cottage offers adaptable accommodation across one floor including: entrance vestibule, lounge, hall, kitchen, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, rear fenced garden and parking opposite the property. Due to its rural location, the property will appeal to a variety of purchasers. The cottage has undergone various stages of refurbishment since 2012. This work includes the installation of engineered oak flooring in the hall, lounge and both bedrooms, new good quality floor tiles in the kitchen, rear porch and bathroom and a major overhaul of the pitched and flat roof (including new slates, fascia boards, guttering etc). The car parking area has also been improved with the addition of a gravel and hard core mix base. The property is situated in a scenic rural area, close to Barcaldine Marine and is within easy travelling distance of Oban (11 miles).

22 Argyll Square, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AT
 Tel: 01631 563158 : Fax: 01631 565459
 www.andersonbanks.co.uk

When moving home, 62% of people relocate within a five-mile radius.

This illustrates a strong attachment to the local area. Regional press is the relevant choice for property advertising.

Source: Consumers' Choice V. The Newspaper Society
Regional Press closer to home

Lettings Update for Landlords



Legislation is changing all the time, so it's important that you keep up to date with changes in safety requirements and marketing regulations. Therefore, I wanted to keep you updated with some of the recent changes.

Tenancy Information Pack (TIP): The government has updated this document to reflect the changes to legislation. The revised TIP can be downloaded online and the new version must be provided to tenants for all new tenancies with immediate effect.

Electrical Safety: From December 1, 2015, electrical safety requirements for all rental properties in Scotland changed. Private landlords are responsible for ensuring that an electrical safety inspection of their property is carried out by a registered electrician (member of a registration scheme ie they are registered with NICEIC or SELECT) at least every five years. As a minimum, an electrical safety inspection must be carried out before a tenancy starts, and during the tenancy, at intervals of no more than five years from the date

of the previous inspection. A copy of the most recent electrical safety inspection reports must be provided to both new and retained tenants.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms: Also from December 1, 2015, the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014 introduced changes in relation to the requirement for provision of carbon monoxide alarms in private rented housing. The Act introduces an amendment to the Repairing Standard, which will be amended to include the additional requirement that 'the house has satisfactory provision for giving warning if carbon monoxide is present in a concentration that is hazardous to health'.

Registration Numbers & EPCs: When advertising properties to let, your landlord registration number and the property energy performance rating must be included. Please double check to ensure that these are visible on any marketing materials, including websites and newspaper adverts.

Legislation is changing constantly and there is more to come. If you want information on all the latest legislation you can speak to a member of our knowledgeable team today.

W CLA Zoopla LAS LANDLORD ACCREDITATION SCOTLAND irpm
 COUNCIL OF LETTING AGENTS MEMBER AGENT
 rightmove.co.uk The UK's number one property website
 The Property Ombudsman

w: www.west-property.co.uk e: info@west-property.co.uk t: 01631 569 466

Properties for sale

<p>Searidge, Corran Esplanade, Oban</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detached bungalow with unobstructed sea views • 3 Bed / 2 Bath • Private front garden, driveway parking and garage • EPC Rating D (48) <p>OIRO £325,000</p> <p>Searidge occupies a stunning situation at the end of Obans Corran Esplanade, with far reaching views across Oban Bay with views towards Kerrera and the Isle of Mull. The accommodation comprises kitchen, spacious lounge/dining area with enviable sea views provided by a large window to the front of the property.</p>	<p>Corrachie, Salen, Isle Of Mull</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large modern detached house • 4 Bedrooms / 3 Bathrooms • Quiet rural village • Large detached garage and fenced garden • Spacious living accommodation • EPC Rating D (66) <p>OIRO £285,000</p> <p>Corrachie is a bright and spacious detached house situated in the village of Salen on the Isle of Mull. Built approx. 8 years ago by a renowned local builder the property boasts a range of quality fixtures and fittings throughout. This superb, contemporary property offers an excellent opportunity to acquire a large, modern family home in a popular area of the island.</p>	<p>Callicvol, Strongarbh Park, Tobermory, Isle of Mull</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detached House • 4 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms • Elevated position • Stunning views over Tobermory Bay • Large decking • EPC Rating - D (62) <p>OIRO £255,000</p> <p>Callicvol - A detached 4 bedroom house in an elevated position above the town of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. Currently run as a small B&B Callicvol comprises a large lounge/diner, separate lounge, kitchen, family bathroom and two double bedrooms on the ground floor.</p>	<p>Struthan, Salen, Isle Of Mull</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detached Cottage • 4 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom • Extended Traditional Cottage • Large Garden • Detached Garage • Close to village centre • EPC Rating - D (67) <p>OIRO £225,000</p> <p>Struthan is a delightful detached 4 bedroom cottage situated in a generous garden in the village of Salen, on the Isle of Mull. Originally a traditional cottage this property has been renovated and extended to provide a spacious family home.</p>
<p>Oakfield, Dervaig, Isle of Mull</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-detached • 2 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms • Village location • Holiday home potential • Close to Calgary Beach • EPC Rating - F (24) <p>OIRO £180,000</p> <p>A charming 2 bedroom semi-detached house in the popular village of Dervaig on the west coast of the Isle of Mull. The pink house as it is known locally, was built in the 1820s and enjoys a unique position at the end of the Dervaigs main street.</p>	<p>Plots 4 / 5, Erray Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Plots Available • Full Planning Permission • Fully Serviced • Within walking distance of Tobermory • Build package available <p>OIRO £70,000</p> <p>Plots 4/5 are situated in a sought after area of Mull on the edge of Tobermory town and within walking distance of the golf course, these two plots come with full planning permission for two good sized properties.</p>	<p>Plot at Lochdon, Isle of Mull</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot with previous planning permission • 0.25 acre plot • Shore frontage • Services close by • Sea views <p>OIRO £55,000</p> <p>A rare occasion to purchase a sizable plot with enviable views over Loch don on the Isle of Mull. The plot, approx. 0.25 acre, has previously been granted planning permission in principle for a single story 3 bedroom dwelling house and it is understood this would be granted again following reapplication for a similar design of house.</p>	<p>5 Craigard Road, Oban</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top Floor Flat • 2 Bed/1 En-Suite/1 Shower Room • Close to town centre • Roof recently fully re-slatted • Excellent rental potential • EPC Rating - G (17) <p>OIRO £88,000</p> <p>Flat 3, 5 Craigard Road - A 2 bedroom top floor flat located in Oban town centre. This light and airy flat comprises hallway, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms (one ensuite) and refurbished shower room.</p>

West Coast **MOTURING TIMES**

✔ DRIVETIMES ✔ SAILING TIMES ✔ GARAGES ✔ CAR DEALERSHIPS ✔ MOTURING NEWS

Toyota safety sense features introduced for Aygo and Yaris

SMALL cars can now benefit from Toyota's advanced safety technologies

Where Toyotas are concerned, being small is no barrier to benefiting from the latest safety technology. The Aygo city car and Yaris supermini are now available with Toyota Safety Sense, providing a suite of features that can help prevent an accident happening or reduce the severity of an impact.

Toyota Safety Sense is being rolled out across the range following its introduction earlier this year in the new Avensis and Auris. Aygo and Yaris customers can now specify the package as an option on their new car, adding to the models' already impressive active and passive safety features.

On Aygo, Toyota Safety Sense provides a laser-controlled Pre-Collision System that warns the driver of an imminent collision with a vehicle ahead (Forward Collision Warning) and readies Pre-Crash Brake Assist to deliver emergency braking as soon as the brake pedal is pressed. Should the driver fail to take action after the warning, the system will initiate Autonomous Emergency Braking to reduce speed by about 19mph, potentially bringing the car to a stop, to prevent a collision or reduce the force of impact.

The Forward Collision Warning works at speeds between 10mph and 86mph, when the relative speed between the Toyota and the car ahead is greater than 10mph. The Pre-Crash Brake Assist functions at speeds between 19mph and 49mph, with relative vehicle speeds greater than 19mph. For Autonomous Emergency Braking, the speed range is from seven to 49mph.

A Lane Departure Alert function is also included. This monitors lane markings on the road and helps prevent accidents and head-on collisions caused by a vehicle moving out of its lane. If the car starts to deviate from its lane without the turn indicators being used, the system alerts the driver with visual and audible warnings.

The same Toyota Safety Sense features are available for Yaris, together with Automatic High Beam. This detects both the headlights of oncoming vehicles, and the tail lights of vehicles ahead, automatically switching between high and low beams to avoid dazzling other drivers and improving the driver's night-time vision. Toyota Safety Sense is available now as an option on all Aygo models apart from x grade, price £375. The package for Yaris (all grades apart from Active) costs £400.



PROJECT FOR SALE



32 feet, Westerly Longbow ketch, fin keel. (Sail number C197)
Offers over £10,000

Further particulars at 01546 886382

54 reg Renault Kangoo van/car



99k miles, silver in colour. Full years MOT with new brake pads, new track rod ends, new bottom ball joints. Great starter, trusty van with ample space. 1.5 diesel tdi.
£1500

Tel: 07788 288482

Colvic 20,



2cyl Lister 18 h, good sea boat, lying on trailer at Inveraray.
£2500

Tel 07979 947594

Nissan Navara Pick Up



Colour Black, year 2009. MOT'd till October, 4 nearly new tyres and only 45000 genuine miles on the clock, tow bar, top box, pick up rear liner, chassis wax oiled and only two owners from new with no heavy work undertaken, the vehicle is in excellent condition throughout and any inspection welcome.
Offers in the region of £8000.00 which includes the VAT.

Please contact Alex on 01496 820314 or mobile 07884024777

1999 Argocat Conquest with roll cage



178 Hours. Regularly serviced and in good used working condition. Good tyres and spares. Isle of Mull.
£3500 ono

Tel: 01680 300229

Peugeot 207 1.4S



56 plate MOT Oct 2016 92,000 miles
£1,650 ono

Tel: 07595 962536 (Oban)

Ranger 460/2 2007

Two berth caravan Large toilet shower room Hardly used. Excellent condition.
£5,000

Tel 01631 562755 / 07730094865

WILLERBY, RICHMOND 2009 RESIDENTIAL CARAVAN



8 BERTH, 3 BEDROOMS, DOUBLE GLAZED, CENTRAL HEATING, GAS SYSTEM CERTIFIED FOR 9 MONTHS.
£10,500 o.n.o.

PLEASE CONTACT 01866 822129 / 07780 926477

WANTED

motor homes, caravanettes and camper vans, all makes or models considered. Also touring caravans and statics, instant decision, same day payment.

Contact William 07730 130284 or 07538671625 or email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com

WANTED

All types of good quality 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4 x 4 pickups, must be good condition and reasonable mileage. Older 4 x 4's and non runners/MOT failures etc considered. Will collect.

Telephone 07546 788945

WANTED MOTORCYCLE

Trail, Trials, Motocross or Enduro Road registered or not Any age/condition considered

Tel 07836 500403

WANTED

All 4 x 4s, old or new Toyota Hilux, land cruiser, all pickups single or double cabs, any condition, runner or not, high miles no problem.

Tel 07703490572 ask for Robert

WANTED

any 4x4 vehicle, Landrover, Toyota, Mitsubishi etc, all makes and models, any age, mileage or condition, non runners/MOT failures accepted. Collection anywhere. Top cash prices paid.

Call 07789855381 for a hassle free sale

2005 Volvo V70 for sale



58,000 miles, Leather Interior, Automatic, Black, SAT Nav and audio system built in. Recently replaced timing belt, excellent condition, Full Car Service up to date. MOT till September. Car is available April 20th.
£4700 or best offer

Tel: 07788 174076 or Email: mira.barnett23@gmail.com

WANTED 4x4's

all makes and models, Toyota, Landrover, Mitsubishi, also light commercials, vans, pickups bought, miles no problem, MOT or not, instant decision, same day payment.

Telephone William 07730 130284 or 07538671625 or email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com

WANTED

All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

e: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk Telephone 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020

Car, Bike, Home and Van Insurance with Adrian Flux

Great Insurance deals for your Car, Bike, Home and Van

Adrian Flux Insurance Services offer a range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of highland life. We can offer you great insurance deals on your car, bike, home and van. Call us today for a free no obligation quote.

0800 032 5231

adrianflux.co.uk

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

AYGO X-PLAY AT HELENSBURGH TOYOTA

£128.00	£128.00	£750	£8,895.00	£8,017.01
41 monthly payments	Customer deposit	Finance deposit allowance	On the road price	Amount of credit
4.9%*	42 months	3.73%	£3,740.00	£9,889.37
APR Representative	Term	Fixed interest rate	Optional final payment	Total amount payable

Representative example AYGO x-play 3 door 1.0 VVT-i Manual.

£128 deposit
£128 per month



ALWAYS A BETTER WAY



GO FUN YOURSELF.

Helensburgh Toyota
5-7 John Street
Helensburgh G84 8BA
Tel: 01436 672779
helensburgh.toyota.co.uk

[/HelensburghToyota](#)

[@HBurghToyota](#)



Model shown is AYGO x-play 3 door 1.0 VVT-i Manual at £8,895. Price excludes White Flash paint at £250. Prices correct at time of going to press. *4.9% APR Representative and £750 Finance Deposit Allowance only available on new retail orders of AYGO (excluding x grade) between 1st April and 30th June 2016 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 30th September 2016 on a 3.5 year AccessToyota (PCP) plan with 0%-35% deposit. Vehicles must be registered by 30th September 2016. Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC; registered office Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Excess miles over contracted charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through AccessToyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

2016 AYGO x-play 3 door 1.0 VVT-i Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 68.9 (4.1). CO₂ Emissions 95g/km. All mpg and CO₂ figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated laboratory test results. These are provided to allow comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

NEW CAR INDEX



Autovision
40 Harbour Road
Inverness
Tel. 01463 251500
www.scottishvauxhall.co.uk

ISUZU

S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080
01292 880440



Gordon Motors
Uk Dealer Of The Year 2014
Comrie Rd, Crieff, Perthshire PH7 4BQ
Tel. 01764 652125
Delivery throughout the West
www.suzuki.co.uk/gordonmotors

Great Wall

S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080
01292 880440



W.D. Semple
www.wdsemple.com
Inveraray Shore Street
Tel. 01499 302150

Lochgilthead
Highbank Park
Tel. 01546 606767
01546 606272



S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080
01292 880440

TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000

west coast recruitment

Production Manager

Organic Salmon Farm in Co. Galway, Ireland

Bradán Beo Teo., an established organic salmon farming company in the west of Ireland is seeking to fill the position of Production Manager. Reporting to the General Manager, the successful candidate will have responsibility for all the day to day operations of a marine sea cage salmon farm. They will oversee the safe and efficient deployment of staff, seek to achieve high levels of stock survival, fast growth and efficient feed conversion, all with minimal environmental impact and in full compliance with all relevant legislation.

The role requires the following key abilities:

- High calibre leadership and interpersonal skills;
- Effective management of operational staff including responsibility for Health & Safety;
- Ensuring that fish health and welfare is prioritised at all times;
- Ensuring that stock performance in terms of key efficiency ratios is achieved to an agreed standard;
- Regular monitoring of the fish health;
- Ensuring compliance at all times with the relevant regulations governing the operations of an organic salmon farm in Ireland;
- Providing timely and accurate production reports to management;

An attractive remuneration package including bonus based on the biological performance of the stock. The job will be based in County Galway.

Please submit CV and application letter by Friday 29 April 2016 to:

Robert Kerr, Bradán Beo Teo, Lettermullen, Co. na Gaillimhe
bobby@bradanbeo.ie



Senior Investment & Planned Maintenance Officer

Salary £30,707 - £36,126

For further information about this post or for an informal chat please contact David McColl, Investment Manager on 01546 605842.

Interviews will be held in Lochgilhead on Wednesday 4th May 2016

Painter Mid Argyll & Kintyre

Salary £20,753 - £24,414

For further information about this post or for an informal chat please contact Andy Read, Planned Preventative Maintenance Manager on 01546 605919

Interviews will be held in Lochgilhead on Tuesday 3rd May 2016

Closing Date for both posts: 12 noon on Friday 22nd April 2016

To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk/recruitment

If you are unable to access the website, please contact:

Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Clerical Assistant/Classroom Assistant (Temporary)

£14,964 - £15,858 pro rata Lochdonhead Primary School Ref: CME00959

Clerical Assistant post - 175 hours per week term time

Classroom Assistant post - 725 hours per week term time

Clerical Assistant/Classroom Assistant (Temporary)

£14,964 - £15,858 pro rata Ulva Primary School Ref: CME08123

Clerical Assistant post - 175 hours per week term time

Classroom Assistant post - 725 hours per week term time

Clerical Assistant (Temporary)

£14,964 - £15,858 pro rata

17.5 hours per week

Lochgilhead Ref: CTF01109

☎ 01546 604334

Closing date for all posts: 15 April 2016.

To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

www.hie.co.uk

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Operating across half of Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise is one of Europe's most highly-regarded development agencies. HIE's unique integration of economic and community development is central to its success in generating sustainable economic growth in every part of the Highlands and Islands, particularly in fragile areas.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Auchtertyre, £26,229 - £29,907 per annum, excellent benefits package

You will be responsible for providing advice, guidance and support to community organisations involved in asset-based community development, predominantly covering Lochaber and Skye, as well as some projects in Wester Ross and other areas as required. You will also contribute to the policy and sectoral development work of the team, which may involve new areas of activity, in order to support the delivery of HIE's Operating Plan. In doing so you will liaise with colleagues in other parts of HIE, particularly in area offices and partner organisations as appropriate.

A key part of this role will be to bring fresh thinking to HIE's work in the fields of community asset development, to help create a customer-focused business that is responsive and proactive and to work with the senior leadership team to set an organisational climate in which staff resources are aligned and empowered to pursue HIE's remit, encouraging innovation and creativity.

TO APPLY ONLINE VISIT:

www.hie.co.uk/vacancies

We encourage online applications but if you are unable to apply online please contact us for an application pack, e-mail recruitment@hient.co.uk or call 01463 244 414.

JOB REFERENCE: 568

CLOSING DATE: 20 April 2016

INTERVIEW DATE: 29 April 2016



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Ionairt na Gàidhealachd is an Eilean



We have a vacancy for the above in Oban from June to August 2016.

Candidates must be enthusiastic, self motivated, flexible, and be in possession of RYA Yachtmaster with commercial endorsement and provide high levels of customer service.

To apply, please forward your CV and certificates by post or email to: Clyde Marine Services Ltd, Victoria Harbour, Greenock, PA15 1HW. admin@clyde-marine.co.uk

Position: Yard Labourer

Location: Dunstaffnage Marina, Dunbeg, Oban

Hours: Full time

(Including rotational weekend work)

Salary: TBC (Depends on experience)

Role: This role combines a variety of responsibilities but ultimately includes working within the Slip Team and following instructions from the Marina Management. There is an element of using your own initiative as you will often be left to work on your own.

Tel: 01631 566 555

Nurses

Full and Part Time Positions Available

We are looking to recruit experienced Staff Nurses to join our experienced team at Lynn of Lorne Care Home.

Successful candidates will have good communication skills, be motivated to offer the highest standards of care, and be able to undertake all appropriate aspects of nursing care required. Responsibilities will include assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating care for specified residents to ensure continuity of care. There are excellent opportunities for career progression for successful candidates, in addition to ongoing training and competitive rates of pay.

Applicants will be qualified RGN / RMN and will have a genuine interest in working with the elderly. Communication skills are essential and applicants must be able to communicate effectively at all levels. Current NMC Registration is necessary and a PVG check also applies to this role. £14.50 - £16.00 per hour



To apply, contact lynnoflorne@mckenziecare.com or call Home Manager Louise Glasgow on 01631 720278. Benderloch, By Oban PA37 1QW www.mckenziecare.com



General Assistants Full & Part Time

Duties include serving customers, cash handling, and general housekeeping duties. Ideal candidates will have excellent customer service skills. Previous experience preferred but not essential.

Contact Details:

Apply to: Neil Colburn/Jasmine McAlinden
The Tree Shop, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BL
info@thetreeshop.net Tel: 01499 600263/600100



Accounts Assistant/Bookkeeper Required

Accounts Assistant/Bookkeeper required for our Oban office. Training given as required. Salary dependant on experience. Ability to work with SAGE software an advantage.

This is an opportunity to join an expanding, busy general practice with clients from all over Argyll and Highlands and Islands, the appropriate candidates will be able to work on their own initiative and be able to have a good relationship with clients and other staff.

Please email CV to Jean Ainsley CA jean@ainsleysmith.co.uk



WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION Ltd

Customer Services Assistant

EVH Band 3 [£16,210] from 1st April 2016

Temporary Position For A Period Of 1 Year

The Association is seeking to recruit a temporary Customer Services Assistant for a period of 1 year. The main purpose of this post will be to provide excellent front line customer service to tenants, applicants, owners and other stakeholders as well as administrative support to other sections of the Association.

Applicants should possess general administration experience in a busy office environment. Must be a good communicator and be fully competent in the use of Microsoft Office.

EVH conditions of service and contributory pension scheme are offered.

We are committed to diversity and encourage applications from all sectors of the community. We are a Scottish Charity No SC017357.

Application packs are available from Iona Smith, Housing & Customer Services Officer. Please email iona@westhighlandha.co.uk for a pack. Closing date for Applications will be Wednesday 20th April 2016, with interviews being held week commencing 25th April 2016.

Three Star Gigha Hotel on the West Coast of Scotland, requires experience and aspiring chef wishing to progress their career

Up to 30 covers per night in restaurant and overseeing Bistro menu. Willing to train young apprentice chef. Salary Circa £18,000 Start April to Oct extend season possibility.

Contact via email kdeacon@btconnect.com or phone 01583 505254

Ken Deacon Gigha Hotel 01583505254
kdeacon@btconnect.com



Regional Press
Closer to Home



Ambulance Technician (Relief)

NB: The term "Relief Ambulance Technician" refers to the shift pattern which you will be placed on.

Vacancies have arisen in the following areas:

Tarbert, Inverary, Mull and Oban. These stations have an on-call requirement therefore successful candidates must live within 3 miles of the station.

The Role
Our Technicians work alongside qualified Paramedics to deliver the best level of patient care possible, you will work in a range of environments and with a huge range of people.

The Ambulance Technician role is the first step to becoming an Ambulance Paramedic and once qualified as a Technician, you will be eligible to apply for further development as a fully qualified Paramedic and then possibly onto other roles across the Service, including specialist clinical roles and managerial roles.

The Training
You will receive full training to become a qualified Technician through our in house vocational training programme. The programme is delivered over a 16 month period during which time you will receive classroom based training at one of regional facilities as well as time on practice placement, where you will be mentored by other qualified staff as well as receiving ongoing support and learning from the Education Team.

The Person
This is a hugely varied role, each day and patient is different. As a result, you will need to have excellent interpersonal skills as well as an ability to communicate effectively with a range of different people in a range of different and often difficult circumstances. You will need to demonstrate flexibility and the ability to make decisions

Previous experience in a care role would be advantage, but equally volunteer work or working with your community would be beneficial.

Band 4 - Salary for Technician Students is £15,720 per annum plus unsocial enhancement, rising to £19,502 per annum on successful completion of the training programme. Salary will rise through annual increments to £22,458 plus unsocial.

The Requirements
Successful candidates can come from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. But all will be required to satisfy the following recruitment and entry requirements:

- Minimum Standard Grade Pass in Maths and English (or equivalent)
- Occupational Fitness Test
- Competency Based Interview
- Occupational Health Screening/Medical
- Satisfactory application to the PVG (Disclosure) Scheme
- You will be required to hold a full C1 category driving licence. We therefore recommend that applicants obtain their C1 Provisional licence at the earliest opportunity so that your application is not held up. Please refer to the DVLA website on how to obtain your C1 licence.

For informal enquiries please contact Andy Brady on 07557-203946

To apply please contact Sheila Park by email at scotamb.southrecruit@nhs.net to obtain an application pack. The job reference number is SW4902

The closing date for applications is 29 April 2016.



Lead Exercise Professional

Full time, Fixed term contract 1 year initially Oban, with some travel throughout Argyll. Salary: circa £25K, dependent on qualifications.

An exciting opportunity has arisen within our successful team for a Lead Exercise Professional who will provide a valued specialist service and be empathetic to our clients needs.

Our programme is designed to support a wide range of individuals with varying physical & mental health conditions to enable & support them in changing their lifestyle & to become more active. You will work closely with health professionals across a wide range of disciplines who provide support, mentoring & who understand the importance of physical activity & life style change for their client's health & well-being. You will be responsible for all aspects of the exercise programme delivery. There may be opportunities to manage wider aspects of Healthy Options programmes. Healthy Options is a dynamic community health initiative working in collaboration with health professionals. This is a unique opportunity to help this exciting & successful programme continue & develop to meet the needs of the population of Oban and Argyll.

Successful Candidate will have: • S/NVQ Level 3 GP referral qualification or equivalent • S/NVQ Level 4 exercise specialist qualifications (desirable) • REPS registration • Experience in designing & delivering activity programmes for clients with chronic conditions.

For job description & further details contact:- Lorn & Oban Healthy Options Ltd. info@lornhealthyoptions.co.uk

Reg. in Scotland No. SC383167 Reg. Charity No. SC041998



Due to increased volume of work we have 5 vacancies with immediate effect for the following positions at our Oban Depot

- Dayshift Warehouse Operative (Full Time) x 1
- Dayshift Delivery and Collection 3.5t Van Drivers x 2
- Afternoon Warehouse Operatives (Part Time) x 2

If you are self-motivated, reliable, trustworthy and possess excellent communication skills and are looking for a new challenge we will be pleased to hear from you. In the first instance your CV should be emailed to:

oban.enquiries@menziesdistribution.com
Interviews will take place week commencing 11 April 2016

Subscribe

to the new look

SCOTS Heritage Magazine

Love Scotland?
Subscribe to the new look SCOTS Heritage Magazine. Now the official magazine of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs

Subscribe today for ONLY **£25**
Call **01371 851868**

Visit: www.scotsheritagemagazine.com

public notices

First Registration of a Croft
Mrs Margaret Thomson Heads & Mrs Catherine Elizabeth Campbell have registered their croft, Arivoulchallum, Kildalton & Oa 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 16th December 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2480

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED
R N Campbell
Strachurbeg, Strachur
0.1 ha - Amenity ground
4.86.62337
Conditions: 1, 3a, 4, 7

Conditions
(1) Acquisition of area within 5 years of the date of direction and notification made to Commission within 3 months of acquisition.
(2) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:
(a) the date of the direction
(4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
(7) An application for registration of the making of the Direction is submitted to the Crofting Commission for forwarding to the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland within the 5 year period

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

The Scottish Association for Marine Science MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 THE MARINE LICENSING (PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013
Notice is hereby given that The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS; Company Register no. SC009292, Scottish Marine Institute Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA) plans to hold a pre-application consultation event regarding a proposed licensable marine activity at Port a' Bhuiltin (N56°29'25, W-5°28'9). The activity consists of the deployment of a 100x100m grid for the cultivation of seaweeds.
Further information, can be obtained concerning the proposed seaweed farm from:
Scottish Marine Institute Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA
The pre-application consultation event will be held at (16:30-18:00) on (DATE 27/05/2016) at: Scottish Marine Institute Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA
Persons wishing to provide comments on the proposed seaweed farm can do so by writing to the prospective applicant at: Philip.kerrison@sams.ac.uk Or by post to: Dr Philip Kerrison, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA not later than 20/05/2016
Comments should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making comment. Comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. If SAMS submits an application for a marine licence to Scottish Ministers, an opportunity will be given for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers on the application.

Oban Times Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES

BREEDON AGGREGATES
BREEDON AGGREGATES
BLAST AT BANAVIE QUARRY
THURSDAY 7TH APRIL
BETWEEN 12PM-2PM

The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
TRANSPORT SCOTLAND
THE A84/A85 AND A85 TRUNK ROADS (LOCHEARNHEAD AND LOCHEARNHEAD) (30MPH AND 50MPH SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2011
THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they propose to make the above Order under section 84(1)(a) and 124(1)(d) of, and paragraph 27 of schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984(a) which will have the effect of imposing a 30mph and 50 mph speed limit on the following lengths of road:
30mph Speed Limit
1. That length of the A85 Perth - Lochearnhead Trunk Road from a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 260218,723936) 150 metres or thereby east of where it meets the extended centreline of the access road to 'Alderburne' westwards to a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 258877,723812) being its junction with the A84/A85 Stirling - Crianlarich Trunk Road, a distance of 1.403 kilometres or thereby.
2. That length of the A84/A85 Stirling - Crianlarich Trunk Road from a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 258914,723238) 20 metres or thereby south of the extended centreline of the Old Military Road to a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 258744,724059) 293 metres or thereby north of the extended centre line of its junction with the A85 Perth - Lochearnhead Trunk Road, a distance of 871 metres or thereby.
50mph Speed Limit
3. That length of the A85 Perth - Lochearnhead Trunk Road, from a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 263893,724291) 335 metres or thereby east of the extended centreline of the access road to 'Dalkenneth House' westwards to a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 260218,723936) 150 metres or thereby east of where it meets the extended centreline of the access road to 'Alderburne', a distance of 3.82 kilometres or thereby. The 30mph speed restriction is currently in operation by virtue of the A84/A85 Trunk Road (Lochearnhead) (30mph Speed Limit) Order 2003 and is not changed by anything in this Order.
Full details of the proposal are contained in the Order which, together with a plan showing the length of road involved and a statement of the Scottish Ministers' reasons for proposing to make the Order and a copy of the Order being revoked, may be examined free of charge during normal business hours from 7th April 2016 until 9th May 2016 at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF, at Killin Library, Main Street, Killin, FK21 8UW and at Strathyre Village Shop and Post Office, Strathyre, Perthshire, FK18 8NA. Any person wishing to object to the proposed Order should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Director of Trunk Road and Bus Operations, c/o Karl McAreevey, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF quoting reference NW/A85/KMC by 9th May 2016.
A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/road-and-traffic-orders/traffic-orders.
S R LEES
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

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 online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z
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
16/00957/FUL Nevis Range Development Co PLC, Torlundy, Fort William Construction of new mountain bike trails for lower abilities around Nevis Range base station & Leanachan forest
16/01265/FUL Spean Bridge Hotel, Spean Bridge Amendment to planning application 14/03715/FUL (raising first floor level by 300mm and ridge level by 700mm)
16/01331/FUL Land 90M NE of Ardlarach, Letterfinlay, Spean Bridge Erection of house
Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid
Argyll Bute COUNCIL
PLANNING
These applications listed below may be inspected at Oban Lorn and Isles area office Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, between 09:00-12:30 and 13:30-17:00hrs Monday to Friday and 10:00-12:30 and 13:30-17:00hrs on Wednesday or at the Mid Argyll Kintyre and Isles area office 1A Marse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday and 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
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/00630/PP	Sub-division of dwellinghouse to form two dwellinghouses	Willowdene Glenelguiten Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4EW	Oban Area Office
16/00804/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land East of Nant Farm Ichrachan Tainuill Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuill
16/00158/PP	Erection of garden fencing (retrospective)	1 and 2 Caolas Ellenabeg Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA34 4RQ	Sub Post Office Balvicar
16/00606/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse with attached garage, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land South of Gartloist Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay
16/00882/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle 13/00140/PPP (Site for the erection of 3 dwellinghouses).	Land Adjacent to Currahee Aros Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA72 6JS	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
16/00715/PP	Erection of 305 metres high lattice telecommunications tower and associated works	Meall An Inbhirh Wireless Station Mishnish Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6QE	Tobermory Area Office
16/00770/PP	Installation of replacement roof covering	The Rowans 2 Broadbale Street Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6PE	Tobermory Area Office
16/00777/PP	Erection of replacement dwellinghouse, alterations to access, installation of septic tank and air source heat pump	Glenmara Bruichladdich Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA49 7UN	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid
Argyll Bute COUNCIL
ARGYLL AND BUTE BY-ELECTION
OBAN NORTH AND LORN WARD
18 FEBRUARY 2016
RETURNS AND DECLARATIONS AS TO CANDIDATES' EXPENSES
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Returns and Declarations as to Candidates' Election Expenses, including the accompanying documents, in respect of the above Election held on 18 February 2016 may be inspected at **Argyll and Bute Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT, between the hours of 10am and 4pm (Monday to Friday).**
The fee payable for a copy of any such Return, Declaration or document shall be at the rate of 20p for each side of each page.
SALLY LOUDON, Returning Officer, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT
April 2016

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid
Argyll Bute COUNCIL
AREA COMMITTEE MEETING
A MEETING OF THE OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES AREA COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD IN THE ACHA OFFICES, MENZIES HOUSE, GLENSHELLACH BUSINESS PARK, OBAN
AT 10:30AM - MONDAY 11TH APRIL 2016
Members of the public are welcome to attend and a public question time will take place during the meeting. Questions can be asked on the day or can be submitted in advance to the Area Committee Manager, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT. Telephone: 01631 567945.
The Agenda for the meeting will be available to view from Monday 4th April at the Service Point, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW and at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director - Customer Services

69%
of the business community read the regional press

Scottish Field
MAY ISSUE OUT NOW
Lee McKenzie TALKS AYRSHIRE
10 OF THE BEST SPOOKIEST SCOTS UFO SIGHTINGS
WIN £2,000 WORTH OF VOUCHERS FROM SOFA WORKSHOP
www.scottishfield.co.uk

Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999
Inverchaolain Glen Woodland Creation
The preparation of an Environmental Statement in connection with an application for consent under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999, to carry out tree planting at Inverchaolain Glen, was advertised in this newspaper on 19 March 2015 in accordance with Paragraph 13 of these Regulations.
The Forestry Commission have now considered the application and the information provided in the Environmental Statement and have decided to accept the proposals to afforest the area subject to the conditions held therein.
If you would like to appeal against the granting of this consent, you must make an application to the Court of Session (Scotland) with a copy to Conservator by the 5th May 2016
Forestry Commission Scotland, Perth and Argyll Conservancy, Upper Battleby, Redgorton, Perth, PH1 3EN

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE
A & L McCrae, trading as A & L McCrae Ltd of Grassfield Farm, Whitehouse, Tarbert PA29 6XS is applying to change an existing licence as follows: to keep an extra 3 good vehicles and 0 trailers at the operating centre at Barrachander Quarry, Tainuill PA35 1HD. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Subscribe to our digital e-edition
Now also available on iPad, iPhone and Android devices.
[Visit obantimes.co.uk/digital](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/digital)
The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
pocketmags.com
Discover Read Enjoy

Farming

Trevor focuses on pasture to help farmers cut costs

THE LATEST in a number of grassland experts to offer advice to grazing groups organised by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) is New Zealander Trevor Cook.

A vet to trade, Mr Cook works with farmers advising on how to improve productivity by adjusting feed and management systems.

The QMS grazing group project, with six regional farming participants, began in 2014.

Mr Cook has been impressed with the performance of the livestock farms he has visited in Scotland, but he believes the cost of production is still too high. He produced an annual feed budget for each of the six grazing group hosts after analysing their farms and farming systems.

'The question is how to lower production costs without compromising productivity,' said Mr Cook. 'I believe using pasture more effectively as the cornerstone of the feed resource is the way to save money.'

He added: 'The hard Scottish winters should not preclude using a grass system more effectively. Maybe the way to go in Scotland is to supplement the grazing with feed but still out-winter therefore saving housing costs. I can see

opportunities in a lot of farms in Scotland to be more efficient in timing and type of feed.

'What is obvious is that – whether or not we feed budget – spring is always the challenge. However, by feed budgeting we have far more control. Spring pasture covers can be manipulated if you know what your target is. We've been trialling feed budgeting software and its message is clear – achieving target pasture covers in early March can transform both stocking rates and feed expenditure.'

Alex Brewster, who hosts the Perthshire grazing group at his Rotmell Farm near Dunkeld, said: 'It is great to hear Trevor's ideas. He takes a holistic view of the whole farm business and what needs to be done to make it profitable. Maybe in the short term we won't get away from supplementary feeding, but that doesn't mean we cannot take the principles of excellent pastoral grazing systems and find a way to integrate them into our farm businesses in Scotland.'

Michael Blanche, knowledge transfer specialist with QMS, said: 'It is great having the support of Trevor who has seen first-hand the difference good



New Zealand grassland expert, Trevor Cook.

pasture management can make to efficiency of production in New Zealand. Now, in the final season of the grazing group project, we are starting to see some impressive results here.

He continued: 'As a result of changes made on farm, all six

grazing groups are reporting improved production and/or reductions in costs. Feed budgeting refers mostly to pasture, hence it's a calculation of how much grass stock need to eat at different times of the year and then relating that to the

amount of grass grown. Those who have managed to increase their reliance on pasture have been able to reduce the amount of feed they have purchased and have seen a significant benefit to their business as a result.'

Argyll's farmers wait on tractors to Dig for Victory

This week we delve into a fascinating archive, belonging to Rae McGregor of Inveraray, who inherited the record – made up of cuttings from various newspapers – from her father.

Many of the stories concern farming and rural affairs.

For much of the period, in the 1940s, there was a war on, lending an extra dimension to many of the newspaper reports of the time.

If we take April 1941, 75 years ago, what were the important farming matters of the day?

In Argyll, it was tractors – or the lack of tractors, to be more precise.

Government pressure to bring every possible available acre under the plough to ease a national food shortage extended even here.

Britain was in danger of being starved to defeat in the early war years. Thousands of tons of shipping carrying vital supplies from the US were sunk in the Atlantic, and rationing had been introduced in 1940. And with farm labourers called to arms, the Women's Land Army were called in to perform many duties on farms formerly done by men.

Food had to be produced, and the Dig for Victory campaign drove home the message that every possible square inch must

be utilised for that purpose – whether play park or hill farm.

The farmers of Argyll, more used to extensive hill farming, had too few tractors to fulfil their obligations, and in April 1941 extra government-supplied tractors necessary to cultivate these extra acres had not been delivered.

The *Oban Times* edition of April 5 reported that MP for Argyll, Major Duncan McCallum, taking up the cudgels on behalf of the county's farmers.

In an urgent telegram copied to the Scottish Office in London and Sir Patrick Laird, secretary of the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, Major McCallum wrote: 'Situation regarding tractors for ploughing in both north and south Argyll extremely serious.'

'Please give instructions for the immediate dispatch of additional tractors to Argyll.'

The North Argyll Agricultural Executive committee was working to resolve matters, and a letter in the same edition from the group's chairman, Colonel Bryce Allan, explained that to make the most of what they had, the available tractors had been employed on the most productive land. The shortage of tractors was due, he said, to bad weather in the south, which

had left farmers having to catch up with work.

He added: 'We would like to take this opportunity of thanking those patriotic people who have kindly lent us their private machines to help us in this hour of need.'

Major McCallum's telegram seemed to have the desired effect.

The MP received a reply from Under Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr J Scrymgeour Wedderburn, stating the ten tractors had been assigned to Argyll – six for South Argyll and four heading for the north.

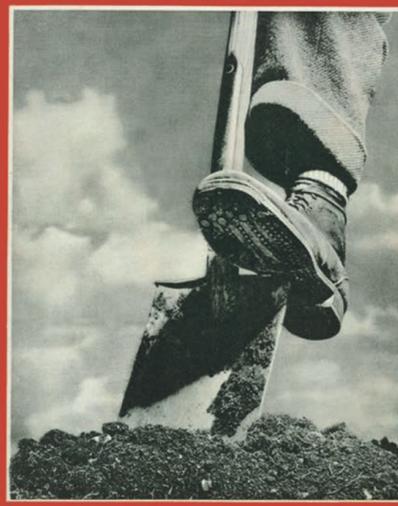
He added that Argyll now had 24 government tractors, or 27 per cent of the total farm tractors in the county.

Pointedly, he wrote: 'The number available to committees to assist farmers in Scotland as a whole is less than five per cent of the total.'

Memories of these lean wartime days continued to influence government policy right through to the early 1990s, when increased production was at the heart of UK and European farming policy.

Things are slightly different these days within the Common Agricultural Policy, with farm support payment now decoupled from production.

DIG FOR VICTORY



The famous message had a fundamental importance if the nation was to feed itself.



One of the newspaper cuttings about the tractor shortage in Rae's collection.

Farmers in Argyll needed more tractors to meet government ploughing demands.

SHORTAGE OF TRACTORS
IN ARGYLL
Oban Times 5-4-41
REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY
COUNTY M. P.

THE ACUTE SHORTAGE OF TRACTORS FOR carrying through the extra ploughing in North and South Argyll is the subject of representations made by Major McCallum.

Major Duncan McCallum MP

Who was the man who demanded that tractors be sent to Argyll in 1941?

Elected to serve the Argyllshire constituency as unionist MP in 1940, Major (later Sir) Duncan McCallum led quite a colourful life. His father was variety artist Charles Coborn (real name

Colin McCallum), famous for song, *The Man who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo*.

He served in Cameroon and at the Western Front, earning the Military Cross during the First World War. The Major went on to act as a liaison officer with the French army in Syria in the 1920s,

during which time took part in a pioneering 1923 motor car journey across the Syrian desert. From there went to the diplomatic service, posted to China, Bulgaria and Egypt.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he was on General Wavell's staff at the Middle East GHQ in Cairo.

On the death of Argyllshire MP Frederick Alexander Macquisten in 1940, Major McCallum returned to Scotland to stand – where he beat Scottish Nationalist candidate, William Power, to take the seat.

Major McCallum purchased Ardanaiseig House, Loch

Awe, in 1947 and became a noted breeder of Highland Cattle. He was knighted in 1955, just three years before his death, aged 69, in May 1958.

He succeeded as MP for Argyll (as the constituency had been renamed) by Michael Noble of Ardkinglas.

Sponsored by NFU Mutual
Oban, call Euan Warnock
and Donna MacDougall
on 01631 567 036 for
your insurance needs.

Agent of The National Farmers Union
Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



April show and sale at Caledonian Marts

CALEDONIAN Marts Ltd sold 598 store cattle and 321 store hoggets, feeding and breeding ewes on Monday April 4.

In the April show and sale, our judge was James Graham of Mains of Burnbank, Blairdrummond, with the results as follows:

Single heifer: D Orr, Mains of Beath, Crossgates, at 390kg for £840 and bought by A Pettigrew, Faskine.

Single bullock: Also from, D Orr, Mains of Beath, at 425kg for £1,000 by A G Baillie & Sons, Blackdub Farm, Stirling.

Pen of four heifers: J D Stevenson, Bowridge, Denny, at 455kg for £960, purchased by J & J Mather, Beechbank, Kelso.

Pen of four bullocks: D Orr, Mains of Beath, Crossgates at 430kg for £1,000 purchased by A G Baillie & Sons, Blackdub Farm, Stirling.

276 bullocks averaged 209p/kg, selling to 257p/kg for an Aberdeen Angus from T J Paterson, Alton Muirhouse, Newmilns and to £1,160 for a Simmental from J & J Brown, Loanrigg, Slamannan.

264 heifers averaged 201p/kg, selling to 249p/kg for a Limousin from A McMaster, Westside, Greengairs and to £1,080 for a Simmental from J W Geyer, Blairhall, Culross.

58 black and white bullocks averaged 136p/kg, selling to 168p/kg from T J Paterson, Alton Muirhouse, Newmilns and to £610 from D T Marshall, West Kirkland, Newton Stewart.

Leading prices
Bullocks per head: £1,150 Loanrigg; £1,120 Mains of Burnbank, £1,100 Loanrigg

and Castlehill; £1,090 Badyen, West Kelt and Hatrick; £1,080 Loanrigg.

Heifers per head: £1,070 Blairhall; £1,030 Hill and Blairhall; £1,020 Callendoune; £1,010 Middlerigg.

Bullocks p/kg: 250p Walton and Alton Muirhouse; 244p Kilbride; 243p Mains of Beath; 242p Windyedge; 238p Woodend.

Heifers p/kg: 246p and 243p Mains of Burnbank; 227p Kilbride; 223p Taylorton; 222p Midton; 219p and 218p Mid Ervie.

Black and white/head: £590 Westfield; £580 West Kirkland; £570 Alton Muirhouse; £500 Walton, West Kirkland and Westfield.

Black and white p/kg: 143p Westfield; 140p Walton; 135p Westfield; 134p West Kirkland; 133p Garelwood.

Top price of the day went to G Adam, Hill of Arnmore for a pen of Texel cross ewes scanned twins at £116.

Hoggets sold to £70 from W & P Stevenson, Ballingary and D W Leggat, West Rogerton.

Leading prices
Tex hoggets: £64 Ballingary
Tex X hoggets: £60 Ballingary

BF hoggets: £50 Glenogle
BF X hoggets: £50 Kincarrie Breeding Sheep

Tex X scanned twins: £108 Hill of Arnmore
Tex X scanned single: £90 Hill of Arnmore

Cheviot scanned twins: £80 Culcreuch Hill
Cheviot scanned single: £75 Culcreuch Hill

BF scanned twins: £66 Kinrara Estate

Stirling sheep sale - United Auctions

AT THE firm's Stirling mart last Thursday (March 31), United Auctions sold 5,062 prime sheep, including 3,998 hoggs and lambs, selling to an average of 186.9p/kg. Also sold on the day were 1,064 ewes and rams

Lambs (15) per head: Hallhill (Suff) £120; West Carse (Suff) £118

Lambs (15) per kilo: West Carse (Suff) 256p; Hallhill (Suff) 255p.

Hoggs per head: Harviesmailing (BTex) £131; Easter Ochtermuthill (Tex) £113; Easter Ochtermuthill and Easter Buchyview (Suff) £97; Abbey (Chev) £97; Chamber-

swells (BF) £91; Coulshill (Mule) £85.

Hoggs per kilo: Doune Farms (BTex) 295p; Kinloch (Tex) 237p; Ballinloan (Chev) 224p; Boganlea (Suff) 200p; Home Farm, Straloch (BF) 198p; Maxwellston (Mule) 175p.

Ewes: Bank (Tex) £149; Ballochneck (Suff) £125.50; Easter Ochtermuthill (BTex) £120.50; Broadleys (BFL) £119.50; Mid Seat (Mule) £99.50; Chamberwells (BF) £94.50; Coulshill (Chev) £93.

Rams (74) – Camquart (Tex) £157; Camquart (BTex) £131; Kilmux (BL) £131; Broadleys (BFL) £120; 10 Killeonan (BF) £109.

Aberdeen Angus Bull, well bred 3 year old AA bull for sale, naturally reared, high health herd, tick acclimatised, calves can be seen. Email ewen.campbell72@hotmail.co.uk. Tel 07908853881

British Blue Bulls, 2 quality very well bred bulls for sale, 21 month old, both from easy calving lines, hi-health herd, BVD and Johnes accredited. Can keep till May if required. Telephone 01879 220504.

Solis 50HP

2 or 4 wheel drive, 8 forward, 2 reverse, power steering, 2DA spool valves. Turnstall Tractors.

Telephone 07747600410

For Sale ATVS

Yamaha YFM 450 4x4 Watercooled VGC Serviced £2,800 + VAT
Yamaha YFS 200 Blaster 2 Stroke £600
Suzuki LT50 Kiddies £450
Tohatsu 3.5 HP Longshaft Outboard Brand New 5 Years Warranty £550
Tel: 01631 720 380 Mobile: 07769 516 134

Find us on
Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

CHIMNEY SERVICES

ARGYLL & ISLES CHIMNEY SERVICES
07834 640989
 www.argyllchimneyservices.co.uk

When Was The Last Time You Had Your Chimney Cleaned?

- AWARD WINNING POWER SWEEPING SYSTEM
- OPEN FIRES • WOOD BURNING STOVES
- OIL & GAS FLUES
- AGA & RAYBURN
- CCTV CHIMNEY INSPECTION

FULLY QUALIFIED & INSURED

Covering Oban, Lochgilphead, Inveraray, Tarbert and Kintyre, sweeping through Argyll

BLINDS

Chris Craft window blinds

- FREE MEASURING
- FREE ESTIMATES
- FREE FITTING
- MADE IN SCOTLAND
- MADE TO MEASURE

OBAN 01852 300174 FORT WILLIAM 0800 371250
 www.chriscraft.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHY

Professional Photography

360° Virtual tours, Elevated High Level Photography, Properties/Interiors, Outdoor Portraits, Accommodation

Contact Tony or Dennis
Dennis Hardley Photography
 Tel: 01631 720434/07771532242 e-mail: dennis.hardley@btinternet.com

REMOVALS & STORAGE

MACQUEEN BROS LTD

Removals/Storage & Self Storage
 Full range of packing materials
 We store boats, caravans, trailers etc
 Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG
Tel: (01631) 564848
 www.macqueenbros.com

STOVES

OBAN STOVE CENTRE

Experienced and Established Suppliers of Heizomat Biomass Boilers

TRADE SUPPLIES AVAILABLE

Scotland's Premier Stove, Spares & Flue Suppliers

Oban Stove Centre, Old Crofters Yard, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4HU Tel: 01631 564790

MOBILITY

Tower Mobility

we supply a wide range of mobility products from walking sticks to scooters

Mathesons, Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban.
 Tel: 01631 565195 www.towermobility.co.uk

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

CRUACHAN

HOME IMPROVEMENTS info@cruachanhome.co.uk
 Exceeding expectations www.cruachanhome.co.uk

- ROOFLINE
- SEAMLESS FLAT ROOFS
- TILED CONSERVATORY ROOFS
- DRIVEWAYS • WINDOWS & DOORS
- GARAGE DOORS • CONSERVATORIES

HANDYMAN

HANDYMAN & VAN
 NO JOB TO SMALL

GRASS CUTTING, PAINTING, DECORATION, TILING, FLOORING, CARPET CLEANING, BLOCKED DRAINS/GUTTERS, GARDENING, PATIOS, DECKING, FENCING.

DELIVERIES, COLLECTIONS, UPLIFTS, DISPOSALS. ALL JOBS CONSIDERED & GUARANTEED.

CALL AND ASK OBAN 07521941330 COVERING ARGYLL

STATIONERY

Wedding stationery
 Invitations, order of service, menus, place cards, thank you cards

Event stationery
 Invitations, raffle tickets, thank you cards

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery, Main Street/Langrow South, Campbeltown PA28 6JD
 Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
 www.krispprint.co.uk

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Gordon & Strathern Ltd
 HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Roofline Conservatories/Porches
 Fascias, Soffits & Gutters

GRP/Flat Roofs Replacement Sealed Units
 Garage Doors Doors & Windows
 Carports and Door canopies

TEL 01631 720074 or 07776402550
 sales@homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk

DID YOU KNOW?

Your business has the potential to reach more than 35,000 people every week* with an advert in the local paper.

The Oban Times
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

01631 568000

*Source: JCFEG data 01/04/2014

Subscribe to our digital e-edition

The Oban Times
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
 HAPPY NEW YEAR

Now also available on iPad, iPhone and Android devices.

Visit obantimes.co.uk/digital

The Oban Times
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
 pocketmags.com
 Discover Read Enjoy

Oban Times **Oban Times**
 TRADE CLASSIFIED TRADE CLASSIFIED

BUSINESS CARDS

Moving home?

Don't forget your change of address cards
01586 554975

Main Street/Langrow South, Campbeltown
 email: staff@krispprint.co.uk www.krispprint.co.uk

LOCAL SERVICES

WEST COAST CLASSIFIEDS
 www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

BUY LOCAL **SELL LOCAL** **TRADE LOCAL** **SWAP LOCAL** £

FREE LISTINGS FOR ITEMS UNDER £100

Advertise your unwanted items in The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk. Simply use the coupon on this page or visit the website and input your details there.

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

ANTIQUE CAST IRON Garden Rollers in working order. Painted for display feature in various sizes. Prices from £80 Telephone 01631 564578.

VICTORIAN CHIMNEY POTS in various shapes and colours. Ideal garden planters or ornamental features. Prices from £40 Telephone 01631 564578.

VINTAGE CARTWHEELS Wheels in various sizes from small to very large. Wooden with metal rims or all metal. Painted for garden or wall features. Prices from £40 Telephone 01631 564578.

BABY EQUIPMENT

LINDAM EXTENDING baby gate, £10 Telephone 07733 485482 or 01631 562750 evenings & weekends.

BICYCLES

LADIES CYCLE Apollo folding cycle. Almost new! Done about 1 mile only, can be seen in Oban area, £150 Telephone 07909 582925.

LADIES MOUNTAIN BIKE Raleigh Mountain Bike, as new, unmarked. V Brakes, 18 gears, suit height 5'4" - 5'10", £60 Telephone 01631 710031.

BUILDING / DIY

ACROW PROPS metal tubular acrow props used during house build, 2 sizes min height over 6ft, £15 Telephone 01631 750135.

LAMINATE FLOORING 49 laminate floor tiles plus a load of off cuts, approx 7 sqm. Size 396mm x 396mm, in excellent condition, colour slate, Oban, £50 Telephone 07990 720713.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

3 DRAWER FREEZER (Tayvallich), £35 Telephone 07818 053537.

ASH VACUUM CLEANER electric. (Tayvallich), £15 Telephone 07818 053537.

ELECTRIC COOKER Beko double oven white, good condition and about 5 years old. Little used, £60 Telephone 01631 720169.

METAL GATES two, 6 bar rust proofed gates H 110 W 120 with hinge post also H 110 W 90 with hinge post price is per unit, £35 Telephone 01631 750135.

STEEL REINFORCING BARS 16mm thick in 6 meter lengths. Can cut to size. Cost is 50pence per metre Telephone 01631 750135.

WHITE UPVC DOOR with frame, 5 point lock, keys, small glass panel. Frame size H 210, W 110, D 06, left inward opening used as house door, £50 Telephone 01631 750135.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

2 x FIRETRAP JUMPERS 6-7YRS smart burgundy red jumper (worn 2x) and a grey zip hooded jumper. Both genuine Firetrap jumpers in excellent condition (Oban), £7.50 Telephone 07951 025003.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

EPSON STYLUS 5 x 130 series printer, used twice, £20 Telephone 07733 485482 or 01631 562750 evenings & weekends.

HOME OR OFFICE PC Dell Optiplex, Core 2 Duo, Win 7 Pro 64 bit, 19 inch monitor, keyboard, mouse. A nice quiet PC for home or office use, £70 Telephone 01546 830272.

DOMESTIC PETS

COLLIE PUPS registered, sired by C Davison Reg. 00297608, named by Gwen Reg. 00329228 For particulars Telephone 01700 503063 or 07919 071747.

FARMING EQUIPMENT

DOUBLE FURROW PLOUGH suit small tractor, ie Massey Ferguson 135, good order Telephone 07770 623486.

FURNITURE

3 PIECE SUITE small, light oatmeal colour (Tayvallich), £99 Telephone 07818 053537.

C O M B I N A T I O N WARDROBE with mirror and three drawers, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Call Office Hours.

DRESSING TABLE double pedestal, 6 drawers, triple mirror, stool, 2 matching bedside tables. Quality solid pine (Mathesons), £99.99 Telephone 01631 565655.

EKORNESS LEATHER EASY CHAIR Mocha brown leather & solid wood easy chair, not recliner. Needs repaired: 6cm diameter hole in leather on seat. Ballachulish, £40 Telephone 01855 811485.

FRIDGE FREEZER Lec f/f. VGC. A+90L fridge, 45L freezer. Width 500mm, Depth 540mm, Height 1225mm. Dunoon area. Buyer collects, £75 Telephone 07725 614618.

KENWOOD CHEF CLASSIC model KM400, good condition, silver grey coloured and stainless bowl, £90 Telephone 01631 720169.

SMALL SLOW COOKER (Tayvallich), £5 Telephone 07818 053537.

DOMESTIC PETS

COLLIE PUPS registered, sired by C Davison Reg. 00297608, named by Gwen Reg. 00329228 For particulars Telephone 01700 503063 or 07919 071747.

FARMING EQUIPMENT

DOUBLE FURROW PLOUGH suit small tractor, ie Massey Ferguson 135, good order Telephone 07770 623486.

FURNITURE

3 PIECE SUITE small, light oatmeal colour (Tayvallich), £99 Telephone 07818 053537.

C O M B I N A T I O N WARDROBE with mirror and three drawers, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Call Office Hours.

DRESSING TABLE double pedestal, 6 drawers, triple mirror, stool, 2 matching bedside tables. Quality solid pine (Mathesons), £99.99 Telephone 01631 565655.

EKORNESS LEATHER EASY CHAIR Mocha brown leather & solid wood easy chair, not recliner. Needs repaired: 6cm diameter hole in leather on seat. Ballachulish, £40 Telephone 01855 811485.

LIGHT BROWN two seat settee, £12 Telephone 01631 564848 Call Office Hours.

RECLINING CHAIR black, £45 Telephone 01631 565328.

RED PATTERN FUTON bed settee, £8.50 Telephone 01631 564848 Call Office Hours.

ROCKING CHAIR wooden, good condition. Approx 1 m tall. Ballachulish, £25 Telephone 01855 811485.

ROUND DARK WOOD table & 4 chairs, good condition. (Tayvallich), £99 Telephone 07818 053537.

SINGLE GOOD CLEAN Divan bed, £20 Telephone 01631 564848 Call Office Hours.

SMALL ROUND beaten copper table, £3 Telephone 01631 564848 Call Office Hours.

GARDEN

TOP SOIL, FREE Telephone 01631 564848 Call Office Hours.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

PORTABLE GAS STOVE never used. (Tayvallich), £20 Telephone 07818 053537.

STORAGE HEATERS

Two small Dimplex storage heaters, hardly used.
£45
 Tel 01546 830270

HIGHLAND DRESS

DRESS KILT JACKET and waistcoat, nearly new. Size 40R. Bought from Chalmers, Oban, £99 Telephone 01546 602563.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

60 ASSORTED D R E S S M A K I N G Patterns, £1 each Telephone 01499 302791.

BAG OF OVERLOCKING Threads, 30 for, £20 Telephone 01499 302791.

BOX SEWING THREADS 25 small bobbins, £30 Telephone 01499 302791.

FABRIC REMNANTS suitable for all sorts of sewing from, £1 Telephone 01499 302791.

LARGE ASSORTMENT of buttons, £1 a packet, Telephone 01499 302791.

VOGUE PATTERN BOOKS in 3 lots, 1969 - 1971, 1981 - 1984, 1999 - 2002, would make suit student, £12.50 each Telephone 01499 302791.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

IRONING BOARD, £7 Telephone 01631 564848 Call Office Hours.

SHOWER TRAY white aqua stone, 900 x 900 quadrant. New, still in box, £75 Telephone 01852 200342.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

BABYLISS ELECTRIC HOTSTIX in carry case, £20 Telephone 07733 485482 or 01631 562750 evenings & weekends.

BINOCULARS Meade used, spare room, £30 Telephone 07748 741573 Campbelltown.

IKEA WAVY FULL length mirror, £8 Telephone 07733 485482 or 01631 562750 evenings & weekends.

KINGSIZE BEDROOM SET brown & cream bedroom set, used once. Comes with duvet cover, 2x pillowcases and a pair of curtains also brown 62x72 (Oban), £10 Telephone 07951 025003.

MATTRESS Myers double mattress. Sprung, firm but comfortable. Vgc. Dunoon area. Buyer collects, £95 Telephone 07725 614618.

TOLEDO RUG exceptional quality, as new. Green/cream/little pink, 9 x 6 cost £269, receipt available, £99.99 Telephone 07733 485482 or 01631 562750 evenings & weekends.

HOME OFFICE

FOUR DRAWER filing cabinet, £25 Telephone 01631 564848 Call Office Hours.

MODERN STURDY front office desk, £7 Telephone 01631 564848 Call Office Hours.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

IRONING BOARD, £7 Telephone 01631 564848 Call Office Hours.

SHOWER TRAY white aqua stone, 900 x 900 quadrant. New, still in box, £75 Telephone 01852 200342.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

BABYLISS ELECTRIC HOTSTIX in carry case, £20 Telephone 07733 485482 or 01631 562750 evenings & weekends.

BINOCULARS Meade used, spare room, £30 Telephone 07748 741573 Campbelltown.

IKEA WAVY FULL length mirror, £8 Telephone 07733 485482 or 01631 562750 evenings & weekends.

TENT two man dome tent, unused, as new, £20 Telephone 01631 710031.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Places include: Stirling, Fort William, Glencoe, Aberdeen, Isle of Skye, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Kelso, Aviemore, Forfar, Rum and Eigg, Shetland, Gtrentool and Dryburgh. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Places include: Inveraray, Appin, Oban, Seil, Isle of Mull, Campbeltown, Tarbert, Machrihanish, Fort William. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

MARINE UNDER £250

SEAGULL OUTBOARD ENGINE short shaft, £85 Telephone 01880 820860.

MOBILE AND HOME TELEPHONES

GIGASET CORDLESS PHONE still boxed, £10 Telephone 07733 485482 or 01631 562750 evenings & weekends.

MOBILITY

WALKING FRAME 3 wheels and shopping bag, £20 Telephone 07733 485482 or 01631 562750 evenings & weekends.

WHEELCHAIR FREE to a good home Telephone 07733 485482 or 01631 562750 evenings & weekends.

MOTORCYCLE EQUIPMENT

FULL FACE HELMET Blue Nitro helmet, hardly used, size small, £20 Telephone 01631 710031.

MOTORCYCLE BOOTS calf length, size 6, Nitro motorcycle boots. Little used, £20 Telephone 01631 710031.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

BLACK ELECTRIC GUITAR with bag, amp, lead, plectrum and starter book, £50 Telephone 07547 139547 Campbeltown.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

FULL SET OF GOLF CLUBS in good condition, £99.99 Telephone 01631 565328.

SLEEPING BAGS Vango 350 sleeping bags. Navy & red. Left hand zip. Stuff bag. Sold separately, £25 Telephone 01546 886680.

PET ACCESSORIES

DOG CAGE 19" X 29" (Tayvallich), £10 Telephone 07818 053537.

PHOTOGRAPHY

CAMERA BAG Manfroto professional backpack 20, brand-new, tags still attached, black, code no. MB MP 20 BB, £80 Telephone 01631 563096.

POULTRY

PULLETS Skye pure pullets, black or brown. Telephone 01470 572213.

TOYS AND GAMES

BEN 10 9 X DVD BOXSET like new, Alien Force, complete boxset (Oban), £10 Telephone 07951 025003.

BEN 10 DRESS UP COSTUME 5-6yrs blue

trousers with green top version. Comes with a Ben10 mask too (Oban), £5 Telephone 07951 025003.

TRAILERS

BOAT TRAILER FOR SALE boat trailer for 12 to 14 ft boat - requires attention to wheel hubs. Call John Robertson, £40 Telephone 07967 664476.

TRAILER FOR SALE not in great condition, but does the job, nearest offer, £50 Telephone 07771 663588 Connel.

subscribe to

The Oban Times
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Subscribe from £22*

Call subscriptions on 01371 851868 or subscribe online at www.obantimes.co.uk/ subscribe

The Oban Times
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
 THE FREE 2015 CALENDAR

Oban drives parking cash

Subscribers should note that to keep down the cost of postage, some special supplements may, on occasions, be excluded from the subscribers edition of the paper. *£22 for 3 month UK subscription.

BIRTHS

MACKINNON - Grant and Naeko MacKinnon are extremely delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Hana Chiharu MacKinnon, born on March 24 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley. Hana is the first granddaughter for both Donald and Allison MacKinnon from Tobermory, Mull and Yoshinobu and Etsuko Akiyama in Akita, Japan.

ENGAGEMENTS

MACEWAN - BROWN - Both families have great pleasure in announcing the engagement of Jade MacEwan, only daughter of Dougie and Janette MacEwan to Jonathon Brown, only son of David and Tina Brown.

DEATHS

ANDERSON - At Islay Hospital on Sunday, April 3, 2016, following a short illness bravely borne, Margaret (Mattie) beloved wife of Malcolm (Calum) and adored mother of Karen & John. Funeral service was held at Portnahaven Parish Church at 11.30 on Thursday April 7 followed by interment at Nerabus Cemetery.

HEPPENSTALL - Peacefully, in the Belford Hospital, surrounded by her family on Saturday April 2, 2016, Ruth Heppenstall, aged 87 years. Beloved wife of the late Tommy, dearly loved mother of 8, a loving grandma to 17 grandchildren and great-grandma to 13 great-grandchildren. Funeral service will be held on Monday April 11, 2016 at 12 noon in Kilmonivaig Parish Church, Spean Bridge; thereafter to Blarour Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Guide Dogs For The Blind and Macmillan Nurses (Lochaber) can be given at the service or forwarded to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Dudley Road, Fort William.

MOFFATT - On March 28, 2016 peacefully at hospital in London, Jan Moffatt, wife of John, sister of Sheena, mother of Giles, Sarah and Gillian, and grandmother of Amelie, Phoebe, Marie and Chloe. Funeral service on Monday April 11, 2016 at 4.00 p.m. at North East Surrey Crematorium, Lower Morden Lane, Morden, Surrey, SM4 4NU. A celebration of her

life will be held in the summer on a date to be announced, in her birthplace Glencoe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACKINNON - Angus, Peter and families would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their cards, sympathy and kind wishes following the sad loss of Dugald. A special thanks to Dr Glen of Lorn Medical Centre, Rev James Beaton and those who attended the funeral and graveside. Thanks also to the staff at the Royal Hotel and Hamish Hoey and Sons for their efficient and professional service. Retiring collection of £452.40 was raised for RNLI, Oban Station.

MACLEAN - Dugald, Arlene and families would like to thank most sincerely relatives, friends and neighbours for cards, expressions of sympathy and kindness following the sad loss of our dear Dad and Paps, Alistair (Monumental Sculptor). Heartfelt thanks to D&A Munn for professional and efficient handling of funeral arrangements. The Rev. Dugald Cameron for a warm and uplifting service. Ian Russell for the very fitting and well delivered eulogy. Moreen at the Flower Basket for the lovely floral tributes. Amanda MacPhail for the excellent catering and hard work. Glencruitten Golf Club and staff volunteers for their efficient service and to all who attended both church and graveside services. The total amount of £1129.70 was raised from the retail collection for the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund and Downs Syndrome Scotland.

MEMORIAMS

ANDERSON - Treasured memories of a dear mum, gran and great gran Mary Hay, who passed away April 6, 1999. Loved and remembered always.

- Seonaid, Kenny and family.

CLARK - Remembering with love my fiancé George, died April 7, 2006. I will always love you. - Jackie xxx.

CLARK - Memories of my dear sister Effie who passed away on March 26, 2009. Sadly missed along life's way - Inserted by her sister Mary at Kilninan

HEAP - In loving memory of our darling son and brother Edward Alexander (Eddie), accidentally killed at work on April 4, 1979, aged 18 years. There is always a face before us A voice we would love to hear A smile we will always remember Of a son we loved so dear. Always loved - Mum, Dad, Auntie Peggy and family xx

MACARTHUR - With loving memories of our dear mum Morag, who passed away April 6, 1991, with all our love. - Lorna and Neil.

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.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of Mary a dear sister, aunt and friend, who passed away April 6, 2015. We remember you with fondness at the beach below Balure

Where the silence is only broken by the waves upon the shore. - Andy, Catriona, Iain and Megan.

MACLENNAN - In loving memory of our parents, John, died April 3, 1984 and Cathie, on April 11, 1989. Remembering the good times. - Ewen, Rosie and family, Spean Bridge.

MACLENNAN - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents, John, who died April 3, 1984 and Cathie April 11, 1989. Forever in our hearts.

- Catherine, John and family, Craobhag, Spean Bridge.

McPHEE - In memory of my husband, father, father-in-law and granda, Willie who died April 8, 2005. Always in our hearts.

- His wife and family at home and away. R.I.P.

PROSSER - MAXWELL - Yvonne called to Jesus on April 6, 1989.

A flower, petals tightly furled was lifted from her mortal clay And firmly planted in a world where full blooms grow in rich array. - Love always mummy and family

Obituary - Mary Ferguson 1910 - 2016



MARY FERGUSON was born November 3 1910.

The family moved to Barcaldine and Mary went to Rhugarbh school and also went to church there.

She left school at 14 years of age. She served with the WRENS in Oban for five years.

She married Duncan Ferguson in 1953 in Benderloch and they both worked at the hostel in Barcaldine.

Mary was the cook and Duncan was the orderly.

When the hostel closed down they moved to Achanrair cottages and then to Rhu in Helensburgh.

When her husband sadly died she moved back to Barcaldine with

her mother and brother, Dochie.

She moved to the borders nearly two years ago to be with family as she needed more help.

She enjoyed going to the games and lots of trips away and shopping to Edinburgh.

She went to see her brother Ian in Denny.

Mary also attended a lunch club in Peebles where everyone made her so welcome.

Sadly she died of old age. The family would like to thank the Reverend Jeff McCormick for the lovely funeral service.

Also thanked was the funeral director Andy Ironside, from Biggar, for the efficient handling of the funeral arrangements.

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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

Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Tel: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001
www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial

Chief reporter
Louise Glen
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

Trainee reporter
David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

Newsdesk
Oban 01631 568000
Fort William 01397 703003
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

Advertising supervisor
Nadine Ross
nross@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive
Rhona McKillop
advrts@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive
Stephanie Dunstaffnage
sdunstaff@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive
Julie Baird
jbaird@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices

Fort William
Tel 01397 703003

Lochgilphead
Tel 01546 602345

Campbeltown
Tel 01586 554646

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications. 1. Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes. 2. The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement. 3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice. 4. An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisement's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person. 5. Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement. 6. The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose. 7. The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment does not materially detract from the advertisement. 8. Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose. 9. The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order. 10. Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance. 11. Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice. 12. A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000 Fax: (01631) 568001 www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk

Obituary - Eleanor Scally

MRS ELEANOR SCALLY, who passed away suddenly on February 26, 2016, was a very well-kept face in the village of Kilmelford where she had lived for many years.

She had been born and brought up near Tayinloan in the 1930s and her love of Kintyre stayed with her all her life.

She knew every inch of it and remembered well all the small hill farms where she used to go to collect the milk that went into the cheese making at the Campbelltown Creamery where she ran the laboratory for many years.

After her marriage she trained as a nurse and moved to Kilmelford to be near her father.

After retiring from the hospital, she worked as a nurse for several elderly people who wanted to be nursed in their own homes and those fortunate people had the benefit of an experienced nurse and a kindly,

caring and sympathetic woman.

They were fortunate indeed, as were their families.

Friendly, easygoing and interested, Eleanor was much beloved and sought after and the warmth of her smile and the chuckle of her laughter brought reassurance and comfort to the person being cared for and made their house a happy place.

She helped wherever and whenever it was needed. No top class nursing agency could have provided a better home nurse.

Eleanor's love of all animals never left her and her contributions to their charities were legendary.

We were lucky to have known and enjoyed the company of this dear person, truly one of life's givers. May she rest in peace.

HB
March 2016



Thought for the week

'As they talked, Jesus himself drew near and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognising him' Luke 24 15-16

THIS POWERFULLY moving Bible account tells of two weary disciples walking home to Emmaus from Jerusalem after the crucifixion of their leader, Jesus. They, overwhelmed with despair, their hopes dashed by the death of Jesus, were trying to make sense of it all.

They were so preoccupied with the apparent catastrophe, they hardly noticed the stranger who joined them on the road. As they shared their troubles with him, he slowly explained the significance of what had happened, and things began to fit into place. He helped them to understand recent events, build on them and adjust to changed circumstances.

By the time they reached Emmaus, they were ready for the future, a future that began around the

table - with Jesus, for, as he broke the bread, they recognised him. He was alive, with them, and their faith was renewed.

Jesus had been with them through all the confusion and seeming disillusionment.

The glorious truth of this story is there for us to take into our life's journey.

With Jesus, we can cope with life's pressures, we can face changes that come our way.

Sometimes, even with him, it's hard to understand the purpose of change, but, holding on to his presence, knowing his companionship in the struggle, is essential.

With him, things make sense eventually - without him, they never will.

Rev Carol Leech

Bishops urge Catholics to be active parishioners not passive spectators

BISHOPS are urging Catholics to 'be active participants in shaping a better society'.

In a letter read in all of Scotland's 500 Catholic parishes last weekend, Scotland's eight Catholic Bishops urged parishioners to be active participants in shaping a better society not simply 'passive spectators'.

The Bishops also encouraged greater participation in the political process, suggesting parishioners 'might well

consider it worthwhile to join a political party' while reminding Catholic voters that 'only if you use your vote can you make a difference and influence our political leaders'.

The call to get involved in the election, scrutinise candidates and vote on

May 5 comes as the Scottish Parliament gains several extra powers from the UK government including responsibility for legislation regarding abortion and income tax raising.

MEMORIALS

Stokes Memorials
Serving Argyll and the Highlands & Islands for over 35 years
Established 1973 - Fraser Downie, Master Sculptor

- New and traditional memorials.
- Additional lettering.
- Cleaning and renovations.
- Pet memorials.
- Work carried out in any cemetery.
- Free estimates and advice.
- House signs.

312/314 Argyll Street, Dunoon • Tel/Fax 01369 702162 • Email: fraserdownie.43@gmail.com

CHARITY DONATIONS

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
Jack Tollan
Birch Hill
Achnacreebeag
North Connel, PA37 1RE

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
Fundraising Office
Macmillan Cancer Support
PO Box 24040 Edinburgh EH3 1DZ
Tel 0300 100 0200
In memory of Dawn Joyce

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE
Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
Marie Curie Care
Mannin, 2/5 Lismore House
Station Road, Oban
01631 571009

CANCER RESEARCH UK
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK
Angel Building
407 St John Street
London EC1V 4AD

Subscribe to our digital e-edition

Now also available on iPad, iPhone and Android devices.
Visit obantimes.co.uk/digital

The Oban Times & West Highland Times
pocketmags.com Discover Read Easy

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

SUBSCRIBE TO SCOTS Heritage Magazine

Now the official magazine of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, the new-look Scots Heritage magazine is an unbeatable read. With features on clans, genealogy, great Scots, the events which forged a nation, and a wealth of articles on Scottish history and culture, no other magazine is as successful at keeping Scots at home and abroad in touch with their heritage.

To subscribe to Scots Heritage call the subscriptions number, fill out the form opposite and post to the relevant address or visit the website and click on subscribe.
It couldn't be easier.
UK subscription: £15
Worldwide subscription: £25

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

JOHN McLELLAN FUNERAL DIRECTORS
We are proud to have served the Lochaber Community for over 90 years and continue to provide the bereaved and their families with a compassionate, dedicated and professional service.

Tel. 01397 702128
24 Hour Personal, Caring Service

Dudley Road, Fort William PH33 6JB
www.johnmclellanfunerals.co.uk
enquiries@johnmclellanfunerals.co.uk

SAIF
Society of Allied Independent Funeral Directors

Golden Charter Funeral Plans

D & A MUNN LTD. FUNERAL DIRECTORS | Est. 1880
Owned and run by Ian MacInnes & Son

Professional and Dignified Service with Courtesy and Respect

Breadalbane Street, Oban
Argyll PA34 5NZ
Tel: (01631) 562562 & 562203
Mob: 07778 373 759
email: info@mumns-oban.co.uk
www.mumns-oban.co.uk

24 hour Family Run Business
Repatiation Service

Golden Charter Funeral Plans

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
Marie Curie Care
Mannin, 2/5 Lismore House
Station Road, Oban
01631 571009

CANCER RESEARCH UK
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK
Angel Building
407 St John Street
London EC1V 4AD

Oban Lorne lose out to league leaders

Oban Lorne 19
Glasgow Academicals 33
BT West Division 1

OBAN Lorne took on West Division 1 leaders Glasgow Academicals at North Connel on Saturday. Accies, who had only lost one league fixture all season, were heading to Oban looking for a much-needed win to setup a title-winning clash with Allan Glens next weekend. Accies had been dominating the league until a surprise 25-18 loss to Kilmarnock which has let second placed Newton Stewart in for contention of the championship.

The Green Machine were looking for a positive performance from a team missing first choice players including captain Cameron Smith, brother Struan and second row Lorne MacLachlan, who is still out due to injury.

Oban were dealt a blow after only four minutes when second row Jack Baxter was yellow carded for being offside close to the tryline. Accies elected to kick for the corner but could not get past

a stern Oban defence. Eventually the visitors took the lead with a penalty, 0-3.

Despite being a man down, Oban rumbled upfield with the dominance of their heavier pack and some good runs from Dave McCabe and Rufus Stones. A couple of clever kicks from stand off Finlay Carmichael gifted Oban the necessary territory to force a penalty from the defence and draw the score to 3-3 with a Carmichael kick.

Accies hit back shortly after with the first try of the game. A break from midfield set up former Oban Lorne and Isle of Mull player Angus MacCaulum, who touched down underneath the posts to give Accies a 10-3 lead with a successful conversion.

Oban refused to let the Accies dent their confidence as they forced their way back upfield towards the tryline. Accies were struggling to cope with Oban's physical pack, who were dominating the scrummage and also winning the lineout contest with the ball being thrown long to



The Green Machine's Corrie Louw is brought down as he tries to break through the Accies defence. Photographs: Stephen Lawson

Frenchman Antoine De La Pam. The home side hit back with a further two Carmichael penalties for a halftime score of 10-9 to Accies. The away side were themselves depleted to 14 men with another sinbining.

It was the home side who had a strong start to the second half taking the lead after 24 minutes with another Carmichael kick, 12-10.

The visitors, when back to their full complement of 15 players, hit back with some good attacking play in their own half. Accies failed to breach the tryline but took over the lead 16-12 with two penalties.

With 20 minutes to go Oban gained a penalty in the 22 with some poor discipline in the Accies defence. A kick to the corner gave Oban the perfect attacking opportunity to apply pressure to the tryline. This proved to be the turning point for the rest of

the game as Accies raced upfield with an intercepted pass. Oban prop Tommy Sutherland was then sinbinned for coming into the side of the ruck much to the frustration of the home support.

With a man advantage and attacking a tiring pack, Accies scored their second try of the game to lead 23-12. Another penalty kick followed closely after for the visitors to take their tally to 26 points.

Oban again refused to let their heads go down and fought hard to get back into the game. Luck proved to be on Accies' side, however, as a quick lineout throw from Oban was intercepted and they scored over the line with 10 minutes to go to put the result beyond doubt, 33-12.

The Green Machine were rewarded with a last minute try from this season's top scorer Tommy Sutherland. Sutherland picked and went to a five-metre penalty for the final score of the afternoon to give a full time score of 33-19 to the visitors.

Oban Lorne were left disappointed after the game knowing that if it wasn't for a couple of unforced errors and an improvement in fitness would have seen a much favourable scoreline.

Accies, however, were worthy of the win and are now firm favourites to secure promotion to National Division 3 next Saturday. Oban Lorne now turn their



Oban Lorne captain Craig Wright meets his namesake Craig Wright, who is captain of Glasgow Accies.

Rugby

attention to next week's game against struggling Camuslang, who lost 29-20 against bottom of the table Garnock on Saturday.

Camuslang refused to play at North Connel two weeks ago, deciding that the dead ball area was unsafe. Hopefully the visitors will have a more positive outlook this Saturday as Oban Lorne will be looking to get back to winning ways. Kick off 3pm at Glencruitten or North Connel.

Oban Lorne will be hosting their 2016 club dinner on Saturday May 7 in the clubhouse. Tickets are available from Tommy Sutherland in the Regent Hotel.

This year's guest speaker will be former Scotland Captain Jason White.

BT West Division 4 Argyll and Bute P Police Scotland P

Due to only one playing surface being available in Oban on Saturday, Argyll and Bute's home game against league winners Police Scotland was postponed.

Argyll are in home action this Saturday as they play third placed Shawlands. Kick off 3pm likely to be at North Connel.

Oban reach plate final at Grange hockey tournament

Hockey

OBAN Hockey Club travelled to Grange Hockey club for a tournament based around the beautiful and historic Grange pavilion in Edinburgh over the Easter weekend.

Oban have travelled to Grange every year since the club formed in 2011 and the tournament has become a firm favourite with the Oban team due to the friendly yet competitive spirit of the play.

Oban hoped to replicate the success of previous years where they made it to the grand final of the competition.

However, an early start on Saturday morning against a well-organised and motivated Grange veterans team saw Oban go down 2-0.

After this shaky start Oban rallied well and registered a no-score draw against a team from Watsonians.

Oban finally opened their scoring account in the third match against Grange with a good solo goal from Andrew Hodge to level the scores at 1-1.

By midday on Saturday Oban were playing well defensively but the team were under pressure in midfield and struggling to create goal scoring opportunities.

Long day
Saturday was a long day of hockey with a total of seven games played. By Saturday evening Oban had recorded two wins, two losses and three draws and it became clear that a place in the plate competition beckoned for Sunday rather than the full trophy.

On Sunday morning it was apparent that some of the Oban players were suffering fatigue from the exertions of the day before. Despite this and the rain Oban rallied to record wins against teams from Fife and Edinburgh to reach the plate final.

Special mention for heroics in goal should be given to both Oban goalkeepers, Heather Robertson and David Love, and to top scoring striker 13-year-old Zeph Petit.

As luck would have it Oban had already played and beaten the team from Fife they were to meet in the final so confidence was high. However, the Fifers appeared to have learnt from their previous experience and squeezed Oban hard eventually winning the match and the plate by a single goal.

Oban will try again next year.

Top appointment for Dee

SCOTTISH Rugby has appointed two new representatives to Rugby Europe and the Celtic Rugby Limited board, the company operating the Guinness PRO12, respectively.

Oban Lorne RFC president and Scottish Rugby Council member Dee Bradbury joins Rugby Europe, the European Governing body for the sport, which represents the interests of 49 different nations.

The appointment will see Dee, who has been a Scottish Rugby Council member since 2013, eligible to sit on a number of Rugby Europe sub-committees looking at developing the game and women's rugby.

Dee joins Scottish Rugby's chief operating officer, Dominic McKay, at Rugby Europe.

Dee said: 'I'm delighted to have been appointed as one of Scottish Rugby's representatives to Rugby Europe.'

'I consider it essential that the views and interests of Scottish Rugby are represented at all international fora, in particular Rugby Europe, which is a platform for many of our international competitions at all age levels right up to the professional game.'

Tight at the top in Oban Pool League

RESULTS: March 29 - Lochavullins Cellar 6-6 Lancaster A. March 31 - Lochnell 6-6 Markie Dans A; Lancaster A 11-1 Wide Mouthed Frog; Lancaster B 3-9 Lochavullins Cellar; Lochavullin 3-9 Gluepot; Markie Dans B 10-2 Outreach.

Fixtures: April 7 - Lochavullins Cellar v Wide Mouthed Frog; Lochnell v Lancaster A; Markie Dans A v Lochavullin; Outreach v Lancaster B; Gluepot v Markie Dans B.

OBAN POOL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	Ff	Fa	Fd	Pts
1 Lancaster A	15	13	1	1	143	37	106	27
2 Lochnell	15	13	1	1	139	41	98	27
3 Lochavullin's Cellar	14	12	1	1	118	58	68	25
4 Markie Dans A	14	7	3	4	102	66	36	17
5 Lancaster B	15	8	1	6	100	80	20	17
6 Gluepot	13	7	0	6	80	76	4	14
7 Markie Dans B	15	4	1	10	73	107	-34	9
8 Lochavullin	15	3	1	12	61	119	-58	7
9 Wide Mouthed Frog	15	2	0	13	39	114	-102	4
10 Outreach	15	0	0	15	19	116	-142	0



At a recent triples competition run by North Connel Bowling Club the winners were Ally and Angus Dickie and Neil McCorkindale, Kilmore who beat Michael, Lachie and Mary Strathern, Benderloch. Above, from left, Neil McCorkindale, Ally and Angus Dickie.

BJJ
OBAN BJJ travelled to Kilmarnock on April 3 to an inter-club event, a full report of which will be in the next column. The club also has a group of five competitors travelling to Edinburgh this Sunday (April 10) to take part in the UK BJJ 24/7 tournament.

This will be a tough test with a couple of boys stepping into the blue belt division brackets for the first time. Good luck to all those competing.

Training continues as normal and the club are trying to encourage high school-aged boys and girls to try out the classes. Anyone interested should contact Iain 'Coogie' Potter on 07824 881271 or on coogiepots@gmail.com

Kyokushinkai Karate
KYOKUSHINKAI classes continue as normal through the Easter holidays.

Two junior fighters are taking part in the Kyokushin Cup tournament in Glasgow this Saturday

MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER

(April 9). Darryl McLaughlin, 14, is taking part in his first full contact event while Megan Williamson, 14, will be competing for the third time.

Darryl will also be contesting in the kata (set patterns) section. Both fighters are wished the best of luck.

The hard work has been done and there has been no contact training over the last week to minimise the risk of injury prior to the event.

The club will not be taking on new members now until July to give the current members a clear run up to the next grading test in June. There is a set syllabus of increasingly difficult techniques to be worked on along with any competition training. For club details contact Iain

Rodger on: 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk.

Shukokai Karate

AFTER the Easter break, Argyll Martial Arts will be holding their spring grading. Iona MacCulloch from Inveraray will be sitting her black belt exam.

Iona has been training for seven years, and rarely misses out on a class. Her natural competitive spirit and high level of fitness makes her an ideal student for martial arts.

The grading exam will last for two hours and involves testing on everything Iona has been taught over the past seven years. She is wished the best of luck Iona.

For club details contact Kenny Gray on: kenni.gray@btinternet.com.

Kickboxing

Senshi Do kickboxing has no less than eleven fighters entered in the Kyokushin Cup event in Glasgow this Saturday, Craig MacLachlan in the adult section along with Billy Bratton, Adam Bratton, Connor MacLean, Daniel MacInnes, Cody McCulloch, Robbie Bratton, Angus Files, Sara MacIntyre, Jessica Graham and Kaitlyne MacLeod in the Junior sections.

The fighters have all been training hard for the event over the last couple of months. Good luck to all those taking part.

The classes continue as normal with no break for the Easter holidays, Wednesdays junior class is 6:30 - 7:30pm and the adult class is 7:30 - 9:00pm.

Sunday classes are: Juniors 11:00am - 12noon, adults 12noon - 2:00pm and ladies only from 2:00pm.

For Kickboxing club general enquiries contact Wullie Rodger on: 07588 513618 or shihanwill@gmail.com

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2400

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

S MacLennan
Islay Road
Oban

J MacArthur
Longsdale Cres
Oban

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.

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. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.
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

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.

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 Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. 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



Camanachd Cup
Macaulay Cup
MacTavish Cup
Celtic Society Cup

SHI
Best for all shinty new

Sutherland and Balliemore Cup

AFTER a mixture of league and cup action, Kyles Athletic top the Marine Harvest Premiership and Skye, Aberdeen and Boleskine made cup progress following the shinty action on Saturday April 2.

Camanachd Cup - preliminary round

Bute P
Inverness P
 There was disappointment for Bute and Inverness as the Meadows was deemed unplayable on Friday afternoon. Strachurmore was lined up as an alternative venue but it also proved unplayable. This Camanachd Cup preliminary round tie will be rescheduled.

The winners will travel to Braeview Park to play Beaulieu in the Camanachd Cup first round on Saturday May 7.

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup – first round

Boleskine 5
Bute 2
 Boleskine came from two goals down to beat Bute's second team 5-2 in their 1pm throw up at Smith Park, Farr.

Graham Fisher put Bute ahead on 10 minutes and Neil McKirdy made it 2-0 on 29 minutes. Boleskine's Jamie Matheson pulled a goal back just three minutes before the break and Neil Hope levelled the tie five minutes after the restart.

Jamie Matheson got his second to put Boleskine in front for the first time in the contest on 73 minutes.

Dickie MacKenzie made it 4-2 with 15 minutes remaining and a hat-trick goal from Jamie Matheson on 85 minutes rounded off the 5-2 win.

Boleskine now await a home meeting with the winners of the tie between Caithness and Beaulieu's second team.

Kyles Athletic P Fort William P

The Kyles Athletic colts and the Fort William colts will try again after an unplayable pitch at Tighnabraich put paid to their Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup first round tie.

RBS MacTavish Cup first round

Skye Camanachd 4
Kilmallie 3
 The final RBS MacTavish Cup first round tie between Skye Camanachd and Kilmallie went ahead in Portree after Skye's Pairc nan Laoch pitch passed a Saturday morning pitch inspection.

And it's Skye Camanachd who survived a second half Kilmallie comeback to win 4-3 following an entertaining encounter.

The tie was postponed last weekend because of an unplayable pitch but there were no problems this time around as the field was in great condition and it passed an 8am Saturday morning

inspection, despite heavy rain the previous day.

Skye went close to opening the scoring after 13 minutes when Kilmallie keeper Shane Gillies made a spectacular save from Neil MacVicar. The islanders went in front a couple of minutes later when Danny Morrison picked up a clearance out of the Kilmallie defence, wide on the Skye right. His blistering shot swerved goalwards and although the keeper got a hand to the ball, it beat him at his left post.

Skye doubled their lead on 18 minutes when Chris MacLennan was bundled down inside the D and referee Innes Wood pointed to the penalty spot. Jordan Murchison sent the spot-hit low into the net to make it 2-0.

The Canal Parks side pulled a goal back on 25 minutes when Ryan Stewart darted in unmarked at the back post on the Kilmallie left to slot home a Grant MacKenzie cross from the right.

Skye regained their two goal advantage a couple of minutes later when Jordan Murchison skipped past two Kilmallie defenders down the Skye right before firing a forceful shot over Shane Gillies' right shoulder to make it 3-1.

Kilmallie fought back but it was Skye who would take a 4-1 lead into the break when a bobbling effort from Kenny Campbell took an awkward bounce past the keeper.

Kilmallie's Mark Graham was penalised for kicking a rebound off Skye keeper Ian MacLeod into the net not long after the restart before Duncan Rodger pulled a goal back after Iain MacLeod had saved from Mark Graham on 63 minutes.

There was more to come from the visitors as a 71st minute Michael Rodger corner found Mark Graham at the back post setting up Duncan Rodger who netted his second to make it 4-3.

Shane Gillies made a brilliant save to deny Jordan Murchison a hat-trick and Kilmallie came within a whisker of taking the tie to extra time on more than one occasion.

Innes Wood's final whistle means Skye Camanachd will now host Newtonmore in the quarter-finals at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree on Saturday April 16.

Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Cup first round

Taynuilt 0
Aberdour 0
 (After extra-time – Aberdour won 3-1 on penalties)
 It took two hours of shinty and a penalty shoot-out to separate Taynuilt and Aberdour at Taynuilt Sports Field.

This tie was also played at the second attempt following the previous weekend's postponement.

There were no goals during the 90 minutes and neither side could break the deadlock during the extra time period so referee

Graham Cameron took the tie to a penalty shoot-out.

Craig Girvan, Angus Thorburn and Craig Grant scored from the blustering shot swerved goalwards and they will be at home to Inveraray in the quarter-finals on Saturday April 16.

Glenorchy P Oban Celtic P

The tie between Glenorchy and Oban Celtic was postponed for a second successive Saturday as Mart Park was again unplayable.

This first round tie has been rescheduled for this coming weekend.

The winners will visit Yoker to play Glasgow Mid Argyll in the quarter-finals on Saturday April 16.

Marine Harvest Premiership Lochaber 2 Kyles Athletic 6

A spectacular finish to the game from Kyles Athletic shot them to the top of the table, thanks to a 6-2 win over Lochaber at Spean Bridge.

Lochaber had Jack Dignan available again and he took over in defence from injured first team captain Brian MacDonald. Martin Johnstone was working so he wasn't able to appear until half-an-hour from the end. Zandz Ferguson was also missing.

Cammy Keith returned for Kyles but they were missing Dunkie Kerr and Robbie MacLeod as well as Sandy MacVicar who may not play again this season through injury.

Lochaber went in front on seven minutes when a great Shaun Nicolson strike from the left flew across the goal and into the net to make it 1-0.

Lochaber defender Barry MacDonald had to come off for treatment and Kyles took advantage of his absence to level on 35 minutes as Roddy MacDonald got onto a high ball to score.

Kyles thought they had gone in front when an Innes MacDonald strike came off the woodwork with the visitors claiming the ball had hit the post and the back of the goal before rebounding back into play.

Kyles pressed the Lochaber rear-guard in the second half and home boss Ally Ferguson was forced to make a second change as Neil MacDonald came off with a hamstring problem. Donald MacRae came on in his place.

Stuart Callison put Lochaber back in front on 67 minutes after Kyles' keeper John Whyte had saved from Shaun Nicolson.

Whyte made some more good saves, particularly from Shaun Nicolson, to prevent Lochaber increasing their lead.

Kyles made changes with David Zavaroni coming on at full centre which allowed Grant Irvine to go to half forward. Roddy MacDonald also dropped back to half forward with another substitute, Gordon Whyte, taking up one of the full forward berths.

Kyles were awarded a penalty on 72 minutes when a marauding David Zavaroni was brought down by Brennan MacDonald with the home side claiming the incident took place just outside the 'D'. Referee Archie Ritchie waved away their claims and Gordon Whyte converted the spot-hit to make it 2-2.

Gordon Whyte got his second on 78 minutes and Lochaber seemed stunned by the swift turnaround in the game.

Whyte completed his hat-trick on 83 minutes and Grant Irvine made it 5-2 for a ruthless Kyles side a minute later.

Innes MacDonald rounded off the scoring a minute from time when he closed down a Pat Toal clearance and got past his marker before playing a one-two with Scott MacDonald and then taking a touch past an advancing Callum MacDonald in the Lochaber goal to score.

Lochaber put in a lot of effort and the final outcome was harsh on them but Kyles showed their experience and determination to take the points and they top the table on goal difference.

Oban Camanachd 3 Kingussie 1

Oban Camanachd moved to second place in the premiership

with this 3-1 win over Kingussie. Kyles Athletic lead on goal difference.

After a morning inspection Mossfield was declared playable for the Oban side's first home fixture of the season.

Team manager Ian Hay had a full squad to choose from with the exception of long-term injury victim Keith MacMillan. Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish, youngster Daniel MacVicar, Ian MacMillan and Robert Alexander started on the bench.

After three home league matches which produced two wins and a draw, this was a first away-day of the season for top of the table Kingussie. Keeper Craig Dawson was still out so Rory MacGregor continued to deputise. Lee Bain and Rory MacKeachan were still absent but James Hutchison and Fraser Munro returned. But there was no Louis Munro who made what is likely to be a rare appearance the previous weekend.

The home side got off to the best possible start, taking the lead after just two minutes. Lorne Dickie collected a clearance out of the Kingussie defence around 20 yards from goal and he fired a shot into the bottom right corner of the net.

There was more delight for the home crowd on 10 minutes when Oban Camanachd doubled their lead. Oban had a free-hit out on the right wing which Scott MacMillan played into the 'D'. Daniel Cameron and Malcolm Clark had switched places and, as Kingussie keeper Rory MacGregor failed to clear the danger, Cameron challenged him before putting the ball in the net from just a couple of yards out.

Kingussie suffered a blow when they lost defender James Hutchison after 30 minutes.

The second half saw Kingussie start brightly putting the Camanachd defensive unit of Garry Lord, Scott MacKillop, Gary McKerracher and James MacMillan under pressure and keeper Gavin Stobbart having to look lively as the Kingussie forwards pressed for the goal that would bring them back into the game.

It was the home side who went further in front when Aidan MacIntyre, who had a great game, set up Oban's third goal on 53 minutes when a long shy dropped between the 'D' and penalty spot where it fell for Daniel Cameron and he put a shot on goal. Keeper MacGregor saved the initial

End to shinty/hurling double-header

THE 2016 Marine Harvest shinty/hurling international between the Scotland and Ireland senior teams will revert back to a single match.

The home and away fixture series was introduced in 2010, first with an aggregate score settling the overall outcome and then a points scoring system with the two games played on a stand-alone basis last year.

However, the 2016 clash will be a one-off game in Inverness with the Marine Harvest Quaih at stake.

effort but he could only divert the ball into the path of the on-rushing Willie Neilson who took the ball in the air and sent it high into the net to make it 3-1.

Referee Lachie Wood awarded Kingussie a penalty four minutes from time when he adjudged Aidan MacIntyre to have kicked the ball inside the 'D'. Ryan Borthwick sent the spot-hit into the bottom left corner of the net, just out of the reach of Oban goalie Gavin Stobbart.

It was a good team performance and a deserved win for Oban Camanachd and they now only trail league leaders Kyles on goal difference. Kingussie, who are also on five points, are in third place and they are only behind the top two on goal difference although they have played a game more.

Oban Camanachd manager Iain Hay was very satisfied with his team. 'I thought the whole team played really well and we deserved the win,' he said. 'I think we restricted Kingussie to very few shots on target and Gavin Stobbart dealt with anything that came his way. The defence was solid and the fact we got off to such a good start was a great help.'

Kingussie co-manager Russell Jones had no complaints over the final outcome.



A determined James MacMillan of Oban Camanachd goes into a tackle with Kingussie's
 Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Taking in the game was international team manager Ronald Ross who must have been impressed by the form of home players Scott MacKillop, established international Daniel Cameron and up front Lorne Dickie

defeat to Kingussie through suspension. Sean Cameron was also back and he started on the bench.

Lovat were without long-term absentee Calum MacAulay whilst Craig Mainland was still out. Lewis Tawse was back but Martin Mainland, Michael MacKenzie, Graeme MacMillan and Connal MacIllechiar were all missing. There was a place in the starting 12 for Scott MacKenzie who was a capable replacement for his older brother Michael at wing back.

Fort William had the first chance of the game after just 30 seconds when Daniel Stewart picked up a miss-hit clearance from Lovat goalie Stuart MacDonald but Stewart's strike hit the frame of the goal before rebounding to safety.

Stuart MacDonald then made a good save to keep out a Bryan Simpson shot which was heading for the corner of the net.

MacDonald again denied Simpson on 27 minutes when he pulled a 35-yard shot out of the air with his caman.

Fort William were forced to make a change on 35 minutes when Daniel Stewart had to come off with what seemed like a hamstring injury. Cal Brown came on in his place.

Lovat's Euan Ferguson sent a shot just wide of the far post on 43 minutes from a tight angle, wide on the left.

Greg Matheson had had a quiet first half by his standards but he showed a great piece of skill on 51 minutes as he steered a ball in the air just over the bar for what would have been a spectacular finish.

A Greg Matheson snap-shot was well-saved by Paul MacKay on 57 minutes.

Lovat then had to make a change as Drew Howie was helped off the field. Bailey MacKay came on in attack with Danny Kelly dropping back into defence.

The game's opening goal came on 65 minutes. Paul MacKay saved with his feet from Euan Ferguson but he couldn't get the

ball away and Greg Matheson was quickly in to force the ball over the line to make it 1-0.

Drew Howe was able to come back on for Lovat after receiving treatment with Euan Ferguson withdrawn.

With 20 minutes remaining, Steven Stewart came on for Fort William, taking over from Graham Campbell in attack.

The contest was bad-tempered at times and referee Euan MacRae booked Steven Stewart for a challenge on Callum Cruden.

Fort William finished strongly and will feel unlucky not to have taken something from the game.

With 10 minutes remaining, Lewis Morrison hit a shot into the side-netting from the edge of the D after a good move.

All Fort William's dangerous play seemed to involve Bryan Simpson and he sent a back-hand strike just past the post a minute later.

Stuart MacDonald made a terrific save to keep out another Simpson strike following a free-hit on 83 minutes.

Sean Cameron then replaced Lewis Morrison in the Fort William forward line.

It was Lovat, with Lorne MacKay making great runs in attack, who would seal the points with a minute remaining. Kevin Bartlett showed great control as he collected a long ball to his left in the air.

Bartlett then spun before hitting a powerful shot which went into the net off keeper MacKay.

There were good contests all over the park, in particular between Fort full back Mark Grant and Greg Matheson and at the other end, between Fort defender Sean Cruickshank and Kevin Bartlett.

Glenurquhart 1
Kinlochshiel 2
 With Kirkton ruled unplayable on Friday afternoon, the match between Kinlochshiel and Glenurquhart was switched to Blairbeg, with a noon throw up. Kinlochshiel bounced back



Glenurquhart's Iain Macleod and Kinlochshiel's Gordy MacDonald battle for the ball during last weekend's premiership match. Iain celebrated his 40th birthday on April 1. Photo: Donald Cameron

SHINTY

news, results and fixtures

Sutherland Cup
Balliemore Cup
Strathdearn Cup
Bullough Cup



Matches take place this weekend



Fraser Munro.

fell kindly for John MacRae to score his second goal of the afternoon. The strike, from 10 yards out, proved to be the game's winning goal.

The Kinlochshiel midfield of full centre Oliver MacRae, flanked by Donald Nixon and Gordie MacDonald, was outstanding and the visitors could have won by a bigger margin.

However, they could have been made to pay late in the match when Scott Kennedy saved well from Michael Fraser.

Glenurquhart can now look forward to a trip to New York City to take part in Tartan Week on Saturday April 9 and Sunday April 10. They will play an exhibition shinty match at Dyckman Soccer Field on Sunday April 10.

Marine Harvest National Division

Glasgow Mid Argyll 2 Inveraray 3

The only scheduled match in the Marine Harvest National Division was the 3pm throw up at Yoker between league leaders Glasgow Mid Argyll and Inveraray.

John McNulty was still banned for GMA as he served the final match of his suspension.

Inveraray boss Ruairidh Graham was without Garry MacPherson so regular wing centre David MacPherson started in attack.

Inveraray have a good record in matches against Glasgow Mid Argyll and although this was a scrappy encounter, it was a welcome two points for the team from the Winterton.

Inveraray's Lewis MacNicol opened the scoring on 12 minutes with well-taken strike from 25 yards out.

Having taken the lead, Inveraray seemed to sit back and GMA came more into the game. Craig Anderson, marked by Ally MacDonald, was their main goal threat but the home side struggled to work Scott McLachlan in the Inveraray goal.

GMA equalised on the half-hour mark when Innes MacMillan carved his way through the Inveraray defence before finding the back of the net.

Inveraray made a switch at the back with John Kennedy now assigned to pick up danger-man Anderson.

Inveraray youngster Lewis Montgomery put his side back in front on 35 minutes with a superb strike, turning a David MacPherson corner into the roof of the net to make it 2-1.

Inveraray brought on Douglas Dando and Ruairidh Graham in the second half but it was GMA who would level for a second time on 67 minutes when referee David Mitchell pointed to the penalty spot after consulting with his goal judge with John Kennedy penalised for a trip.

Garry Luke crashed the spot-hit into the roof of the net to make it 2-2.

GMA looked the likelier to get a winner at this stage but it was Inveraray who would get themselves in front for the third time in the afternoon with 10 minutes remaining. Grant Griffin and

Ryan Harrison had been battling hard throughout the game and Griffin escaped Harrison's clutches before coolly slotting the ball past keeper Jonathon Oates to make it 3-2.

This was a first league defeat for GMA but they stay top of the table with Inveraray moving into second spot.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaulieu 0 Strathglass 3

Table toppers Strathglass extended their lead at the top of the table with a 3-0 triumph over Beaulieu's second team at Braeview Park.

Beaulieu took the field in a new set of strips provided by long-term sponsors, The Williamson Group, Inverness. Home manager Neil Brindle included youngsters Sandy Elrick, Robbie Brindle and Andrew Morrison as their first team were not in action. Regular second team full forward Martin Davidson was unavailable.

Strathglass were without full centre Michael Stokes so Hamish Myers lined up in the middle of the park against Beaulieu powerhouse Sandy Tulloch.

The first half looked as if it would end goal-less before the visitors broke the deadlock a couple of minutes before the break. Steven Hyslop latched onto a loose ball. His low, 25-yard shot took a wicked bounce in front of Beaulieu keeper Lee Dunbar and deflected into the net off the keeper's leg.

Strathglass looked the likelier to add to their lead but they weren't able to get the crucial second goal until five minutes from time. Scott Douglas was first to react to a clearance out of the Beaulieu defence and he tucked the ball low into the net to make it 2-0 with what was his ninth goal of the season.

Darren Reid made it 3-0 on the stroke of full time when he fired the ball just inside the post.

The game was well refereed by Scott McNeil.

Newtonmore 5 Skye Camanachd 3

The Newtonmore second team recovered from last weekend's defeat to Strathglass by beating the Skye Camanachd second team 5-3 at the Eilan.

With no first team game, 'More were able to include young forward Iain Robinson, whilst Jamie Robinson made an appearance on his way back following an operation.

Skye travelled without Neil John Campbell and Ally 'Cleodh' MacLeod who were both called up by the first team.

Two early strikes from Iain Robinson on 10 and 17 minutes put the home side 2-0 in front.

James Pringle on 22 minutes and Iain MacLellan on 29 minutes drew the sides level before Iain Robinson completed a first half hat-trick to make it 3-2 at the break.

Ruaridh MacLeod drew Skye level for a second time a couple of minutes after the break.

Late goals from Iain Robinson - his fourth - after 76 minutes and



Lovat's Daniel Grieve gets to the ball in front of Fort William's Graham Campbell during their Marine Harvest Premiership match last Saturday. Lovat won 2-0. Photo: Neil Paterson

John MacKenzie a couple of minutes later gave 'More a 5-2 win.

Glenurquhart 0 Kinlochshiel 0

After their senior teams met earlier in the day at Blairbeg, the Glenurquhart colts and the Kinlochshiel colts took the field later in the afternoon.

Neither team were able to break the deadlock so the Glen picked up their first point of the season whilst 'Shiel remain fifth in the table.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen University 5 Caberfeidh 1

The top two teams in the division met in a 1.30pm throw up at Balmorie where Aberdeen University beat the Caberfeidh reserves 5-1.

The students were missing their captain Greg Tillman as well as defender Iain Fraser and top goal scorer Ewen Fraser. Player/manager Jamie Beaton started in place of Fraser in attack.

The Aberdeen side started well and they took the game to Cabers on what was a soft and bobbly pitch.

The home side took the lead on 11 minutes when Alex Duncan collected a pass forward, spun his marker and tucked the ball away to make it 1-0.

Caberfeidh were always a threat but the Aberdeen defence stood firm as they guarded their clean sheet record, having not conceded a goal in their opening fixtures.

Alex Duncan popped up again to make it 2-0 on 33 minutes and the home side took that lead into the break.

Aberdeen knew they couldn't rest on their laurels as they were in the same situation against Ca-

bers last season before eventually losing 5-4. An early second half goal from Stuart Cameron, following a cut back from Kenny Cushnie three minutes after the restart, gave them a 3-0 cushion.

The goal was a blow for Cabers and worse was to follow as Alex Duncan completed his hat-trick with the goal of the game from 35 yards out a couple of minutes later.

Duncan showed great technique as he controlled a shy from the left before striking the ball into the bottom corner of the net.

The game became a bit disjointed but the visitors made some changes before Stuart Kryzanowski pulled a goal back out of nothing on 86 minutes.

Aberdeen went straight up the park and substitute Willie Hunter, who had come on for Jamie Beaton, made it 5-1 a couple of minutes later as he took an Alex Duncan lay-off before netting.

Glengarry 1 Lochaber 4

The Lochaber second team recovered from last week's defeat to Aberdeen University to beat Glengarry 4-1 in their derby meeting at Craigard.

Glengarry's Scott Bremner was free of a two-match suspension and Lochaber's James MacIntyre was finally over a four-game ban.

Lochaber raced into a 3-0 interval lead. Danny Delaney put the Spean Bridge side in front on 17 minutes and Findlay MacDonald made it 2-0 with 25 minutes played.

A second from Danny Delaney on 41 minutes made it 3-0 at the break and left 'Garry with an uphill task.

Keith Neville put gloss on the win with a strike five minutes from time, lifting the red and whites to third place in the league.

Strathspey Camanachd 3 Lewis Camanachd 1

Strathspey Camanachd notched their first win of the season when they came from behind to beat Lewis Camanachd 3-1 in their 1.30pm throw up at Grantown Grammar School.

The home side made a decent start to the game but they almost fell behind when a Kenny Murray shot from an acute angle went just past the post following a corner.

Lewis had Eoghan Stewart back in goal as Graham Carey was unavailable and he made the first of a series of good saves to keep his side on level terms.

Lewis Camanachd's most decorated player, Paul Duke, had a couple of attempts from distance before he succeeded with a third strike which flew low into the net to make it 1-0 on 26 minutes.

Strathspey responded well and they pressured the Lewis defence before Jonathon Gray levelled following a corner just a minute before half-time.

Lewis had a great chance to go in front early in the second

half when referee Iain Kennedy awarded them a penalty. However, Strathspey keeper Steven Shand saved Kenny Murray's low spot-hit. Strathspey laid siege on the Lewis goal and they got their reward when the excellent Jonathon Gray ran in to score his second goal of the game after 53 minutes.

Graham Shand sealed the win with a shot 20 minutes from time to make it 3-1 and had it not been for some fine saves from Eoghan Stewart, the winning margin could have been bigger.

Lochcarron P Kilmallie P

The wet west coast weather meant the match between Lochcarron and the Kilmallie second team was postponed on Friday afternoon as Battery Park was unplayable.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Glasgow Mid Argyll 2 Oban Lorn 1

The Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds beat Oban Lorn 2-1 in their noon throw up at Yoker.

Oban Lorn's Calum MacLean served the second match of a two-game suspension. Daniel MacKinnon also missed out for the Oban side following his red card against the Aberdour seconds a fortnight earlier.

When referee David Mitchell pointed to the penalty spot after 10 minutes, GMA's Luke Thornton stepped up to fire the ball home.

Conal Mulholland, who missed much of last season when he was abroad, made it 2-0 on 17 minutes. Oban Lorn's David Martin pulled a goal back three minutes after the restart but GMA stayed in front to take the points with a 2-1 win.

Aberdour 0 Dunoon 4

It was a memorable day for Dunoon as they beat the Aberdour reserves 4-0 at Silver Sands to record their first win in senior shinty.

Dunoon's Jonathan Black was free of suspension after missing the heavy defeat to Kilmory a fortnight earlier.

The visitors, in their new strips which acknowledge sponsors Shearwater Marine Services and Cowal Physiotherapy, got off to the perfect start when Duncan Smart put them ahead in the opening minute.

Jonathan Black marked his return with a goal to make it 2-0 on the half-hour and Roddy Cairns added a third just three minutes before the break.

The second half was a more even affair and Jamie Morrison, who had put in a power of work throughout the game, rounded off a good day for Dunoon when he netted on 62 minutes to make it 4-0.

Fixtures

Saturday April 9

Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Society Cup 1st Round
Glenorchy v Oban Celtic
Lachie Wood

Balliemore Cup 1st Round

Strathglass v Bute
Archie Ritchie - 1pm
Kilmallie v Inveraray
Innes Wood - 3pm
Caberfeidh v Inverness
Evan MacRae - 3pm
Ballachulish v Glasgow MA
Neil Ferguson
Aberdour v Col Glen
David Mitchell - 3pm

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup 1st Round

Caberfeidh v SCOTS
Daniel MacRae - noon
Oban Lorn v Lewis
Iain Kennedy
Aberdeen Uni v Kinlochshiel
Brian MacKay
Kilmallie v Lovat
Duncan Kelly - noon
Inverness v Lochaber
Scott McNeil
Caithness v Beaulieu
John Matheson
Kilmory v Inveraray
Robert Baxter - 2pm
Glenurquhart v Lochside Rovers
Martin MacLean
Aberdour v Kingussie
Alan Harrison - noon
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Skye
Jon Gallagher

Marine Harvest Premiership

Lovat v Kingussie
John Angus Gillies
Lochaber v Newtonmore
Deek Cameron
Oban Caman v Kinlochshiel
Graham Cameron
Skye v Fort William
Calum Girvan

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Strathspey v Lochcarron
Ronnie Campbell - 1.30pm

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute v Tayforth
Ross Brown

(Throw ups 2.30 unless stated)

Results

Saturday April 2

Marine Harvest Premiership
Lovat 2-0 Fort William
Glenurquhart 1-2 Kinlochshiel
Lochaber 2-6 Kyles Athletic
Oban Camanachd 3-1 Kingussie

National Division

Glasgow MA 2-3 Inveraray

North Division One

Beaulieu 0-3 Strathglass
Glenurquhart 0-0 Kinlochshiel
Newtonmore 5-3 Skye

North Division Two

Aberdeen Uni 5-1 Caberfeidh
Glengarry 1-4 Lochaber
Lochcarron P-P Kilmallie
Unplayable field
Strathspey 3-1 Lewis

South Division Two

Glasgow MA 2-1 Oban Lorn
Aberdour 0-4 Dunoon

Camanachd Cup Preliminary Round

Bute P-P Inverness
Unplayable field

RBS MacTavish Cup

Skye 4-3 Kilmallie

Gregor Cameron Consultancy

Celtic Society Cup
Taynuilt 0-0 Aberdour
Aberdour won 3-1 on penalties
Glenorchy P-P Oban Celtic
Unplayable field

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup

Boleskine 5-2 Bute
Kyles Athletic P-P Fort William
Unplayable field



The Oban Camanachd squad before Saturday's premiership game against Kingussie. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



like us on facebook

www.facebook.com/obantimes

Extra-time wonder strike kills off Saints' Scottish Cup dreams

Oban Saints 1
Leven United 2
Scottish Cup - semi final (after extra time)

AN EXTRA-TIME goal from Leven United was enough to end Oban Saints' Scottish cup dream, with the Oban side losing 2-1 last Thursday in the biggest game of the club's 56-year history at Hamilton's New Douglas Park.

The Oban side kicked off with Scott Maitland playing the ball to his namesake Ross Maitland. Ross Maitland spotted Scott Maitland's continued run and slipped the ball back to him. He then twisted and turned before attempting to cross the ball into the box, but a sliding tackle from Stefan Anderson blocked the attempt.

Shortly after, a lofted pass from Jamie Murrie dropped in behind the Oban Saints defence and was chased down by Anderson, who, on the half volley, hit a tame effort that drifted wide of the far left post.

Ross Maitland then had a chance, when he played the ball to Donald Campbell who skilfully nutmegged his marker before setting up Ross Maitland, who had the best chance of the match so far, but his shot on goal didn't trouble Curran between the posts and struck the side netting. Perhaps a cut-back would have been the better option.

Thinking
On the very next attack, it was the Leven players who were left with their heads in their hands thinking they should have scored.

Anderson whipped in a free kick from the left-hand side, which was flicked up into the air in the middle of the box, before dropping to Ross Smith at the back post. Smith then blasted the ball off the post with Saints keeper Thomas McCulloch stranded

- a big let-off for Saints.

It was then the Oban side's turn to try their luck from distance after Dean Smith rolled the ball into Ross Maitland who laid it off to Campbell, who had a shot from 30 yards out but his effort was blocked and deflected for a corner.

Saints continued to threaten from corners and received another two in quick succession, but despite another long-range effort from Campbell and a side foot volley from Craig MacEwan, they were unable to penetrate the Leven defence.

The Fife side broke the deadlock in the 32nd minute. Jamie Graham attempted to clear the ball down the left-hand side, but his effort was intercepted and the ball played wide to Anderson whose deflected cross across the six-yard box was met by an unmarked Scott Methven at the back post. Methven scuffed his shot but David MacArthur, on the goal line, was unable to deal with the bobbling shot and the ball trundled into the back of the net to make it 1-0.

However, four minutes later Saints were level. Jamie Graham won a header in the middle of the park, which found Scott Maitland. He passed the ball short to Campbell who continued his run. Campbell then slipped the ball back to Maitland who crossed the ball low to Ross Maitland, who only had the goalkeeper to beat. Maitland stroked the ball into the left-hand corner of the net levelling the score which was met by a tremendous roar from the big travelling Saints' support.

Willie Gemmell then tried his luck with a long-range shot just before half time but his effort sailed over the bar.

Just on the half time whistle MacEwan was sent sprawling by a knee-high tackle from Smith

Football

which should have resulted in a free kick but referee Kenny Taylor from Aberdeen deemed the tackle to be a fair one.

Saints started the second half well and won a series of corners.

From one of them Ross Maitland found Campbell, who fed in Scott Maitland. He played an inviting ball across the goal mouth that cried out to be put into the net, but no Saints player was on hand and a great chance was missed.

Hefty challenge

MacEwan lasted only five minutes of the second period, suffering from the effects of the hefty challenge inflicted on him just before the interval and had to be replaced by Brian MacKay.

A misplaced pass from Gemmell gifted Leven a chance. The ball was played over the top to substitute Willie Herd, who found himself in a race with Marc MacCallum but the Saints skipper outmuscled the Leven striker and cleared his lines.

Neither team were able to create many clear-cut chances in the second half which resulted in the game going in to extra time.

Saints created a good chance at the start of the extra time period when David MacArthur played the ball to Myles McAuley who had come on for Gemmell.

McAuley beat his man in the middle of the centre circle and raced forward before playing a neat one-two with Campbell.

McAuley then drove into the Leven penalty area, and looked to be impeded in the box, but referee Taylor shrugged off the penalty claims and pointed for a corner.

The game was flowing from end to end now and both teams knew the next goal would probably be



Leven defender Glen Russell holds his head in his hands while Ross Maitland and Craig MacEwan celebrate Maitland's equaliser during last Thursday night's Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final.

Photographs: Stephen Lawson

enough to send them to the final at Hampden.

With neither goalkeeper seriously threatened a penalty shoot-out looked on the cards until a moment of controversy proved ultimately decisive.

Campbell was brought down on the edge of the Leven box for what looked a stonewall free kick, but referee Taylor had other ideas and waved play on.

With the Saints players still appealing Leven broke up the park and Ryan Thompson played a cross-field ball to find the run of Mark Wilkie. Wilkie cut inside his marker before curling a wonder strike from the edge of the box, into the top right hand corner of the net leaving Saints keeper McCulloch with no chance.

There was still time for referee Taylor to intervene again when, with just three minutes remaining he awarded a penalty kick and a yellow card for Saints keeper McCulloch for a challenge on



A dejected Saints' bench looks on as the game draws to a close.

William Herd, choosing to ignore his assistant who had signalled for a corner kick. Justice was done when the big keeper sprung to his right to keep out the spot kick from Ryan Thomson.

However, his heroics were in vein as Saints failed to find the target in the closing minutes and slipped agonisingly out of the Scottish Amateur Cup at the semi-final stage. Saints will

now dust themselves down and concentrate on the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division and Jimmy Marshall Trophy which are both still very much up for grabs.

Manager Alex Craik was bitterly disappointed. He said: 'We never really played well on the night. We didn't get the ball down and pass it the way we can, plus a couple of refereeing decisions didn't go our way either.'

'Taking nothing away from Leven, they are a good side. They get the ball from back to front very quickly which is always difficult to play against.'

'The boys have been tremendous throughout the whole cup campaign and I can't praise them highly enough. We still have plenty to play for and I'm sure after the disappointment wears off they will be raring to go again.'

'On behalf of the players and management at the club we would like to thank the large band of supporters who made the long journey to Hamilton to support the team last Thursday evening.'

Saints are back on league duty this weekend when they travel to Glasgow Green to take on Finnart, kick-off 2pm. Referee in charge is Michael McCart.



Saints keeper Thomas McCulloch saves Ryan Thomson's spot kick.

John McPhee finishes seventh in Argentina Grand Prix

CONNEL'S John McPhee made light of early, damp conditions at the second round of the Moto3 World Championship in Argentina to finish seventh.

The Racing Steps Foundation-backed rider, who started from 28th on the grid, took advantage of the initial tricky conditions on what was to become a fast-drying track.

The majority of riders opted for slick tyres taking a more cautious approach in the early stages while McPhee mounted an all-out attack. By the end of the opening lap he had made up 17 places to circulate in 13th place with his eye firmly fixed on a points-scoring finish.

McPhee then used the slipstream of the slower riders to maintain position despite the significant power differential between his Peugeot and the Honda and KTM-mounted rivals.

Despite the disadvantage the Scot was up to eighth on the penultimate lap after Estrella Galicia 0,0's rookie Adam Canet fell. His luck improved further when second-placed Drive M7 Adam Norrodin high-sided while battling with Estrella Galicia 0,0's Jorge at the final corner.

The slip-up promoted McPhee - the top Mahindra-powered rider, to seventh. Fellow Peugeot MC SaxoPrint rider Alexis Masbou finished 21st.

Moto3

Malaysian Khairul Idham Pawi became the first ever Malaysian to win a Moto race in any class, the 17-year-old winning by 26 seconds in only his third world championship race. Navarro and KTM Ajo's Brad Binder claimed the remaining podium places.

McPhee said: 'If I got stuck in the middle of the pack, I'd have been there for the rest of the race so being in the front group made it easier to stay there rather than go backwards.'

'I was having to take the wet line to pass others. We're happy that we came away with points on the table.'



John McPhee in action during the Argentina Grand Prix last Sunday.

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780 M: 07836 366419
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

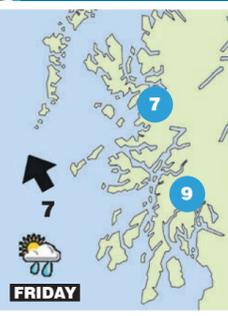
Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday Sunny
Winds light north north westerly
Temperatures 2°C to 10°C.

Friday Light rain
Winds light south south easterly
Temperatures 3°C to 9°C.

Weekend Outlook Sunshine and showers on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds moderate easterly
Temperatures 4°C to 10°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday April 7, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST

Date	am	pm
Thur	05.32 4.2 11.47 0.3 17.42 4.0	*** ** **
Fri	00.05 0.2 06.10 4.3 12.28 0.2	18.19 4.1
Sat	00.50 0.1 06.50 4.2 13.10 0.2	18.58 4.0
Sun	01.35 0.2 07.30 4.0 13.52 0.3	19.39 3.9
Mon	02.21 0.4 08.12 3.8 14.37 0.6	20.21 3.7
Tues	03.11 0.7 08.57 3.4 15.26 0.8	21.07 3.4
Wed	04.06 1.1 09.51 3.0 16.20 1.1	22.03 3.1

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardriahaig	-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		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION

Established 1861 No 8297

Thursday 7 April, 2016

www.obantimes.co.uk

85 pence



Rescue of ill-prepared climber prompts appeal

Lifetime achievement award for Shirley



Bùrach hit all the right notes at Pan Celtic

BÙRACH Gaelic choir, Scottish rural choir representatives at the Pan Celtic Festival which was held last week in Carlow, Ireland, returned home with a clutch of silverware, prizes and good memories, writes *Hector MacKechnie* of Lochaline.

Bùrach, based on the Morvern Peninsula but drawing membership from Sunart, Ardnamurchan, Skye and Lewis, represented Scotland in the rural choirs competition, where they were placed second. In the traditional unison group singing competition, a smaller group – Bùrach Beag – performed two songs and were again placed second.

Ronnie Murray, conductor of Lochs Gaelic Choir and also a Bùrach chorister, took up the baton for the area choirs competition where he led a 50-plus strong Scottish choir, comprising choristers from all over the country, including Bùrach, to victory against strong Welsh

competition, with an emotional rendition of *Sine Bhàn* and a spirited performance of *Nuair Bha mi na mo Mhaighdinn*.

Riona Whyte and Raymond Bremner led the same choir to a creditable third place in the accompanied choir section, with its rendition of *Cearcall a' Chuain* and *Tillidh Mi*.

Joy Dunlop, conductor of Argyll male voice choir, Còisir Ceann an Tuirc, led a scratch male voice choir comprising members from Ceann an Tuirc, Coilich a Chinn a Tuath, Lochs, Melvich, Mull and Bùrach to second place, again against strong opposition, with renditions of *Iain Mac 'Ic Fhionghain* and *Mo Shùil ad Dhèidh*.

Speaking at the prizegiving, Riona Whyte, conductor of Bùrach, said: 'We are proud to be here as Scottish representatives in the rural choirs competition and delighted to have been placed second today.'



Bùrach Beag came second at the International Pan Celtic Festival in Carlow.

We are a relatively young choir, only having been formed in 2012, which makes it all the more special to be singing on the Pan Celtic stage today.

'The festival is all about friendship between choirs and today we had friends from Back, Melvich, Mull and Tainuill Gaelic choirs joining us on stage. We performed a song called *Eilean na h-Oige*, which was written by our Gaelic tutor Alasdair MacLlebbhain – winner of the New Song Competition in the Traditional Group Competition this year – which makes the occasion even more special.

'It's great to have success to take home to share with the community, who support us at fundraising events. We were also fortunate to receive funding from Morvern Community Trust; Lochaline Quartz Sand; Ardnornish Estate Community Hydro Fund and Sunart Community Council towards the costs of our trip.'

TIMESLINE

Delays expected as A82 is resurfaced

A SECTION of the A82 trunk road north of Tyndrum will be resurfaced between Monday April 11 and Friday April 22, and is likely to cause traffic delays.

BEAR Scotland, on behalf of Transport Scotland, will be carrying out the 'essential works' on weekdays between the hours of 7am and 7pm.

Traffic lights and a 10mph convoy system will be in place. A 30mph speed limit will be in place outwith working hours.

Teenager lines up in pageant final

A YOUNG woman from Lochaber has been selected as a finalist in the Miss Junior Teen Great Britain.

Zuzanna Kruk, 14, from Fort William has beaten off competition from all over the country to make it to the beauty pageant finals, which will be held in Blackpool on October 23.

The finalists will compete for the crown as well as a selection of prizes, including £500, dresses from The Dress Studio, and cosmetics.

Country house on course for award

A COUNTRY house hotel with a nine-hole course has been shortlisted as one of Scotland's top golfing hotels.

The only hotel on Skye with its own golf course, Skeabost has been bracketed along with world-renowned properties for Golf Hotel of the Year in the 2016 Scottish Hotel Awards on April 24. Others shortlisted for awards include Loch Leven Hotel, Ballachulish, Glenfinnan House Hotel and Inverloch Castle Hotel, Lochaber.

Woodland trust in forest cash appeal

WOODLAND Trust Scotland has launched a public appeal to raise £500,000 to purchase and restore an ancient Caledonian forest in Lochaber in partnership with the local community.

The Loch Arkaig Pine Forest near Spean Bridge is home to rare wildlife and was a training ground for Second World War Commandos.

The forest covers 2,500 acres over two areas, representing 10 per cent of the remaining ancient Caledonian pine forest in Scotland.

The forest is in a degraded condition but it is home to some of Scotland's most iconic wildlife, including ospreys, sea eagles and red squirrels, and may host species such as wildcats and Scottish crossbill.

If the appeal is successful, the Woodland Trust Scotland will work with Arkaig Community Forest to restore the forest back to native woodland.

Arkaig Community Forest will take ownership of around 120 acres of the site.

Jobs fear as hydro shop closures are announced

SCOTTISH Hydro Electric has announced that all of its shops in Scotland – including outlets in Kyle of Lochalsh, Ullapool, Lochboisdale, Portree, Stornoway, Oban, Tiree and Tobermory – are to close.

Among those also affected are stores in Bowmore, Brodick, Campbeltown and Lochgilphead.

SSE, formerly known as Scottish and Southern Energy, announced the closures earlier this week.

Located mainly in communities across the north of Scotland, the shops sell electrical and white goods and are expected to shut by May 15. An associated online store

will also close. A consultation process has begun for 119 staff, with the company saying it wants to avoid redundancies wherever possible, aiming instead to redeploy workers elsewhere.

The SSE group, headquartered in Perth, employs around 6,000 in Scotland.

In a statement released by the company, SSE director of domestic retail Stephen Forbes said changing shopping habits and more consumer choice

meant that the shops had been running at a loss for several years.

He said: 'Customers shopping habits have changed considerably since these shops

were first opened with more and more people shopping online, especially for larger electrical items.

'We know some of these shops have been on local high streets for a long time so we did not take this decision lightly but footfall and sales have reduced considerably and there is, unfortunately, no realistic prospect of that long-term trend reversing.

'Our priority is to ensure our colleagues are fully supported during this time and we will work to redeploy staff within the SSE group where possible.'

As well as placing valuable jobs at risk, the move comes as a blow to rural consumers,

with the shops regarded as something of a community resource where customers can pay bills and receive help and advice. The service provided is also valued by those who find it easier to organise the purchase of goods and services in person, or who might have limited access to the internet.

Most large nationwide chains offer delivery to anywhere in the UK. In practise, however, rural customers face having to pay a penalty on the delivery costs of large appliances, with additional carriers often hired to complete deliveries from distribution centres to rural areas with associated costs passed on to the consumer.

The *Oban Times* understands that staff coming to terms with the news this week have been conducting talks with public service union UNISON, which represent members of the workforce.

Danny Phillips of UNISON said: 'This is disappointing news. UNISON has been working hard to represent our members through these difficult times.'

'We are working with SSE to look at the redeployment opportunities in the company and to negotiate the severance pay we can for UNISON members. But this is a stressful time for the families of all those who are losing their jobs.'

Urgent call for sports group action

THE MASS resignations of committee members from Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) have led to an extraordinary general meeting being called to ensure the continuation of the voluntary group.

Without the group, many sports activities will miss out on cash the group hands out to teams and the future of a sports centre in Lochaber could be in jeopardy.

LSA's main board and the grants and awards committee will be holding a meeting on Monday April 11 at 7pm in Fort William Shinty Club, An Aird, to discuss the future of the group.

Outgoing chairwoman Jane Blanchard said: 'I would never say I was walking away from the project and I will be able to support people who take it over.'

'We have put seven years into the proj-

ect and we want it to succeed. It is vital all associated clubs send a representative and that as many folk as possible consider volunteering as the future of the association is totally dependent on new volunteers coming forward.'

'Both the secretary and treasurer of the grants and awards committee have tendered their resignations.'

'Without these officers the committee cannot function and the grant money will no longer be available to clubs.'

'There is a very small amount of funding available on offer for these positions, but all other positions are totally voluntary.'

'It is our view that, if possible, the association should be able to continue as a charity limited by guarantee so that if funding becomes available in the

future to develop the indoor sports hall, the appropriate body is able to take the project forward.'

'The foundations for this are strong: full backing from our councillors, detailed planning permission to build adjacent to Lochaber High School, £500,000 in principle from SportScotland and £200,000 in principle from Highland Council. I will support anyone at any time who is keen to take advantage of a promising funding opportunity. We have seven years of information, advice and contacts under our belts.'

'We are hoping there are still a few folk who might have just enough time, energy and community spirit to take the association to its next stage. We've done a lot in our seven years so far, but there's still a lot to do.'

Slipway Autos Ltd

Unit 3a Annat Point, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7NB

Tel/fax - 01397 772404

MOT Testing (Classes 4, 5 & 7)

Servicing, repairs and bodywork repairs

New and Used Car Sales

VW Transporter T28 (102) TDI SWB

62 – side loading door - 53,626 miles... £12,500

VW Polo Match SA (Automatic)

12 – 5 dr h/back - 20,951 miles..... £8,750

VW Golf SE DSG

10 – 5 dr h/back - 42,100 miles..... £8,195

VW Golf SE 1.6TDI

62 – Estate - 9,902 miles..... £10,495

VW Golf 2.0 TSI GTI

10 – 5 dr h/back - 48,500 miles..... £11,995

VW Polo Match 1.2 TDI

62 – 5 dr h/back - 20,991 miles..... £8,495

Skoda Octavia SE TDI

15 – 5 dr h/back - 5,200 miles..... £15,350

Seat Mii

13 – 3 dr h/back - 17,841 miles..... £5,350

Citroen DS3 D Style + E HDI

12 – 3 dr h/back - 18,532 miles..... £9,495

Citroen C1

12 – 5 dr h/back - 39,392 miles..... £3,795

VX Combo Crew Van 1.3 Diesel

56 – two side sliding doors - 44,000 miles. £2,520

Ford Transit 17 Seater Minibus Diesel

58 - 16 passenger seats + driver seat.... £7,550

Mobile - 07956 764375 (Martin - Salesman)

We can also source new and used cars to suit your requirements

All above vehicles come with warranty

Finance available on request

OPEN DAYS

University of the Highlands and Islands
West Highland College

Ollthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar

WEST HIGHLAND COLLEGE UHI

FORT WILLIAM
Saturday 16th April, 11-3pm

PORTREE
Saturday 23rd April, 11-3pm

www.whc.uhi.ac.uk

West Highland College UHI is a company limited by guarantee (SC153921) with charitable status (SC024193)

INTERSHIP

marineharvest

Intership AS and Marine Harvest Scotland has the pleasure to invite the local residents of Lochaber to a naming ceremony of our new wellboat MV Inter Caledonia.

Saturday 9th April 3pm
at Corpach Pier (Boyd's Pier),
Fort William
(naming ceremony and tour of wellboat).

If you require further information please contact jayne.mackay@marineharvest.com

Find us on Facebook
Marine Harvest Scotland

Council's extra cash for schools and roads

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar is to invest £4million in additional capital spending in the Outer Hebrides over the next two years, including £1million for education and £800,000 for road improvements.

Other projects include £240,000 for new library vans, £240,000 for coast protection works at Craigston and South Ford and £130,000 for culvert repairs on the access road to Lews Castle. The comhairle has also allocated £340,000 for the replacement of sport and health equipment if old equipment is made available to communities.

A total of £660,000 has been set aside as match funding for economic development or housing projects.

Fort Dun excavation in society spotlight

THE LAST session of Lochaber Local History Society will cover a topical local subject which brought some excitement to the area last year.

In 2015 the first of three sessions of the excavation of the vitrified Fort Dun Deardail was completed.

Jamie Humble will be speaking about the discoveries so far and plans for this year's further work. Roddy Mainland will also give some insights into his experiences with the vitrification process.

Everyone is welcome to attend at 8pm tonight, April 7, at the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William.



Bikers mourn death of top Six Days Trial star Martin

MARTIN Lampkin, a regular at the Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT) motorcycle event, held annually in Fort William, has died aged 65.

To put his achievements into perspective, Martin Lampkin was to motorcycle trials what Jackie Stewart was to Formula 1 motor racing.

Martin followed his older brothers, Arthur and Alan Lampkin, to the most gruelling motorbike event, organised by Edinburgh and District Motorcycle Club and held in Fort William every spring, over six days, testing the bikers' skill and endurance over the toughest terrain of any trials bike event in the world.

The sections chosen often in-

clude some of the most rugged and remote hills and moors in Scotland and are regularly up steep Highland burns flowing over rocks in Glen Coe and the Great Glen and even manoeuvring up some rocky sections of the UK's highest mountain, Ben Nevis.

Martin Lampkin became the first World Trials Champion in 1975. He was the first trials rider to achieve a 'clean' day at the SSDT, completing an entire day of trial sections across the Scottish Highlands without the need to even put a single foot down for balance.

The world's leading motorcycling production companies flock to Fort William each year to test out their new machines

and the endurance of prototype components and tyres.

The Lampkins and other top champion trials riders were offered the chance to be works riders for the leading brands from across Europe and Japan.

Local residents join thousands from across the UK who make the annual pilgrimage to the Highlands each year to watch elite riders compete against regular club riders from Lochaber and throughout Scotland.

Martin Lampkin's son, Dougie Lampkin, used to join the family in Fort William and was spotted as a youngster, balancing on a monocycle, similar to those used by circus balancing acts, around the park ferme -



Martin Lampkin.

event car park - while waiting for the riders to return after their day of competition was completed. His skills and balance were noted and, coming from the elite Lampkin family of trials riders, the spectators knew that a world star was in the making. Dougie Lampkin soon emerged from the shadow of his father and uncles and went on to win the SSDT and became World Trials Champion multiple times. Dougie Lampkin is now a regular on TV and features stunt riding on his trials bike and completes charity events.

The Lampkin family dynasty has inspired two generations of trials motorcyclists across the UK and beyond.

Rescue of ill-prepared climber prompts appeal

LOCHABER Mountain Rescue Team has urged climbers to be suitably prepared before setting out after a woman wearing summer clothes was rescued from the summit of Ben Nevis in blizzard conditions.

Sara Albone, from Brighton, was found in a disorientated condition by a group of climbers, who offered up extra clothes, food and water before volunteering to help her down off the mountain.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team leader John Stevenson told *The Oban Times*: 'We would urge people to be properly equipped. We're still in full blown winter up on the Ben and on mountains across Lochaber and it can be a very dangerous place.'

'It's very irresponsible to set out without warm clothing and winter kit, and if something does go wrong, you could be in serious trouble. Although we're now getting into spring,



Sara Albone climbed Ben Nevis dressed in summer clothes.

conditions can change quickly, and it can be very cold, even in May and June.'

Reportedly a keen fell runner, Ms Albone, 28, made a spur-of-the-moment attempt on the Ben over the Easter weekend while passing through Lochaber on a mountain biking tour of Scotland.

Dressed in shorts and trainers, she was carrying a bag of holiday gear and a selfie stick - but no ice pick, supplies or emergency shelter.

Taking to an online climbing forum to thank the climbers involved in her rescue, Ms

Albone admitted: 'I was that t** that all proper climbers talk about. I kind of knew I was under-prepared and didn't actually intend on getting to the top. I just sort of thought - oh I've got this far - it's not too bad - let's carry on.'

Acknowledging that she could have died, she added: 'The people I met up the mountain that day are real life super heroes. I honestly cannot thank them enough.'

'You'll be pleased to hear I'm booking myself in for a mountaineering course as soon as I get back.'



Conditions were treacherous when Sara reached the summit.

Successful year for Skye youth hostel

SYHA Hostelling Scotland has celebrated a successful first year in Portree, hosting 14,500 guests since opening a new hostel there last March.

Sitting on the renovated site of the former Bayfield Backpackers and adjacent Bayview Guest House, the site's popularity has led to further development, with an extended lounge, dining room and self-catering kitchen and two bedrooms being added.



Donation delight for support group

Zac Wallace, left, and his mum Annie, chairwoman of Lochaber Autism Support Group and treasurer Jenna Abberley, right, receive £435.20 from Samantha Brecker, customer care lead at McDonalds, Fort William. The money was raised through a raffle, sale of tablet and donations. The presentation was made at a fundraising sponsored bounce in the Salvation Army Hall, last Saturday. The group also received £200 from Ballachulish Autism Parent Support Group. Photograph: John Paul Peebles, Abridgeside Photography.

Model club talent on display at show

THE LOCHABER Model Show returns later this month, promising a host of new attractions alongside new projects from the best of last year's exhibitors.

Running from 10am until 4pm at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Halls, Fort William, on Saturday April 30, admission is £2.50 for adults and £1 for children and concessions.

Among those showcasing their talent will be engineering modeller Harry Cline and miniature aeroplane builder Donald McGavin.

There will also be a collection of hand-crafted dolls houses and shops on display from Edith Knowles and a detailed set of 1:18 scale model cars from Eddie Donaldson.

The show will also include a small-scale railway display and a replica of Glenfinnan Viaduct courtesy of model train enthusiast John Barnes, as well as working model fairground rides built by Martin Gentle.

Elsewhere, there will be a stall from Heilan Toys N Collectables, a prize raffle and an exhibit from members of Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club outside the church halls.

Sponsored by Campbell Plant Hire, Caley Timber and Building Supplies, Highland Titles and LBS, proceeds from the event will again be donated to Lochaber Mountain Rescue Tervise, after nearly £1,000 was raised at last year's show.

Ullapool high takes on quiz challenge

A TEAM from Ullapool High School was among those featured in the last event to be sponsored at the Scottish Parliament by outgoing Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson.

The SNP politician was supporting the Scottish Young Consumers of the Year Final Quiz for 2016, bringing together teams of 14-17-year-olds from schools around the country for an evening of questions on consumer issues.

Winners of the event were Boroughmuir High School from Edinburgh, which goes on to compete in the UK final in London in June.

Mr Thompson said: 'In this culture of consumerism, it is important to encourage knowledge of individual rights and responsibilities in our youth.'

Kebabish

CURRY HOUSE

Curries • Kebabs
Pizzas • Burgers

We only use SUNFLOWER Oil for cooking & frying

We only use lean cuts of Meat

We only use reduced fat Yogurt and Mayonnaise

We keep Salt & Sugar to a minimum

We only use 100% Mozzarella cheese

Our food is always made with your health in mind

We are committed to providing and supporting healthier eating for all our customers.

Excellence in Food Hygiene
Awarded 2012-2015

Awarded 2012, 2013 & 2014

Awarded 2012-2015

We are proud to be the only Pakistani / Indian takeaway in Scotland that holds these awards

OPEN FRIDAY & SATURDAY UNTIL 1.30AM

GEORGE STREET, OBAN

TEL: 01631 563900 or 01631 566885

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT www.kebabishcurryhouse.com

HOME OFFICES • WORKSHOPS •
SUMMER HOUSES • SHEDS • GARAGES • FENCING • STABLES • DOG KENNELS

Beaver Timber Ltd

Barcaldine, by Oban.
Telephone: 01631 720 353
Mobile: 07861 247 237
www.beavertimber.co.uk
email: info@beavertimber.co.uk
Established over 30 years

WE SPECIALISE IN DELIVERY TO THE ISLANDS

BEAVER TIMBER WILL DISMANTLE YOUR OLD SHED, DELIVER AND ERECT YOUR NEW SHED

Manufactured on our own premises and fitted by our own trained staff - no sub-contractors

All our buildings are made from 19mm T&G boards and come complete with 18mm flooring

GARAGE BASES PREPARED

* THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE INSURANCE QUOTATIONS

Show sites open at Beaver Timber
NEW SHOW SITE NOW OPEN AT THE TREE SHOP, CAIRNDOW

BROCHURE & FREE QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST

Council defends budget spend on £158M debt

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

DEBT of more than £158 million was defended by Argyll and Bute Council this week saying a multi-million figure is 'not unusual'. But a Freedom of Information request by *The Oban Times* shows that the local authority has only £56.5 million in savings and more than eight per cent of annual income is being spent on 'servicing debts'.

Projects such as Oban CHORD – Stafford Street and pavement reconstruction – TIF funding for the North Pier extension and a road to a business park at the airport, alongside other projects such as the rebuilding of Oban High School, will all be completed on borrowed money that will be paid back over the length of the usefulness of the property.

Figures in the Freedom of Information request show that loans to the value of £158 million to organisations, banks, other local authorities and individuals mean payments of more than £20 million come out of the pot before a single penny of cash is spent on services.

Of the outstanding debts, Public Works Leading Bank

has loaned the local authority more than £100 million, while London-based bank Bayerische Landesbank has lent it £21 million, Prudential Insurance are owed £1 million, while West Mercia Police are owed £5 million and East Renfrewshire Council, amongst others, helped the council out with a cash flow problem to the tune of £2 million.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council defended the high cost of loans to the local authority. He said: 'The council finances its fixed assets in the same way as local authorities and national governments throughout the United Kingdom.'

'In the same way as a householder would prudently pay down their mortgage over 20, 30 or 40 years, we do the same with our financial liabilities.'

'Last year we used £20 million of our cash assets, around eight per cent of our total budget, to pay down loans.'

'To have used any more would not have been sensible because we would have incurred steep early repayment charges, actually making it more expensive in the long term.'

'Our current liability of £160

million is used to finance more than £522 million of public assets such as piers, roads and schools.

'In 2017/18 we plan to borrow around £13 million to finance major improvements projects such as schools, roads etc.'

'£100 million of this is through the national government, using its borrowing power to secure more favourable terms than we would otherwise be able to.'

'Prudent financial planning means we were in a much better position than some other local authorities to manage the disappointing funding settlement from the Scottish Government.'

'This year's budget will protect core services, deliver what people told us they wanted and build prosperity for the area.'

'The money from East Renfrewshire and West Mercia Police Authority are short-term cash flow loans which will be repaid this month (April) when investments mature. If we had to call in our investments earlier, this would incur a penalty.'

'The other sums are investments made by individuals or organisations in the council, in the same way that individuals can invest in government bonds.'

Surprise, surprise! Pupils help Caroline celebrate centenary



Caroline Jamieson with pupils from Taynuilt primary who organised a surprise party for her.

SURPRISE birthday celebrations last week for Caroline Jamieson, who turned 100 yesterday (Wednesday), almost caused the Argyll woman to have 'a heart attack', writes Louise Glen.

Mrs Jamieson was born on April 6, 1916 in North Argyll

and moved around the area finally settling in Taynuilt where she is the centre of many community groups and organisations.

Speaking after Taynuilt Primary School put on a party with 150 guests for her last week, Mrs Jamieson said:

'What a lovely surprise. I didn't have any idea this was going on and when I found out I almost had a heart attack.'

Pupils from every class performed at the birthday party. Presents, flowers and cakes almost overwhelmed Mrs Jamieson.

TIMESLINE

Oban man injured in two-car crash

AN OBAN man was airlifted to hospital in Glasgow after a two-vehicle accident near Pennyfuir shortly after 7pm on Tuesday.

Police Scotland said a 42-year-old man remained in hospital in a stable condition. He is not suffering from life-threatening injuries.

Oban pontoons to be discussed

MEMBERS of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee will consider options for a visitor centre and transit berthing facility on the Oban's North Pier at their meeting next Monday (April 11).

Ambitious plans to develop a marina area in Oban with pontoons and a visitors' centre will be considered.

Two papers, one on the design options for the visitors' centre on the North Pier and another on plans to develop a transit berthing facility, will be discussed at the meeting in the Corran Halls, which is open to the public.

New schools get the go-ahead

THE CONTRACT to deliver Campbeltown and Oban's new £56 million secondary schools has been signed between Argyll and Bute Council and Hub-North Scotland in Edinburgh.

Construction is due to begin on both soon, with completion by spring 2018.

Oban's new school, to be built on the current school's rugby pitch, will allow for an increased capacity of up to 1,300 pupils. All work will be to the south of the school and will be accessed independently. The school will function as normal during the work.

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

CalMac improves customer alerts

FERRY operator CalMac is changing the way it alerts customers to disrupted services after feedback from passengers.

An additional service status of yellow is being added to the existing green, amber and red categories on its website to give passengers clearer information about potential disruption.

The yellow alert will be used

to tell customers to remain aware and check for updates to their service before travelling, as there is a possibility of disruption.

Amber alerts will now be used to inform customers that one or more sailings are disrupted, including significant delays, cancelled sailings, suspended sailings, diverted sailings or

vessels turned back unable to berth.

The red alert will continue to be used to indicate when all sailings on a route are cancelled for the remainder of the day.

The new alert system will go live on www.calmac.co.uk on Monday (April 11) and will also apply to Argyll Ferries' service from Gourock to Dunoon.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES



QUESTION TIME

THE OBAN TIMES' FIRST HUSTINGS

Join the debate ahead of the Scottish Parliamentary Elections 2016 – Argyll & Bute – at The Oban Times' first Hustings.

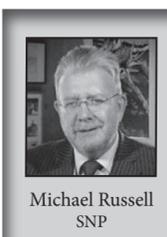
**Oban Phoenix Cinema,
140 George Street, Oban**

Thursday, April 28 - 7pm to 8pm

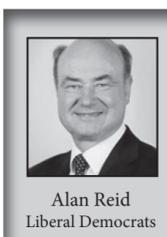
(Seat holders must arrive no later than 6.30pm).

Followed by a drinks reception

The panel of candidates:



Michael Russell
SNP



Alan Reid
Liberal Democrats



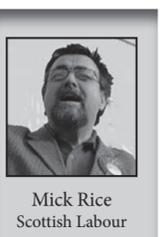
John Finnie
Scottish Green Party



Donald Cameron
Scottish Conservatives



David Coburn
UKIP



Mick Rice
Scottish Labour

Be part of our audience, have your question answered* - APPLY NOW:

ONLINE: Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/hustings

POST: Complete the form and post it to **The Oban Times, Hustings Application, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.**

All applications must be received by TUESDAY, APRIL 19.

Terms and conditions: Tickets are not available for purchase. Application only. Over-16s only. Seat holders must arrive no later than 6.30pm. Applications are for one ticket only. Number of seats is limited. Successful applicants will be contacted by email by 5pm Friday April 22. If you do not hear from us, please assume you have not been successful. Appropriate photo identification will be required on the door. Please note that this event will be live streamed on The Oban Times website. *A number of seat holders will be chosen to ask one of their questions, as put forward on their application form, and will be contacted in advance. Should time allow, there will be opportunities for the audience to ask the panel additional questions.

APPLICATION FORM

To help us ensure there is a broad and balanced audience at The Oban Times Hustings 2016, please complete the following application form and post it to **The Oban Times, Hustings Application, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB by Tuesday, April 19.** You can also apply online by visiting www.obantimes.co.uk/hustings. The information is completely confidential and will only be used for the purpose of balance. It will not be shared with any other parties.

Name

Address

.....

.....

Post Code

Daytime telephone number

Mobile number

Email

.....

What is your first question that you would like to ask?

Question:

.....

.....

.....

.....

To which candidate or all?:

.....

What is your second question that you would like to ask?

Question:

.....

.....

.....

.....

To which candidate or all?:

.....

If any, what party did you vote for in the last election?

.....

How do you think you will vote in the EU referendum?

Leave the EU Remain in the EU Don't know

If any, what political party will you most likely vote for in the Scottish Parliamentary Elections 2016 or are you undecided?

.....

.....

Are you a member of a political party? YES NO

What is your gender? Male Female

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? YES NO

If disabled, do you require wheelchair access? YES NO

Successful applicants will be contacted by email.

Please tick here if you would rather be contacted by post.

The Oban Times may wish to send you information on other events and promotions.

Please tick here if you do NOT wish to be added to our mailing list.

Please note your voting preferences will not be stored on file on this mailing list.

Stafford Street cycling concerns continue

YOUNG people are going to 'destroy' the new glasswork around the pedestrianised area in Oban's Stafford Street, if something is not done to stop them using the area for bike jumps, skateboards and football, Oban Community Council heard last week.

Marri Malloy, chairwoman of Oban Community Council, said: 'Young boys are riding their bikes on Stafford Street and they are causing bother.'

'Could we not put a sign up to stop people with bikes or footballs in that area?'

Mrs Malloy described a recent incident where the youngsters had given 'cheek' to some visitors to the town.

She continued: 'If the council can't put a notice up saying no ball games and no cycling then what can we do?'

'Argyll and Bute Council should have thought about this beforehand. What a waste of money on stained glass that is only going to be destroyed if the area continues to be used the way it is at the moment.'

'I know people need to be able to get out and to play. But in this case children need to be reminded that they cannot do what they like all the time.'

Inspector Mark Stephen said: 'Anyone could put a sign up but who would then enforce it? At the moment being in that area is not a criminal matter.'

He explained that Stafford Street was a 'public space' and unless someone was causing a breach of the peace or another criminal offence his team could not arrest anyone.

'Someone who is being verbally abusive is something that we take very seriously and we would certainly send out officers if that became a problem.'

'Young people have rights as well. The councillors are trying to find a site to build an area where young people can use their bikes.'

'On the whole the police will take every opportunity to get to know the kids that are playing in the town centre.'

'I would encourage anyone who is having problems at the area to dial 101 and we can take the appropriate action.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'We are working with the young people [to find a space for them to build a bike park].'

'They are moving on with support from West Highland Housing Association and are getting lots of encouragement to take it forward.'

Son inspires Dunbeg dad's charity cycle challenge

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

A DUNBEG father will cycle more than 900 miles in order to raise not only money for charity, but also awareness of his son's condition.

Graham West, 41, is planning to ride his bike from John o' Groats to Land's End to raise money for the Dwarf Sports Association.

Mr West's son Lewis, who uses a ventilator at night to help him breathe, was born with Achondroplasia, a bone growth disorder that affects one in every 15,000 to 40,000 births and is one of the most common forms of short limb dwarfism.

Mr West said: 'Eighty per cent of the births are to average height parents, so it was quite a shock for us when we found out that Lewis had this condition, but we wouldn't change him for the world.'

Catriona Currie, Mr West's partner and Lewis's mum, said: 'It will be good to highlight the charity as it's not really recognised. It is such a rare thing and



Graham, Catriona and Lewis test out the terrain in Dunbeg, by Dunstaffnage Castle. 16_tgraham03

the condition is often ridiculed. It's an actual disability, but people take the micky out of dwarfism. They don't think about the problems associated with it – this wee one [Lewis]

stopped breathing when he was a week old.

'So no-one thinks about the problems associated with the condition. It's good to highlight it and the Dwarf Sports Association are good – there's a national games at the end of April.'

The national games allow children and adults to compete on a level playing field against competitors who are the same

age and suffer from the same condition.

Mr West is planning on doing the bike ride over 10 days – May 31 to June 9 – and Ms Currie and Lewis will be driving alongside him in his support vehicle.

Mr West said: 'I'm looking forward to it now. I just need to start my training programme. We'll be averaging about 100 miles on the bike every day. I just need to build up to that kind of distance over the next month or so.'

'With stops, I imagine I will be riding for, on average, seven or eight hours every day.'

Mr West has travelled this route before, in 2009, but he cycled from Land's End to John o' Groats.

He continued: 'I've done it before, but it's meant to be a bit harder this way as you've got the prevailing winds against you. It should be interesting.'

Charity tins will be situated in Atlantis Leisure and the Poky Hat in Oban. So far, Mr West has raised £1,407.50.

To donate, visit mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/graham-west1#vrip00vwsn0.facebook.

98mph biker fined

A MOTORCYCLIST has an unfortunate souvenir of his touring holiday in the West Highlands: a £400 fine and six points on his driving licence.

Daniel Brett Johnson, 42, of 17 Halliday Gove, Langley Moor, Durham, admitted speeding at 98mph on the A85 near to its junction with the A82 at Tyndrum on September 19 last year; he was one of three bikers clocked by police after an overtaking manoeuvre.

He apologised to police when he was stopped.

A friend travelling with him had appeared before Oban Sheriff Court at an earlier sitting.

'I shall fine you the same,' said Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC.

Deferred sentence

A MAN who has 'fallen back into heroin' must show he can behave himself for six months.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that Paul Alexander Nicol of Ty-an-Mor, Glenmore Road, Oban, had been clean for four years but began using the drug again after becoming unemployed.

He admitted having the drug when police entered his girlfriend's home in the town on October 27 last year. The officers, who had a search warrant, discovered drug paraphernalia including two spoons containing a burned residue which was analysed as heroin.

His defence agent Jane Thomson said Nicol 'took ownership from the very beginning'.

She said: 'He had not been using for a period of four years. There was the breakdown of a relationship and he lost his job; he fell back into heroin.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC was told Nicol had gone for help and was receiving counselling.

The sheriff deferred sentence until September 13 for Nicol to be of good behaviour.

The power of love...



OBAN couple John and Helen Duncan celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary recently with a cruise and a card from the Queen.

John and Glasgow-born Helen met at a dance in Oban's Corran Halls in 1954, married at the Old Parish Church two years later, and lived most of their married life on Polvinister Road, from 1976 until 2013.

The 82-year-olds have three children – John, Clark and Alison – six grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

After Helen retired as a charge nurse and John as a foreman for Alexander Black Builders, the couple travelled the world, visiting Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Kenya, China and, most recently, a Mediterranean cruise for their diamond anniversary.

Asked for the secret to a long marriage, John replied: 'Never go to bed angry. She gives me a kiss goodnight, not goodbye.' Helen added: 'He's also my best friend. We don't even need to talk about things – we just transmit it.'

Ambassadors return

POPULAR town centre ambassadors Joe Reich and Kay McDonald have returned to their posts in time to show tourists around the town during the school holidays.

Since the ambassadors started, they have interacted with more than 30,000 people, with BID4Oban recording and reviewing the statistics.

These results show that 40 per cent of the enquiries are for directions, whilst Scots are most likely to ask for the toilets.

Foreign visitors tend to travel in larger groups.

Although not recorded, it was felt that there was a significant increase in dog tourism.

This year, in addition to their nor-

mal duties, the two ambassadors will undertake some town tidy campaigns, beginning with an attack on cable ties – it is surprising the number of stray cable ties around the town.

Gold for distillery

OBAN is one of three whisky distilleries in Scotland to have been presented with Gold accreditation – the highest accolade for environmental quality from leading sustainability charity, Keep Scotland Beautiful.

All three distilleries awarded are owned by global drinks business Diageo, and were recognised for their exceptional efforts across a wide range of criteria, including environmental quality, waste management and community participation.

ACHA secures funding for Connel housing

A THIRD phase of affordable homes in north Argyll has been given the green light after Argyll and Bute Council confirmed planning approval last week.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) has now been able to acquire a site to build a third phase of affordable homes in the village of Connel, north of Oban.

The previous Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council and ACHA had given a commitment earlier to fund the new development.

The project will be made up of 10 homes for affordable rent comprising four three-bedroom houses, two two-bedroom houses and four two-bedroom flats. The total cost of the project will be in the region of £1.6million. The total number of affordable units on the site will be 28.

The first phase of eight units was completed in May 2015, the second phase of 10 units is currently due to be completed in October. It is intended work on the third phase will start this summer.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'This is good news for those in housing need, for jobs, and the future of Achaleven Primary School in the village as the family homes will bring in young children.'

'This is not just about homes for the future but jobs, as 50 construction workers, including five apprentices, will be employed on the site during the contract duration.'

Have you registered?

TIME is running out for anyone who hasn't yet registered to vote if they want to have their say in the Scottish parliamentary elections.

Monday April 18 is the last day for people to register. By doing so now, voters will also be registered in time for the European referendum on June 23.

Particular emphasis is being put on 16 and 17-year-olds who will be eligible to vote in the Scottish Parliament elections for the first time.

To register, or to check you are still registered, visit: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Scottish Field MAY ISSUE OUT NOW

Lee McKenzie TALKS AYRSHIRE

10 Spookiest Scots UFO sightings

TOM McCLEAN: SAILING IN A WHALE SHAPED BOAT

A shaggy bull story Red squirrels on the march Who is Mary Somerville?

10 OF THE BEST SPOOKIEST SCOTS UFO SIGHTINGS

WIN £2,000 WORTH OF VOUCHERS FROM SOFA WORKSHOP

www.scottishfield.co.uk

TITLE SPONSOR

EUROPEAN PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEDIA PARTNER

MARCH IN JUNE TO THE FORRES BEAT

Saturday 25 June 2016

Bring the whole family along to one of the largest events in the north of Scotland.

The hills of Forres really will be alive with the sound of over 3,000 Pipers & Drummers.

With over 100 craft exhibitors, food stalls and bars there really is something for all the family to enjoy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT www.pipingatforres.com



Fort William players, with top table guests and speakers, left to right, David MacDonald, John Hartson, Dave Edwards, Willie Henderson and Ally Ewan.

Former Old Firm players at annual dinner

FORT William Football Club held their annual Sportsman's Dinner at the Moorings Hotel last Saturday night where guest speakers, former Old Firm stars John Hartson and Willie Henderson, had the audience in raptures all evening.

The club also presented their annual awards as follows: player of the year - David Moffat; young player of the year - Laim Taylor with Andreas

Football

Broomfield gaining the most improved player award.

Unfortunately last Saturday's game against Turriff United fell victim to the weather despite heroic efforts from the club to get the game on.

Fort William	1
Wick Academy	3
Highland League	

FORT WILLIAM actually managed to get a game on at Claggan Park when Wick Academy made the long trip south last Wednesday night and returned home with all three points after a hard-fought win over the home side.

The visitors crafted the first chance of the game after only two minutes. The ball was played into Davie Allan on the edge of the Fort box. He laid it off to Steven Anderson but he lifted his shot onto the roof of the net.

On the quarter hour Academy



Fort William goal scorer Scott Davidson

had another chance. Sean McCarthy launched a long kick-out that found Allan. He drove forward, cut back onto his right foot and from just inside the box fired his shot just over the bar.

The home side had a great opportunity to take the lead. A cross from the right wing to the back post found Martin Munro inside the six-yard box but his powerful downward header bounced back off the pitch and over the bar.

Academy opened the scoring in the 21st minute. Grant Steven played the ball into Marc MacGregor in the middle of the park. He struck it wide to Alan Hughes, who drove forward up the right wing and crossed into the box. It found its way through to the feet of MacGregor and from six yards out he swept home with a right-footed shot.

In the last action of the first half, a Scott Davidson cross from the left was nodded to the edge of the Academy box to Iain MacLellan and his first-time volley fizzed just high of the target.

The visitors doubled their advantage four minutes into the second half. Hughes delivered a corner from the left and James McLean picked it up and he laid it off to Anderson, who made no mistake from eight yards out.

Two minutes later Academy were three goals to the good. Kai Cruikshank won the ball in the

middle of the park and he played it forward to McLean.

McLean played in a defence splitting pass allowing Allan to burst through one-on-one with keeper Harvey who saved Allan's first shot, but the Academy striker slotted home the re-bound.

Fort William however were not done, and on 57 minutes they pulled a goal back.

A break up the left wing found Scott Davidson who cut-in and hammered home with a fine finish passed McCarthy.

Wick substitute Gary Weir came close to getting himself onto the score sheet.

McLean played the ball wide right to Colin Macrae. He played the ball into the other Academy substitute Richard Macadie, who slid it into the feet of Weir on the edge of the box. Weir turned and shot but his attempt went over the bar.

Fort William then broke from a quick counter-attack. Davidson set up Munro but he fired just passed the post from a tight angle.

In the last action of the game a cross from the left found Andreas Broomfield. He fired it into the mix for McCarthy to come out and block. Darren Quigg ended up getting his head to the ball but he sent it over the bar.

Fort William are due to take on Cove Rangers at Claggan on Saturday, kick-off 3pm



From left, young player of the year Liam Taylor; player of the year David Moffat and most improved player Andreas Broomfield. Photographs: John Paul Peebles, The Write Image

Inverness success for Spean Bridge bowler

Indoor bowls

ALAN Robinson makes regular journeys through the winter to the Inverness Indoor Bowling Centre and, for the second year running, has won several tournaments including the club championship.

Indoor bowling keeps him in shape for the outdoor game when the greens open later this month.

It is the nearest indoor facility for those living in Lochaber and it is getting more popular, especially for those who want to pass a few hours a week playing rinks, triples, pairs and singles.

There are now handicapped singles to encourage new members to play against more experienced players.

Alan thinks the cost of a game of bowls is very cheap compared to most other sports, especially when lighting and heating costs have to be covered by membership and rink fees.



Alan Robinson with his trophies.

Gary Cowan - still bowling them over

Tenpin bowling

AFTER week seven of the tenpin bowling singles leagues at the Nevis Centre Fort William, Gary Cowan still leads the scratch league with 129 points followed by Darren Duncan with 115 points and Ben Weller with 113 points.

Gary also maintains the lead in the handicap league with 120 points followed by Darren on 108 points and Brian Johnstone and John Weller both on 101 points.

For the ladies, Pam Weller has the best scratch points total of 100 whilst Mo Mason has the top handicap points total of 96.

Gary Cowan still leads the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 3,477 pins followed by Ben Weller in second with 3,339 and Darren Duncan in third with 3,278 pins.

The best individual scratch game this week came from Gary Cowan with 206. Darren Duncan had a 178.

The top three-game scratch series this week was by Gary Cowan with 522. Gary also rolled the top three-game handicap series with 636.

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780 M: 07836 366419
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday Sunny
Winds light north north westerly
Temperatures 2°C to 10°C.

Friday Light rain
Winds light south south easterly
Temperatures 3°C to 9°C.

Weekend Outlook Sunshine and showers on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds moderate easterly
Temperatures 4°C to 10°C.

FRIDAY

Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday April 7, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST

Date	am				pm			
Thur	05.32	4.2	11.47	0.3	17.42	4.0	***	**
Fri	00.05	0.2	06.10	4.3	12.28	0.2	18.19	4.1
Sat	00.50	0.1	06.50	4.2	13.10	0.2	18.58	4.0
Sun	01.35	0.2	07.30	4.0	13.52	0.3	19.39	3.9
Mon	02.21	0.4	08.12	3.8	14.37	0.6	20.21	3.7
Tues	03.11	0.7	08.57	3.4	15.26	0.8	21.07	3.4
Wed	04.06	1.1	09.51	3.0	16.20	1.1	22.03	3.1

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		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate