

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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COMPETITION

WIN WIN a two night break at the Isle of Mull Hotel

The 'eyes and ears' of new cycle path



Also inside this week: New Plot New Home • Clampdown on speeding drivers

Ferry comes to aid of fishing vessel

MV *Isle of Arran* came to the rescue of a fishing boat after it suffered engine failure off Islay. The fishing boat *Sea Shadow*, with five crew on board, sent out a call for help at around 6pm on Monday. The CalMac ferry, Islay Lifeboat and coastguard craft from Tarbert and Ardrpatrick answered the call, but the fast rescue craft from the MV *Isle of Arran* was first on scene. The rescue boats monitored the *Sea Shadow* while it drifted ashore and also assisted the crew.

Theft of clothes meant for charity

POLICE have charged a woman for theft by finding after allegedly stealing clothing intended for an Oban charity shop. The woman, in her early 20s, was accused of sifting through donations left on the doorstep of the shop. A report is to be sent to the procurator fiscal.

Kilmore Highland Games called off

KILMORE Highland Games have been cancelled due to the lack of an appropriate venue. The annual Highland Games were all set to move from Kilmore to Oban's Mossfield Park for one year after the regular showground was being reseeded. But council officials have confirmed Mossfield is undergoing drainage works at that time and will be out of action after the MacAulay Cup on July 16. The park will be open in time for the Argyllshire Gathering at the end of August.

Unsupervised parking 'chaos'

CAR parking is going unsupervised in Oban at weekends - causing chaos. 'There is no-one to move people on over the weekend and it means people simply go to the out-of-town shops,' said one cafe owner. Argyll and Bute Council confirmed: 'The parking attendant does not work every Saturday and Sunday but does work random weekends.'



CASHING IN: Michelle MacNiven and husband David celebrate the £10,000 they won in the Postcode Lottery. 16_116postcode2

Fire-hit family hit the Postcode Lottery jackpot

A DUNBEG family devastated by a house fire last year have had a 'change in luck' after winning £10,000 on the Postcode Lottery. Michelle MacNiven was one of five neighbours from Castle Road to win a share of £30,000. Last September, a fire gutted the MacNivens' home - a hole had to be cut in the roof of their home and her son had to escape

the house by climbing out along the first floor of the building. The family were forced to move out of their home, and in a nasty twist of fate a second blaze destroyed the warehouse where the possessions they had salvaged were being stored. Michelle said: 'We lost everything - we have had to start again completely. I thought we were going to win £500 - I re-

ally cannot believe we have won £10,000. 'We're due to move back into the house in a couple of weeks. Hopefully this is a turning point for us and our luck has changed.' Michelle won the biggest share of the prize when her postcode PA37 1QH was drawn as a winner. Neighbours Sheila Maccorquodale, Mary Macmillan,

George Birse and Robin King all pocketed £5,000. Mary said she would be sharing some of the cash with her daughter Iona, who runs the soup kitchen in Oban. Robin, who has only been playing for a month, was planning to take his wife Jean on a cruise on the Rhine. He said: 'I've never won anything like this in my

Anxious wait for Phoenix Cinema campaigners

TRUSTEES of Oban Phoenix Cinema are on tenterhooks as they wait to hear if their offer to buy the former Highland Theatre building has been successful. While declining to reveal how much the group has offered, members were hopeful a bid would be accepted in the next few days, turning the cinema over to community ownership. Raising an incredible £5 per

household in the town - organisers say they still need anyone who still wants to donate to the project to get their money into DM MacKinnon Solicitors or The Oban Times office as soon as possible. Donald MacDonald, chairman said: 'We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of people towards the purchase of the cinema.

'We are in negotiations with Santander Bank to buy the building at the moment. 'Every penny people have donated will be used to get the best deal on the building. If anyone still has a donation to make we need you to get your money in now. All the cash we have in the bank will reduce the small loan we will need to take out to buy the building.

'Our expert figures show the cinema is a viable business that will be profitable in a very short time.' Campbell Cameron, a trustee, said: 'Buying the building is only the beginning of the story. Everyone who has volunteered to help get the cinema up and running will need to be ready to jump into action to get the building ready for its opening.'

Parents' fury as schools face the axe

THE BELL has tolled for 11 rural schools in Argyll and Bute after councillors voted to go out to consultation on closure. In a mammoth 12-hour meeting, each proposal was considered against a backdrop of more than 200 chanting parents and children outside the council chamber. Inside, mums, dads, grandparents, children and community residents shouted, booed and hissed as councillors voted on going out to consultation on closure. One mum, on hearing Rhu-naahorine was facing closure shouted: 'I hope you all hang your heads in shame. The councillors from Kintyre should be ashamed of themselves.'

REPORT by LOUISE LEE lee@obantimes.co.uk

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre agreed, but said this could be done through the consultation process. 'It is a trend that people are taking their children with them as they travel to work. A placement suits them because it is available to them. 'Achaleven is in the unfortunate position that it is very close to Oban. Of the 40 primary school aged children in the village, 31 are being bussed out to other schools.'

An argument to remove Ardchattan, Bonawe, from the list due to it being the only community building in the area was also rejected. Councillor Ellen Morton, acting leader and spokeswoman for education, said she was disappointed by the behaviour of opposition councillors, saying they were unable to make the difficult decisions needed to be made in order to balance the books. She said they had to face up to the 'harsh realities' of the situation, adding: 'If we do not go out to consultation on these schools then it may be schools in your areas that will have to be considered.'

Two motions for consultation swept through the process - the already mothballed St Kieran's, Campbeltown, and Ardchonnell, south Loch Awe side. The fate of Toward, Skipness, Clachan, Rhu-naahorine, Minard, North Bute, Luss, Achaleven and Ardchattan was bitterly debated. Opposition councillors claimed school closures would signal the end of the rural life. Lorn councillors asked for an investigation into a huge decline in school numbers at Achaleven School, North Connel - its role has fallen from 61 pupils five years ago to eight pupils in the current school year. Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'Connel is an affluent thriving area with 20 houses in the pipeline. Closing this school sends out the wrong message.'

For some reason Achaleven is suffering a blip and parents are taking their children elsewhere. 'We need to find out why that is before we close this school,' he said. 'I am confident that my colleagues from all parties will vote to keep Achaleven open.'

Calls for independent review rejected

CALLS for an independent review of evidence used in consultation documents on the closure of rural schools have been rejected by the council leadership. A two hour debate heard that evidence in the papers was disputed by the Scottish Rural Schools Network (SRSN) - however Argyll and Bute Council refused the claims. In what one parent in the public gallery described as a 'two hour

slanging match' of the SRSN's founder Sandy Longmuir, elected members heard his evidence was 'fundamentally flawed'. Councillor Roddy McCuish called for an independent review of all the consultation documents used by the council. He said: 'If we have nothing to fear by a review then we should do so as it would clear up all the concerns in our communities with the facts in these documents.'

Deputy council leader Ellen Morton said: 'People would accuse us of wasting money if we had an independent review. The Scottish government has heard that Mr Longmuir's evidence was flawed. He stated things to this council that are simply not true.' The parent continued: 'It is absolutely unfair that the council would slag off a man for more than two hours without giving him any right to reply.'

Court told how postmaster embezzled £81,000 in bid to sustain failing business

A DESPERATE businessman who embezzled more than £81,000 has been ordered to carry out 300 hours of community service. Former Tobermory postmaster Peter Dugdale escaped a custodial sentence and was given the maximum amount of community service when he appeared before Oban Sheriff Court on Monday. Dugdale pled guilty to transferring tens of thousands of pounds from the Post Office he ran on Tobermory's Main Street into his personal account over a two-and-a-half year period. The court heard that Dugdale resorted to borrowing money from the Post Office account in a bid to

meet mounting debts, including credit card payments, VAT and staff wages. Defence agent Gordon MacNab said: 'He foolishly looked on it as a private bank, but he was a desperate man with nowhere else to turn.' The court heard that Dugdale was turned town for a personal loan and had an application to re-mortgage his home refused by the bank before he maxed out credit cards - all in a bid to pay staff wages and sustain his failing business. Mr MacNab told the court that Dugdale's business, a retail unit incorporating a Post Office, got into difficulty after the Balmory

children's programme ended. He said Dugdale's shop had profited from the sale of goods associated with the programme but that waned in 2005. Newspapers arriving on the island at lunchtime also meant the shop missed the lucrative morning trade. Procurator Fiscal David Glancy told the court the Crown accepted Dugdale was not acting out of greed. 'It was always his intention to repay this money but he ended up in a situation where he was robbing Peter to pay Paul and the money was coming out of the Post Office safe at a faster rate than he could replenish it.'

In sentencing Dugdale, of Ardale, Western Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, Sheriff Douglas Small said his crime was 'most serious' and one that would normally receive a custodial sentence. However, Sheriff Small added: 'Importantly, as far as you are concerned, the full amount has been repaid, I take that into account; also you are 56 and you have never appeared before the court and you were not motivated by personal gain.' The court heard the fraud came to light when Dugdale, who had been a postmaster in Tobermory for 19 years, was subject to a routine audit by Post Office Ltd.

The Queens Hotel

GLEN CAMPA RESTAURANT

Easter Sunday Luncheon

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Chicken Liver, Port and Garlic infused Pâté

Roast Rump of Beef served with a Pan Jus and Yorkshire Pudding
Breast of Turkey served with Cranberry Sauce and a rich Gravy
Scottish Salmon Fillet rested upon sautéed Potatoes topped with Oven roasted Langoustine and a fresh Lemongrass infused Butter
Penne Pasta with oven roasted Sun Blushed Tomatoes served with Pesto Cream and a Side Salad (v)

Handmade Sticky Toffee Pudding with Vanilla Ice Cream
Chef's own Vanilla and Strawberry Cheesecake dressed with a medley of Summer Fruits and drizzled in a Berry Coulis
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Linda's gone, but her work goes on

The death of kidnapped aid worker Linda Norgrove in Afghanistan last year sent shockwaves through the western world but this was nothing compared to the pain suffered by her family in Argyll and the Western Isles. They have established a foundation in her memory to help projects in Afghanistan and continue Linda's good work. Linda's sister, Sofie Corns, who lives in Kilchrenan and has begun a fundraising drive for the foundation, tells *The Oban Times* about her sister and the foundation's work.

LIKE most sisters, as children Linda and I did not always get along but I always admired her for her patience, determination and dedication to whatever she put her mind to, be it her stamp collecting, school work or training Misty our pony.

That said, I have lovely memories of our childhood in the crofting village of Mangersta, Uig on Lewis; taking the peats home, helping with the animals on the croft, long seemingly endless walks with our parents, playing in the garden and especially riding our ponies on the beach.

It was not until we both moved away from the island and shared a flat together in Manchester that we really started to form a strong sisterly bond. Linda was studying during the day at Manchester University and I was working but evenings would see us going to various classes at the gym together - belly dancing, pilates and circuits.

When I got home from my evening job Linda was usually still up and we would talk, sometimes into the early hours.

We became really close, so when Linda finished university and got her first job with WWF in Peru I knew I would really miss her a lot.

I also thought it was fantastic as Linda had a great job that she was really excited about and it meant I could go and visit her. When she got her first job with the UN in Afghanistan in 2005 I was worried for her safety and wished she would take a job elsewhere but it was the next career move for her and some-

"I could tell Linda was happy in Afghanistan as she relished making a real difference to the lives of people in need."

thing she was determined to do so I knew there would have been no point arguing with her!

We kept in touch via email and Skype and she would tell me about all the projects she was working on; organising the reconstruction of road and irrigation systems destroyed during the war and, more interesting to me, her visits to the local villages and tales of everyday life in Afghanistan.

I could tell she was happy in Afghanistan as she loved the country and its people and relished making a real difference to the lives of people in need. But working in a country at war takes its toll and she decided to move to Laos with the UN for a while.

I was relieved she was going to be living and working in a safe place and somewhere where I could once again go and visit her.

We kept in touch in the usual way but she was not happy with her job there and felt that her skills were not being used to her full potential.

She started talking about Afghanistan again and how she

missed her friends there. So it came as no surprise to me when Linda returned to Afghanistan in 2010.

I have found it difficult coming to terms with what has happened and still find it difficult to talk about the kidnap and rescue attempt.

Linda was a wonderful person who did a lot of good things for other people and packed so very much in to her relatively short life.

Her death has left an enormous hole in my life, my parents' lives and the lives of many people across the world.

My parents have set up a charity in Linda's name. The foundation's primary goal is to help women and children in Afghanistan, the innocent victims of the decades of conflict in the poorest country in the world outside Africa.

The first project that is being supported is a widow's refuge in Jalalabad. The women themselves have requested materials to have bread ovens built. Firewood and wheat will also be supplied.



The Norgrove family in happier times on Lewis, from left: Linda, Lorna, John and Sofie.

This will mean the widows, a neglected sector of society with an average of four children between them, will be able to feed their families and hopefully sell any surplus.

It is also the intention to provide them with chickens and playground equipment for the children.

Literacy courses and enterprise projects for women that would create sustainable employment are also in the pipeline.

The foundation is supported in Afghanistan by Linda's employer, Development Alternatives Inc., which is employing someone to work for the foundation, at no cost to the charity. This help is vital, especially in the early days, ensuring that funds reach the people who need it most.

I really want to help raise funds and awareness for the

foundation and I have organised a trio of events for spring 2011. The first of these was a sponsored walk in Taynuilt on

"Linda was a wonderful person who did a lot of good things for other people and packed so much into her relatively short life."

Tuesday in which nursery and primary one and two pupils took part in fancy dress.

On Saturday April 30 I will be holding a charity auction at Connel Village Hall.

We have had a fabulous response from the community with more than 50 lots donated for auction. Viewing for the auction is from 1.30pm and bidding starts at 2pm.

Finally, on May 14, I am organising a dance at Kilchrenan Village Hall.

So far David McCluskey from the Bluebells (Young at Heart) and Oban's Finlay Wells have agreed to play.

Hopefully these events will go some way to continue the good work of Linda and help improve the lives of women and children in Afghanistan for the better.

For more details of the Linda Norgrove Foundation, log on to www.lindanorgrovefoundation.org

Firm set to re-apply for gold mine permission

SCOTGOLD is to re-apply for permission to establish a £150million gold mine at Cononish, after withdrawing its appeal against the original refusal on Monday.

The company's chief executive officer, Chris Sangster, is hoping the reapplication will be lodged within two months, with a decision anticipated by the autumn.

Critically, the new plan halves in size the facility to manage the dirt, rocks and stones left over after mining has taken place; addressing the biggest concern expressed by locals and the Loch Lomonds and the Troscachs National Park Board about the original application.

Mr Sangster said: 'We have been in discussions with the park board to look at the reasons for refusal.'

'We've also employed some expert opinion to address those concerns.'

'Their primary objection was on the landscape and visual impact. As a result, the tailing management facility is now half the size it was.'

The move comes shortly after the company held a pre-planning consultation and community open day at Tyndrum Village Hall, where members of the community were asked to complete comment

sheets on the proposal. About 100 people attended the event, with most expressing broad support for the project. The views are to be included as part of the new planning application.

Meanwhile, Scotgold has also received a £600,000 regional selective assistant grant from Scottish Enterprise, to be used to establish the mine and create 52 full time jobs.

The grant is conditional on Scotgold winning planning approval.

Scotgold say there is approximately four and a half tonnes of gold present in the proposed Cononish mine, with a further 20 tonnes of silver.

At the time of going to press, gold was trading at around \$1,480 per ounce, with silver around \$43 per ounce, making the mine worth, at current prices, around £150million.

However, the price of both metals is expected to steadily rise over the coming five years, meaning the mine could potentially be worth far more.

Furthermore, it is hoped that by marketing the gold as 'Scottish Gold', it will hold even greater value.

Mr Sangster said: 'If everything runs smoothly, we could be looking at starting construction by the end of the year.'

Yacht week sails away with grant for £2,250

SUMMER sailing event West Highland Yachting Week has been awarded £2,250 from Oban, Lorn and the Isles (OLI) area committee after another area committee refused a grant application for the event.

At its meeting last Wednesday OLI area committee backed the event, which is a series of races involving ports at Craobh Haven, Oban, and Tobermory.

After being told the neighbouring area committee of Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay had knocked back an application for third sector grant funds, OLI

councillors agreed to grant more than the recommended £2,000.

The grant will fund marketing initiatives associated with the event to attract competitors and increase visitor numbers to the area.

Area committee chairman Duncan MacIntyre said: 'This event is very beneficial to Oban and Tobermory and we cannot afford to lose it.'

Councillor Gordon Chalmers added: 'It would be a bad message to send out to the event's supporters and sponsors if we did not support it.'

Views sought on development plan

MEMBERS of the public are being urged to have their say on Argyll and Bute Council's proposed development plan when it goes out to a nine-week consultation next month.

Once the consultation is complete the council will submit its final proposal to the Scottish Government in January 2012.

The plan will be available online and council staff will be travelling to various communities.



Joshua Refin with his mother and father, Charlotte and Brian, and his aunts at the Easter Tea. 15_11ejoshua01

Hundreds turn out to support hospital

A TOUGH two-year-old from Taynuilt brought hundreds of well-wishers to an Easter Tea on Saturday in the village hall.

People were queuing outside the door for a table at the event, organised in aid of The Yorkhill Sick Children's Hospital by Brian and Charlotte Refin.

The couple's son, Joshua, has been in and out of Yorkhill, battling illness after being diagnosed with a heart condition 10 days before he was born prematurely.

Joshua had his first cardiac

arrest at 13 weeks old and doctors have had to perform lifesaving treatment on three occasions.

Charlotte and her sisters ran the Great Scottish Run last year to raise money for Yorkhill and this year helped to organise the Easter Tea.

'I think we will do an annual fundraiser,' said Charlotte last Saturday.

'This has been hugely successful and we have been blown away by the number of people who have come today.'

'When we opened the doors at

2pm today there were already a lot of people waiting and we have had to set up tables on the stage to fit everyone in.

'Taynuilt is very good at supporting this type of event but I think they are keen to support the cause; most people know someone who has been to Yorkhill and the hospital is close to a lot of people's hearts. It's certainly close to ours.'

The Easter Tea also offered face painting, and beautician Mairi Campbell offered manicures for a donation to the charity.

The couple thanked their friends and family for helping to organise the event and the numerous businesses that donated raffle prizes, especially Coast, Trinity and Tesco.

Brian said: 'Joshua is doing really well at the moment. He is just full of beans.'

'When he was particularly ill we knew his fighting spirit and strong will would come back to bite us one day and we are seeing it now. He's just like any other two-year-old and strongly determined.'

Summer start for £1.7 million Barra wind turbine

THE COMMUNITY group behind a bid to build a £1.7-million wind turbine on Barra hopes to start construction this summer after advertising for a contractor.

Having already secured planning permission for the 900Kw turbine at Sgùrabhal, Barra and Vatersay Wind Energy Ltd - a subsidiary company of Coimhearsnachd Bharraidh agus GBAB's local development officer Gerard MacDonald.

He said: 'There's nothing that is going to stop us from going ahead with the build and we're not seeing any major hurdles from the financing side.'

'Really, the next stage is to order the turbine and put it up.'

GBAB has been working on establishing a community turbine on the island since 2005, but for project development manager Euan Scott, who has been leading the development, it will be worth the wait.

He said: 'I think it will really galvanise the community. We are anticipating the turbine develop-

ment with the build and we're not seeing any major hurdles from the financing side.'

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Association plans to put life back into community

A SERIES of community events based at Ulva Primary School has been granted £2,000 by councillors in Lorn, Oban and the Isles.

Ulva School Community Association had sought £5,442 from a third sector council grant but a recommendation was put in front of councillors at an area committee meeting last Wednesday to give £1,000.

The island's one-year programme, costing an estimated £10,942, will consist

of educational and social events aimed at the whole community.

Topics proposed include polytunnel gardening, craft workshops, nature and heritage workshops as well as keep-fit classes, a youth club and community ceilidhs. Ulva Primary School was on the original list of possible school closures in Argyll and Bute. It has since been removed.

Mull-based Councillor Mary Jean Devon said: 'The whole community is pulling out all the

stops for this project and I would like to see them get half of what they asked for.'

'This project is putting life back into the community, a very remote community.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson said she admired the work put into the project but pointed out there were other similar projects in rural Argyll that would benefit from such funding.

However, Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'What it doesn't say in these papers is that we are

asking communities to make sure their schools are viable and to be more than just schools.'

'We have to support them if they are doing that.'

'This is just the first school off the blocks and if others apply for funding then so be it. This project could be a pilot for other schools.'

Following the debate, Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh proposed the area committee should double the recommended grant and the sum of £2,000 was agreed.

Reports ordered on mother found in possession of drugs

A SHERIFF has called for reports on a 31-year-old mother who was found in possession of heroin on Islay.

'There are a few question marks in my mind about all of this. I want to get some background about what is going on here,' said Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC sitting at Campbeltown last Wednesday.

Yvonne MacLean, of 74C Frederick Crescent, Port Ellen, Islay, had admitted being in possession of the Class A drug on December 17 2009.

The drug had been posted to MacLean; Royal Mail became suspicious about a parcel and alerted the police, the Procurator Fiscal told the court.

In her defence, the court heard that MacLean had the drug for her own use and had been using £60 to £65 of heroin per day.

At the time of the offence she was in full employment with a hotel on the island. Sentence was deferred until May 12 for reports.

Danger toxins found at Loch Fyne

RAISED levels of algal toxins have been detected at Stonefield in Loch Fyne, prompting warnings from Argyll and Bute Council.

Commercial shellfish harvesters have been contacted to postpone harvesting, as eating cockles, mussels or razor fish from the loch may pose a risk to human health until algae levels subside.

Signs have also been erected on the foreshore to warn the public of the potential danger.

The signs will be removed once the levels are reduced to a safe level.

More information is available from the council's environmental health department on 01631 567920.

Stay safe with Speeding Ted

SCHOOL children across Argyll and Bute are to be introduced to a new fictional character - a teddy bear warning of the dangers of speeding.

Speeding Ted is the lead character of the latest road safety pack for primary schools as devised by Scottish educational consultant Lynda Keith on behalf of the Strathclyde Safety Camera Partnership.

Part of the Curriculum for Excellence, the classroom packs are being distributed to primary schools across the county.

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Council leader on the mend after spell in hospital

ARGYLL and Bute Council leader Dick Walsh is making a 'strong' recovery after a recent spell in hospital.

Although details of his illness were not disclosed, a council spokeswoman said he was expected to return to his post shortly.

Deputy council leader Ellen Morton said she wished him a speedy recovery.

Councillor Morton has taken over the reigns of the council during the interim period, with Council Duncan MacIntyre acting leader of the alliance of independent councillors, the biggest group on the council.

Two drivers face court charges

A COLLISION on the A816 near Kilmore last Wednesday led to another incident, resulting in two drivers being reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Police were first called to the scene at 6.09pm on April 13 after a driver lost control of his car while travelling south, causing it to turn on its roof.

He has since been charged with dangerous driving.

While officers were in attendance to make the scene of the first incident safe, another motorist had failed to notice warning signs and, on coming upon the scene, lost control of his vehicle.

He has been charged with careless driving as a result.

Stricken yacht towed to marina

THE DEPUTY coxswain of Oban Lifeboat helped to rescue a stricken yacht off Kerrera using his own fishing vessel, while waiting for his colleagues to arrive.

David Isaac, who works aboard the prawn fishing boat *Lodestar*, happened to be in the area at the time when the 54-foot Moody yacht *Morag Star* suffered engine failure and was quickly blown ashore on Saturday afternoon. However, almost immediately *Lodestar* towed it back to sea. Oban's RNLI Lifeboat, *Mora Edith Macdonald*, launched at 2.10pm to tow the *Morag Star* into the pontoons at Oban Marina, Ardrinver Bay, on the Isle of Kerrera.

Motorist faces drink-drive charge

A MAN in his early 20s has been reported for allegedly driving while drunk after failing a breath test in Oban on Sunday.

He was stopped by police officers in Argyll Street at around 3.40am.

Man reported for possessing drugs

A MAN has been reported for possessing an illegal drug after police stopped and searched three males in Soroba Road in the early hours of Saturday morning.



Constable Jeremy Moore, left, and Sergeant Gerry Welsh at the launch of their week-long campaign to eliminate speeding from the roads of villages near Oban. 08_11epolice1

High-profile clampdown on speeding...

SPEEDING motorists flying through villages around Oban will be targeted by police this week after an increase in complaints to coincide with the new tourist season.

Starting today (Thursday), special teams will be deployed throughout the Lorn area to monitor both the speed and road-worthiness of vehicles travelling through villages.

It's hoped that the high-profile week-long operation will both deter speeding and make the roads safer for all.

Gerry Welsh is the divisional sergeant for Oban and a former traffic officer. He said: 'Concerns have been raised in the villages and by local community councils regarding the increase in speeds on open roads by a number of vehicles.'

'This appears to become more prevalent as we have a greater influx of tourists into the area.'

'With that in mind, we will be carrying out increased speed detection and road safety checks

REPORT

by STEVEN FLANAGAN

sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

on the vehicles travelling along our open roads.'

The move follows news that Connel Community Council has bought its own speed gun to monitor their roads after time and time again complaining that certain motorists are driving too quickly through the village.

But Sergeant Welsh has urged

communities to speak to police first before taking drastic steps.

He said: 'We're more than happy to hear from people who have concerns in their area.'

'We are dependent on information from the public, so if we don't know about it we can't do anything about it.'

The operation will run alongside Scotland-wide 'Weekend of Action', organised by the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland, running from Friday April 22 to the following Sunday.

Leading that operation is Chief Superintendent Charlie Common from Lothian and Borders Police.

He said: 'Previous days of action have shown that far too many road users are willing to ignore speed limits and this disregard for road safety is worrying.'

'During this campaign the eight Scottish Police Forces will be targeting road users who continue to break the law, using marked and unmarked police vehicles, as well as carrying out static speed checks at identified hotspots.'

"Concerns have been raised in the villages regarding the increase in speeds on open roads."

Sgt Gerry Welsh.

TV chef reaches boiling point over restaurant rules

CELEBRITY chef Nick Nairn is at boiling point after being refused entry to two Oban restaurants because he had his young children with him.

While Mr Nairn was left 'crestfallen' by the refusals, both restaurants, Ee-Usk and Coast, stand by their decisions saying licensing restrictions are not flexible - no matter how famous the potential customer is.

Mr Nairn said he enjoyed most of his holiday in the area earlier this month, visiting Ardinglas Gardens and staying at Barcaldine bed and breakfast, Ardtorna.

However, he was left upset after discovering he could not get in to two of Oban's best known restaurants after 6.30pm with his wife and two children, aged eight and six.

He said: 'Oban relies on tourism. It seems so wrong that in 2011, it doesn't welcome children in all its restaurants.'

'What must overseas visitors think, who in their own countries can eat well in any location with the whole family? Basically they must think we don't value our children's diets, and they would be right.'

'Compare this to a visit to a

two Michelin-starred restaurant in France last summer where the chef came out to congratulate us on bringing our children. They felt thrilled to be eating sophisticated food and we all had an amazing experience.'

'Back in Oban, we ended up at The Waterfront Bistro, which was friendly, welcoming and the food was fine, but it wasn't what we'd intended for our evening.'

But Alan MacLeod, the managing director of Ee-Usk, said: 'Chris Kennedy, one of our young employees, was manager that night. He spoke to him and told him that while Ee-Usk didn't cater for children in the evenings, our other restaurant, Piazza, does and was very family-friendly.'

'He decided to go elsewhere, saying he didn't want pizza. 'It is our policy - and it is also in our alcohol licence - that we cannot take children at night.'

'It does split opinion. It's probably split 50/50 as to those that would have it and those that wouldn't.'

'However, I actually ate twice in his old restaurant in Glasgow and I don't think he allowed kids in there either.'

Chris said: 'There's a sign out-



Celebrity chef Nick Nairn.

side the restaurant that states that. He read that before coming in.

'I tried to tell him about the other places we recommend that welcome families but he talked over me.'

'He told me "That's an absolute joke. We're in Scotland." Most people are very gracious about it when we tell them they'd be welcome back at lunchtime.'

Coast's owner Nicola Fowler is a big fan of the celebrity chef, having attended one of his cookery schools, while one of her

most prized possessions a signed Nick Nairn cookbook.

However, she received a less than polite response from her food hero when she advised him that her restaurant had a similar policy.

She said: 'He had a bit of a rant then slammed the door as he left. He didn't even give me an opportunity to explain or say that there are other restaurants in the area that could cater for him.'

'Our licence allows us to accommodate children up until 8pm, but after that time they have to leave the restaurant.'

'Nick and his family came in at around 7.35pm, so realistically, we couldn't have served them a meal and expected them to stick within the time line.'

'Even if it wasn't in my licence, I'd probably have the same policy.'

'Most of the people who come here come for a quiet or romantic meal, and that's not something you can always have if there's a screaming five year old causing havoc, and that would upset the atmosphere of the restaurant.'

'I can understand why he's upset, but I can't see how there's an answer to it myself.'

Urgent repairs to seven sections of road on Mull

SEVEN sections of road on the Isle of Mull will be repaired by Argyll and Bute Council, as part of a schedule of urgent repairs.

The *Oban Times* has obtained a schedule of roadworks for Oban, Lorn and the Isle of Mull.

In Mull, the following sections of road: A848 Eas Brae to Balisgate; A848 Tobermory to Salen; Gualen Dhuhb towards bridge; A848 Salen to Craignure, Balmeaneach; A848 Salen to

Craignure; A849 Craignure to Fionnphort, Pennyghael; A849 Craignure to Fionnphort will be repaired. There will also be structural strengthening and surface dressing on the B8035 Kinloch to Balmeaneach.

On the mainland, work already complete includes the roundabout at Tesco on Lochavullin Road. Last week *The Oban Times* also revealed more than £500,000 would be spent on upgrading the

A816 Oban to Lochgilphead road. This will take place between July 11-22.

From May 9 to July 1 the A819 Dalmally to Inveraray, Ardtcastle to Innistray carriageway edge will undergo strengthening, carriageway widening, overlay and drainage improvements.

There will also be resurfacing works on the A819 Dalmally to Inveraray at various locations for five days from Monday July 4

and on the B845 Tainnilt to Kilchrenan from July 25 for 10 days. In Oban, Tweeddale Street is to undergo patching and resurfacing on May 2 for five days.

Structural strengthening and surface dressing on the B844 Kilniver to Ellenabeich, the B8003 Balvicar to Cuan, the U16 Ardmaddy ferry, the U10 Kilmelford-Auchnasaul, Ardmaddy Castle section and the Ardencaple Road is also listed.

...as police launch patrols on CalMac ferry services



A joint initiative by Strathclyde Police and Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) will see officers patrol on ferries travelling between Argyll and its isles. Launched on Tuesday, it's hoped the Safer Travel Partnership will provide greater reassurance to ferry-goers and act as a deterrent to any would-be criminals on the boats. Pictured at the launch of the campaign is, from left, regional manager for CalMac Ian Fox, Chief Superintendent Glen Bland and Constable Jeremy Moore, who features on new posters advertising the campaign. 08_11calmac1

Mother and son perish in crash



Daughter remains 'serious' in hospital

A FAMILY was torn apart last week when a mother and son died in a car crash on Strone Hill, near Dalmally.

A daughter, aged two years and 10 months, was also in the car and as *The Oban Times* went to press her condition at Yorkhill Children's Hospital was described as serious but stable.

The crash on the A85 last Wednesday claimed the lives of Donna Marie Coyle, aged 25, and her 18-month-old son Noah McLeod, both from Greenock. Noah's father, Norrie McLeod, is originally from Campbelltown.

Emergency services attended road crash at around 12.15pm when Ms Coyle's Fiat Punto collided and a Ford Iveco flatbed vehicle. Ms Coyle and her young son died at the scene but her daughter was rushed to Yorkhill Hospital.

The 52-year-old male driver of the Ford vehicle was treated at the scene but did not require to be taken to hospital.

The road was closed for around eight hours and opened after 10pm hours. A police investigation is continuing into the circumstances surrounding the crash.

Donna Marie Coyle, above left, and her son, Noah McLeod, who died in the car crash at Strone Hill.

Planners urged to back proposals for Argyll Hotel re-development

PROPOSALS to demolish Oban's Argyll Hotel and replace the derelict building with a new 63-bed complex were due to be discussed by planners as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Argyll and Bute's planning, protective services and licensing committee was recommended to approve the demolition of the hotel along with the construction of its replacement, subject to conditions.

According to the report before members, Oban Community Council was 'delighted' an application had been submitted, accepting that the building has deteriorated to a point where there is no alternative to its demolition and rebuilding.

In addition, 10 letters have been received by Argyll and Bute Council - three in support of the proposal, five against and two making general observations.

The report notes: 'It is clear from the lack of substantial public representation for or

against the application for demolition that there is no strong community feeling about the demolition of the building either way.'

'The proposal represents a significant potential investment supporting economic development and the tourism function of Oban as well as bringing employment opportunities.'

'The current proposal has emerged following a series of pre-application designs which were considered unacceptable in terms of securing an appropriate relationship with historic buildings surrounding the site.'

In recommending approval for the new hotel, the report's author, Arlene Knox, states: 'The development would remove a negative influence upon this area of the town by the demolition of a long-standing vacant and progressively deteriorating building.'

She adds that a new hotel in its place would benefit Oban's status as a leading destination on the west coast of Scotland.

Cancer support group raised £28,000 in last financial year

THE OBAN and District branch of Macmillan Cancer Support has praised the generosity of people in the area after generating £28,072 for the charity in the past financial year.

The figure was revealed at the branch's recent AGM, at which David Mudie stepped down after 20 years' service.

Secretary Kate Turner said: 'In spite of all the economic problems everyone is having, the people of Oban and the surrounding area have yet again been tremendously generous to, and supportive of, Macmillan.'

'We received donations from a variety of sources, one of the principal ones being

funeral collections.' One of the main fundraising events of the past year was an art auction in the Royal Hotel which raised £3,600.

This year is the charity's centenary and the Oban and district branch has organised many fundraising efforts for the year ahead.

The next large event will be a sponsored walk round Kerrera on June 19.

Office bearers for the coming year are: Rosemary Young, chairwoman; Christine Smith, treasurer; Kate Turner, secretary; Joyce Coope; Mary Heath; Jim Heward; Anne MacAllister and Gwyneth Neal.

CAKEBREAD'S Garden Centre

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Cadbury Easter Egg Trails at Crarae Garden and Arduaine Garden

The National Trust for Scotland has teamed up with Cadbury to bring Easter Trails to 40 places across Scotland.

Get some fresh air with your family this Easter as you follow the trail, collect the clues, solve the puzzle and win a Cadbury Egghead!

Each of the 40 trails is different - a great excuse to visit some stunning locations throughout Scotland - and to try your hand at more than one trail!

Arduaine Garden, Oban
Fri 22 to Mon 25 Apr, 9.30am-4.30pm
Trail is included in usual admission price.
Tel 0844 493 2216

Crarae Garden, Inveraray
Fri 22 to Mon 25 Apr, 10am-4pm
Trail is included in usual admission price.
Tel 0844 493 2210

the National Trust for Scotland a place for Easter

Easter Egg Trail

For more information or to find out about family events across Scotland visit www.nts.org.uk

The National Trust for Scotland for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 004444

Man sent back to prison after carrying screwdriver

AN OBAN man was found in possession of an offensive weapon one month after being released from prison on licence. Stuart Wilson, aged 36, of 84B George Street, was ordered to serve the remaining month of his sentence plus another four months after he pleaded guilty to carrying a screwdriver at Airds Crescent, Oban, on April 15, when he appeared before Oban Sheriff Court on Monday. Defence Agent Edward Thornton told the court that Wilson had been chased by two men earlier in the evening and had 'foolishly' chosen to carry the screwdriver as a means of protection in case he came upon the men whilst on his walk across town. Sheriff Douglas Small limited the custodial sentence to four months to run consecutively with the remaining one month from Wilson's previous sentence.

Oban 200 celebrations granted £5,000

A BICENTENARY celebration of Oban's town status has been boosted by a grant of £5,000 from Argyll and Bute Council. Oban Burgh 200 has planned a series of events this year to mark the anniversary at a total project cost of £19,300. At the council's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee meeting last Wednesday, councillors agreed the recommended £5,000 third sector grant. Councillor Donald MacDonald said: 'Unless we substantially support this it won't go ahead the way we want it to.' Councillor Elaine Robertson added: 'We must support this properly because it is our public face.'

Carluke man in court on sex charge

A 31-YEAR-old man appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week on petition for allegedly having sexual intercourse with a person aged under 16 and over 13. Derek McLean, aged 31, of Carluke, made no plea or declaration. The case has been committed for further examination and he was released on bail.

Oban teenage driver fined and banned after crash

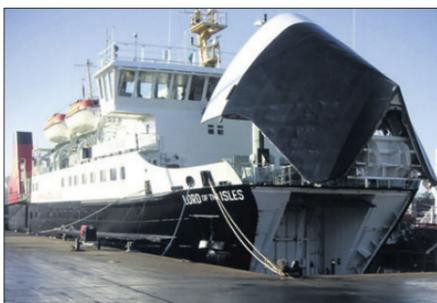
AN OBAN teenager who crashed a car on Glencruitten Road, Oban, after drinking has been disqualified from driving for 18 months and fined £700. Calum MacPhee, 17, of 23 Nelson Road, pled guilty to drink driving, driving without due care and perverting the course of justice when he appeared before Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Argyll teenagers to help build Malawi hospital

A GROUP of local teenagers, together with friends from across the country, hope to travel to Malawi this summer to build a life-saving hospital wing. The 10 teenagers, aged between 16-18, have set their hearts on travelling to the African country to build a six-bed high dependency unit in the Chikwawa District Hospital after seeing how inadequate facilities means families are often ripped apart by illnesses that can be easily treated in the UK. Oban's Heather Welsh, who attends SSC summer camps, will be joined by an Argyll contingent of Mull trio Katrina MacLean, Hannah-Jayne Noble and Michael McKenna, Lochgilphead's Darren Shankly and Adam Gilmovitch. Also making the trip from the group will be Laura Thomson and Ellen Andrew from Dundee, Niall Robertson from Glasgow and Will Brewer from Pitlochry. Joining them will be youth development worker at SSC Steven 'Breive' Hughes and chair of the organisation Fiona Gaskell. Once in Malawi, the group will spend 21 days building the unit, doing everything from digging foundations to laying the bricks and applying the mortar. To get there though, the group needs to raise £38,000 to buy materials to build the unit; although £10,000 of that has already been taken care of. The race is now on to get the money raised as quickly as possible, with the departure date June 15. Heather said: 'One in five children there die before their fifth birthday and the average life expectancy is just 50 in men and 51 in women. 'While there is a hospital there with nurses, there is no equipment.' Diseases ravaging the area include malaria, HIV and bilharzia, a parasitic worm that can devastate internal organs, all of which are easily controlled in the UK. Numerous fundraising events have already taken place, with Heather having held a successful band night in Skippish Ceilidh House, Oban, earlier this year, and various events already held on Mull. The next big fundraiser is a 51-mile cycle run from Glasgow to Edinburgh this Saturday. Niall will be hoping to complete the journey, despite having never ridden a bike before in his life, despite reaching the grand old age of 23. The following weekend, Mull's Michael McKenna will be shaving his head - removing months upon months of uninhibited growth. If you'd like to sponsor any of the teenagers making the trip, or would like to support the project in any way, log on to the group's Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/thssc. Individual members can be found at the bottom of that page, under 'see more fundraisers'. The group is also looking for used football tops to give to kids on their trip there. Anyone who can help should email Steven Hughes on breive@thssc.org.

CalMac ran 800 'empty' sailings to comply with timetable regulations

FERRIES operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) operated nearly 800 sailings with no passengers aboard, new figures have revealed. In December last year, CalMac had 9,469 total sailings, of which 791 had no-one aboard but staff. Some 3,075 sailings had five or fewer passengers, with 1,525 having 10 or less. The figures are down on December 2009's figures, with the harsh winter weather contributing to the fluctuation. The company, which is wholly owned by state ministers and receives a £57million government grant every year, said that the figures back up its view that having flexibility to respond to fluctuating traffic levels would be advantageous, particularly as the engines become less efficient when operating at lower temperatures, while berthing and crewing costs remain the same. It did, however, complain that it was effectively tied to operating the sailings thanks to a Scottish Government contract signed in 2007 that specified the timetable and frequency of services. A spokesperson for CalMac



said: 'It is inevitable that passenger traffic on ferries will drop significantly during winter months, especially when the weather is so bad that police are advising people not to travel, and we have raised with the Government our concerns about providing an appropriate level of service in those exceptional circumstances. 'The timetables are set by the terms of the Government contract to which we operate and we have already flagged up - in our submission to the Scottish Ferries Review which is considering all

'Argylls' head home from Afghanistan tour

SOLDIERS from the 'Argylls' (SSCOTS) are finally returning home this month following a gruelling seven-month tour of duty in Afghanistan. Most of the troops from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Scotland, will be back in the UK within the week, with the remaining soldiers due to return no later than early next month. Parade There will be a homecoming parade at their base in Canterbury on May 12, before travelling to Scotland to receive the freedom of Paisley, Dumfries and Alloa in separate parades on May 20-22 respectively. One of the regiment's final actions in Afghanistan was for commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Adam Griffiths to meet up with their colleagues from 2SCOTS, the Royal Highland Fusiliers, to hand over operations to 4SCOTS, the Highlanders. Lieutenant Colonel Griffiths said: 'SSCOTS have worked hard at developing the capacity of the Afghan National Police (ANP) throughout this deployment and we have seen great successes in that time. 'I am incredibly proud of what the battalion has achieved.

Campbeltown woman threw belongings out of window

A CAMPBELTOWN woman had been drinking, sniffing lighter fuel and taking heroin before she threw possessions out of her second storey flat window and then assaulted a police officer. Kara Jane Pope, aged 25, of 8a Burnbank Place, admitted the offences which took place at Burnside Street, Campbeltown, on February 11; she had thrown objects from the window, including a DVD player, and assaulted an officer. Pope was placed on a Community Payback Order for 12 months and told to carry out 100 hours of service in the community and attend Kintyre Alcohol and Drugs Advisory Service for treatment and counselling.



Achaleven pupils to present petition in bid to save Connel's primary school

Pupils present and future gathered at Achaleven Primary School, Connel, on Monday to demonstrate the support they've gathered for the school - a petition containing more than 700 signatures. The document was presented to Argyll and Bute councillors ahead of crunch talks on the future of it and 14 other schools throughout the county. 15_r16achalev2

Status quo 'not at option' for fire and police

ANY REFORM of fire services and policing must take into account the importance of localised accountability and rural protection, Argyll and Bute Council has said. As part of national reviews of both services, the local authority has been asked for its opinion on the possibility of radical reform to make millions of pounds of savings. For fire, the three main options under consideration are having eight services with increased collaborative working, having one national service or regionalised service with an, as yet, unspecified number of regions. For police, options available range from a single national police force to a reduced regional structure, retaining eight forces with increased collaboration. In presenting its responses to both consultations to councillors this week, Argyll and Bute Council say local priorities must remain high on the agenda. The authority says that: 'Each of the options clearly has merit in terms of achieving efficiency savings, other than the option for maintaining the status quo. 'It is broadly accepted that maintaining the status quo is not an option if we are to prioritise and protect front line services in the longer term under the financial circumstances.'

Oban Shopmobility continues to prove a popular local service

SHOPMOBILITY scooters and wheelchairs were hired out more than 750 times in the past year, helping both locals and visitors to Oban get out and about. Volunteers who operate the service are hoping that its continued popularity will help them secure more funding. Last year, a council grant of £3,000 was received but to date the group that runs the service, the Disability Forum and Access panel incorporating Oban Shopmobility, has nothing in place for the coming months. Judith Dougan, volunteer manager, said that in the 12 months to the end of March, the eight scooters and 17 wheelchairs were hired 768 times. The service operates from portable offices close to Oban railway station and the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry terminal. Those visiting the town who require use of either a scooter or wheelchair can reserve one in advance and the volunteers can arrange for it to be delivered to where they are staying. Judith explained that everything from taking reservations to servicing of the scooters and office maintenance was carried out by volunteers. Councillor Elaine Robertson, who is also a director of Shopmobility Oban, visited Shopmobility Oban with fellow councillors Donald MacDonald and Donald 'Skye' McIntosh for a look at how the service was going. She said it was important to highlight that the grant given to the group last year had been 'put to good use'. 'It is an opportunity to see what we have done and what has been achieved. We have managed to maintain the service under a volunteer umbrella. 'We have no grants in place so far for this year, but we will be applying.'



From left: Judith Dougan, Jan Morton, Councillor Elaine Robertson, Catriona Campbell, Ed Morton, Councillor Donald MacDonald and Councilor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh at the Shopmobility Oban office. 16_r16shopmobility01

Pub group ponders Oban move

BRITAIN'S biggest pub chain has admitted it is trying to find premises in Oban, but has denied recent speculation that it has identified a property. A spokesperson for JD Wetherspoon, which runs more than 800 premises throughout the UK, said: 'Oban is a town we are looking at, but we are not looking at any specific site in the town. 'It's just a case of seeing what comes up and seeing if it is right for us,' added the spokesperson.

Follow garden's Easter Egg Trail

ARDUAINE Garden is to host a Cadbury's Easter Egg Trail this weekend, starting tomorrow (Friday). On Easter Sunday there will be children's activities between 12.30pm and 4.30pm, including face painting, a decorated egg competition and an egg-throwing competition. There will be live music from the Charthouse Ceilidh Band.

Advertisement for Beaver Timber LTD. Features a beaver logo and lists various building services: Summer Houses, Sheds, Garages, Fencing, Stables, Dog Kennels, Log Stores, Boat Houses, Chalets, and Bespoke Buildings. Includes contact information: Barcaldine, by Oban, Telephone: 01631 720 353, Mobile: 07861 247 237, www.beavertimber.co.uk, email: info@beavertimber.co.uk. Price offers: Sheds from £450 Fully fitted, Garages from £1750 Fully fitted. Text: 'FREE FITTING OF SHEDS IN OBAN & SURROUNDING AREA', 'BEAVER TIMBER WILL DISMANTLE YOUR OLD SHED, DELIVER AND ERECT YOUR NEW SHED', 'BROCHURE & FREE QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST', 'All our buildings are made from 19mm boards and come complete with 18mm flooring. GARAGE BASES PREPARED', 'SHOWSITES NOW OPEN AT Corachie Clematis, Loch Awe, and MGM Timber, Oban'.

Advertisement for West Coast Tool & Plant Hire. Features a logo and text: 'WEST COAST TOOL & PLANT HIRE', '10% OFF ALL DIGGERS & BUMPERS HIRED AS A PACKAGE DURING MAY', 'Offering a full range of domestic and commercial tools, equipment and machinery for hire and sale', 'Open: Monday - Saturday', 'Oban 01631 566 401 oban@westcoastplanthire.co.uk Old Crofters Yard Soroba Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HU', 'Lochgilphead 01546 602 992 gilp@westcoastplanthire.co.uk Glenburn Road, Ardrishag, Argyll PA30 8EU www.westcoastplanthire.co.uk', 'Stihl and Viking Dealership', 'STIHL VIKING'.

Charity takes on night care service

PEOPLE relying on night care in Argyll and Bute can rest easy in their beds as improvements are being made to the service.

Carr-Gomm Scotland is a charity that provides support for those needing assistance with day-to-day living. The organisation has been commissioned by Argyll and Bute Council to take responsibility for the entire service in the area.

The arrangements mean people can now nominate trained care staff in the night teams to respond to community alarm calls between 11pm and 7am. The service operates in six centres - Oban, Lochgilphead, Campbeltown, Rothesay, Dunoon and Helensburgh. Denise Murdoch, operations manager for Carr-Gomm Scotland, explained: 'Having professional staff, who will make a visit during the night, hopefully makes it easier for those who need support to feel less inhibited about making a call.'

People using Hanover Telecare or the Bield Homes service have the option to nominate a Carr-Gomm Scotland worker as their first point of contact. The service is available seven days a week all year.

Mull motorist banned from roads

A MULL driver has been banned from the roads for 18 months after admitting driving while twice the legal alcohol limit.

Peter Walker, aged 55, of 5 Victoria Street, Tobermory, appeared on an undertaking at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday. He pled guilty to driving with 79 microgrammes in 100 millilitres of breath on Main Street, Tobermory, on April 2. The legal limit is 35 microgrammes. Sheriff Douglas Small also fined Walker £300.

Gaelic choir awarded £140

ARGYLL male voice Gaelic choir, Coisir Ceann an Tuirc, has been awarded £140 towards a CD recording and tuition from Argyll and Bute Council's third sector grants.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee went against a recommendation to underwrite the same amount and help the choir to seek funding elsewhere.

Wanted - the 'eyes and ears' of new cycle path

A TEAM of volunteers is being sought to become the 'eyes and ears' of the new cycle route between Oban and Ballachulish.

Officials at Sustrans, the charity developing the 32-mile route, say with good progress being made on the route, now is the time to recruit people willing to keep it in good order.

A major goal will be reached next month when a continuous 15-mile stretch between the Sea Life Centre, near Barcaldine, and the border between Argyll and Bute and Highland, will be completed.

Sustrans volunteer manager Sarah Jeffs and engineering manager Clary Elliott got on their bikes to ride part of the route last week and held an information meeting in Appin in a bid to attract volunteers.

'Anybody can volunteer - they don't have to be a cyclist,' explained Sarah.

She said that as well as regularly checking the condition of the surface, volunteers could help promote their section in a number of ways, such as distributing leaflets. Local knowledge was also vital in promoting the route.

'Volunteer rangers are the eyes and ears of the organisation,' she said.

'We are looking for people who could get involved in rides and walks, who could give a bit of local history - whether natural history or the history of the area.'

'This will encourage people to come out and become familiar with the route.'

Dave Crilley is the volunteer

REPORT
by STUART LAUNDY
slaundy@obantimes.co.uk

ranger for a five-mile stretch of the route at Ballachulish.

He said in practical terms, a ranger's job was 'keeping an eye' on the condition of the surface, carrying out any light maintenance and reporting any major problems to the Sustrans office in Edinburgh.

He added that being able to give walkers and cyclists a little local knowledge was also an advantage.

'It is amazing the number of people who ask about it,' he said.

Clary said it was hoped to have the continuous Oban-Ballachulish route completed by 2014.

She said negotiations were ongoing for stretches where the route currently breaks, such as that between north of Benderloch and the Sea Life Centre.

'Eventually we hope to have them all joined up. We are working closely with Transport Scotland, Highland Council, Argyll and Bute Council and the Forestry Commission,' she said.

From an engineering point of view, she said the main challenges related to the soft peaty ground conditions and drainage. There had also been some problems with contaminated land at Creagan Bridge.

Main funding for the route has come from the Scottish Government and the European Rural Development Fund, along with contributions from the local authorities.



On their bikes: Sarah Jeffs, Sustrans volunteer manager, and Dave Crilley, volunteer ranger for Ballachulish, on the cycle path stretch from the Sea Life Centre to South Creagan. 07_t16sustrans01

£1,200 to make Oban blooming marvellous

A VOLUNTARY group has been given £1,200 of Argyll and Bute Council money to improve flower beds in Oban.

Oban in Bloom will make environmental improvements to the Millennium Garden and Station Square flower beds, repairing vandalism, replanting and improving the condition

of the soil and pathing. At the council's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee meeting last Wednesday, councillors agreed the recommended £1,200.

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'I would gladly give them the money to do something in Station Square if the council cannot do it.'



Work to beautify the burn

OBAN Litter Busters was once again working on the town's Black Lynn burn; this time planting 56 shrubs and plants by the water's edge.

The volunteer group had previously removed rubbish and cut trees from the burn at Stevenson Street and, with help from Andrew MacDowall of Oban in Bloom, began planting on Sunday.

Plants were provided by Airds Bay Horticultural, many of which were donated, and advice was also given by MacDowall's and Cakebread's Garden Centre.

Event organiser Graham MacQueen said: 'Hopefully these plants will produce a colourful show for this summer. This year the idea was to clean up the burn and make it more attractive.'

'It was great to have help from Oban in Bloom and Airds Bay Horticultural.' Scottish Natural Heritage has awarded a grant to Argyll Fisheries Trust so that it can undertake a survey of the Black Lynn.

Graham added: 'Following the survey, it is hoped the trust can give us some advice on what kind of environment we should be creating in the burn.'

Left: Oban Litter Busters met at the Black Lynn to plant shrubs in what is the latest in a series of improvements to the area. 15_t16litter01

Oban Legion branch back up and running

THE OBAN branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland (RBLs) has officially reformed following a well-attended meeting in the Soroba House Hotel.

From the 28 people who attended the meeting on April 9, four committee members were selected: chairwoman Lesley Blair-Simmonds, secretary Archie MacCulloch, treasurer Raymond Hyams and Ian Simmonds was voted in as a board member.

Also present was Jim Anderson, president of RBLs Glasgow and West-ern Counties.

Lesley said: 'We had a good mix of older members and new members at the meeting and everyone was ex-servicemen.'

'The Soroba House Hotel was a good venue and we will be having future meetings there. We will have a formal meeting, then retire to the bar for a more social occasion.'

'We want people to know that we will be there to support them. It's about having a safe place to relax where you can talk to people who know what you have been through.'

'There will hopefully be a lot of humour involved as a result. We don't want to sit there and be morbid.'

It is anticipated that two more board members will be sworn in at the next meeting on May 9.

Little support for green belt houses petition

A PETITION to protest against permission being given for houses on green belt areas not zoned for development has not gathered as much support as expected.

So far, only 48 people have added their names to the petition by Kilmelford man Ewan Kennedy who became incensed after an absentee landlord gained planning permission to build two homes on the east side of the Kames Peninsula.

The lack of response has disappointed Mr Kennedy, who says many of the county's beauty spots could be lost forever as a result of careless development.

He said: 'I've got the impression that people are reluctant to sign petitions generally, as quite a few people have

contacted me informally with support, but haven't signed.'

'Unless a lot more do sign, I will treat that part of the exercise as a failure.'

Lucky

'Residents of Argyll know that we are very lucky to live in an area of great visual amenity and ecological importance.'

'This is also our main economic asset, as it is the reason people visit our area and tourism is our most important industry.'

Planning guidelines state that developments should not, where possible, be allowed on areas where its scale, location or design will have an adverse impact on the character of the landscape, but Mr Kennedy believes this point is being

overlooked by council chiefs.

He said: 'Despite this the council has granted permission for speculative housing development in parts of these areas, most recently on the Kames Peninsula, where two large houses have been allowed on a conspicuous and ecologically-sensitive site between a major tourist route and the sea.'

Lost

'Once the quality of the landscape is destroyed by development it is lost forever.'

'For the sake of the environment and present and future generations, we must call on Argyll and Bute Council to halt this destruction.'

To view the petition go to www.gopetition.com/petition/44163.html.

Lorn Lines

OBAN Mountain Rescue Team is inviting members of the public to join them on a sponsored climb of Ben Cruachan to raise £10,000 for the group.

The team aims to raise the money by guiding climbers up the Munro on Sunday June 26 and every climber will be set a sponsorship target of at least £100.

As well as enjoying the spectacular scenery, climbers will be treated to a barbecue at the summit.

There will also be refreshments at Brander Lodge afterwards. Oban Mountain Rescue Team is a voluntary group that relies on donations to exist and help save lives on the area's mountains.

The team is currently on a fundraising drive to buy a new Land Rover to carry its equipment to emergency calls.

If you want to take part in the sponsored climb, phone Sandra on 01631 570060 or email n.mcgougan.ltd@hotmail.co.uk for an entry form.

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A STALWART of Argyll and Bute Council's roads department, Stuart Mackay, has retired after 40 years of service.

A native of Oban, Stuart was brought up at the former Athol Hotel on George Street. He left to gain a degree in civil engineering at Edinburgh's Napier University but returned to his hometown to work under the late John Smith, county engineer of Argyll County Council.

During his career, Stuart worked on many high profile projects including rebuilding the Combie Street bridge in 1975, work on the Craignuke Corner in Benderloch, the Ledaig car park in Tobermory and the revamp of Connel Airfield.

Stuart was presented with a commemorative quail by the council's principal engineer Arthur MacCulloch at a celebration in the Manor House Hotel last week.

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LORN Archaeological and Historical Society's last winter lecture was well received as Dr Tony Pollard from Glasgow University gave an enthralling talk on Battlefield Archaeology at Culloden.

His talk described that archaeology has ultimately redrawn the interpretation of the last battle fought on British soil. With a large amount of battlefield finds and ballistics research, Dr Pollard painted a vivid scene of the day's action. The research has dispelled many of the Victorian myths that had built up over clan graves and the main frontline fight.

Dr Pollard is no stranger to TV archaeology as he has featured in programmes Two Men in a Trench and a Time Team special. A former resident of the Oban area, he attended his very first archaeology lecture here with local author and society member Charles Hunter 30 years ago.

The next outing, a walk near Lerags, is being organised for Sunday May 29. Details will be posted on the society website and Town Diary.

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PROBLEMS with a limited capacity at Oban's Pennyfuir burial ground could be eliminated this week, if councillors approve plans to extend the site.

The Development and Infrastructure Services Committee will this week consider a report on whether or not to change the use of agricultural land to the north and east of the current site to allow the expansion, which would also create new vehicular access from the A85 and parking.

The report, which recommends the plans be approved, said: 'The development is sufficiently removed from residential property so as not to give rise to adverse residential amenity considerations.'

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DOWN YOUR WAY

This week - Islay

BOWMORE Hall Committee has confirmed that the Singing Kettle will be performing in the village in September. The children's entertainment act, featuring musicians Cilla Fisher, Artie Trezise, Kevin MacLeod and Gary Coupland will be playing at the hall on September 10.



Islay Pipe Band, pictured at last year's Islay Show, will play a fundraising concert this Saturday. 07_1615lay01

ISLAY Pipe Band will unveil a new song, composed by a band member and written for an island doctor, at a fundraising gig on Saturday.

With a busy season ahead, the pipe band is currently on a fundraising drive to cover travel costs.

The concert, to be held in Bowmore Village Hall from 7.30pm, will be the first time the new tune, 'Dr Knowles' Welcome to Port Ellen, will be played - and the first time Dr Knowles will have heard it.

Dr Jean Knowles, who has worked in Port Ellen for more than 22 years, offered to give the band a donation if it could come up with a tune about the village.

She said: 'I promised to give the donation to the band if they wrote a song entitled Welcome to Port Ellen. There is a tune called Leaving Port Askaig but why shouldn't there be a song welcoming people to the island.'

Asked whether she was proud that her name was used in the title of the new tune, Dr Knowles replied: 'I don't know; I haven't heard it yet! I've told them not to make it a miserable tune.'

The tune was penned by Islay piper George Johnston, who is formerly of the Scots Guards.

Islay Pipe Band has come a long way since 2005, when it began to compete once more in major competitions. From 2007 to 2010 it gained consecutive promotions from Grade 4B to 3A. Last season it consolidated its place in 3A with a sixth place at the Pipe Band World Championships in Glasgow and a third at Cowal.

However, in order to repeat, and build on, this success the band will need to attend as many competitions as possible, which requires a lot of funding. The first major of this year is the Scottish Championship on May 21 at Dumbarton. The band will come back to Islay the following morning to play at the Bruichladdich Distillery open day for Feis Ile.

Islay Pipe Band treasurer James MacEachern, from Bruichladdich, said: 'We are looking forward to playing the tune for the first time at the concert on Easter Saturday. The previous night we will have a disco in the Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen. We had a dance in the Ramsay Hall about a month ago and that raised £1,000. We get a lot of support from the island.'

RUNNERS are being encouraged to take their marks for the 25th anniversary Islay Half Marathon, sponsored by Ardbeg Distillery. Nearly 200 runners signed up to take part in last year's event and organisers are still planning to make sure this year's race is one to remember.

The course starts at Bowmore Distillery gates before heading out along the link road with Port Ellen to the airport and returning to Bowmore.

Last year's event attracted competitors from across Scotland and Europe. The winner was Helensburgh's Paul Thompson with Islay's own Marcus Covell coming in fifth.

ISLAY has become one of the top tourist destinations in Scotland and with a full list of events during the summer months, is becoming more and more popular.

Islay Walk Week kicks things off this week and at the end of May thousands of visitors from all over the world will come to the island for the annual Feis Ile, the island's Malt and Music Festival, when whisky and music heritage takes centre stage.

Open days will be held at Lagavulin, Bruichladdich, Port Ellen Maltings, Caol Ila, Laphroaig, Bowmore, Islay Ales, Isle of Jura, Kilchoman, Bunnahabhain, Ardbeg, The Islay Beach Rugby Tournament will be held on June 11 at the White Hart Beach, Port Ellen.

This year 32 teams have been invited to join and it is usually a bright summer's day.

The classical music Cantilena Summer Festival is on from July 3 to July 8 and the Tall Ships Race will also be berthing at Islay in July. The Islay Book festival (September 3-4) extends the traditional season beyond August. The Islay Jazz Festival will also be held that month.

A PLAN by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) to build new crew accommodation block and a souvenir shop at Port Askaig has been recommended for approval by council planners.

The application is to erect a two-storey detached building consisting of offices, administration areas, lifeboat crew changing areas, crew kitchen and mess areas, crew training area, workshop and storage areas plus separate Jura ferry crew admin and mess areas. There would also be a souvenir shop to raise money for the RNLI.

The existing toilet block, which is unused, would be demolished. The Port Askaig grouping is B listed and Iain and Marion Spears from the Port Askaig Hotel have made representations against the plan for a number of reasons, such as the current building's historical importance, the size of the proposed development and the distance of it from the lifeboat.

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Loch Tayside with reporter Steven Flanagan.

You can contact him at 01631 568000 or email sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk.

LISMORE

A TRIO of musicians, Mairi Campbell, Abbey Newton, and Kim Robertson, treated a sizeable audience to some fine Celtic/folk/classical music which will feature in their forthcoming tour of Scotland. Mairi's musical versatility was displayed on the fiddle, the viola and in her voice which was very affecting with her great musical range which flows freely.

She also managed a few dance steps. There were some thrilling Clarsach moments from Kim Robertson both in her solo pieces and with the trio and cellist Abbey Newton did not disappoint, showing a great range and versatility on an instrument not known for it.

Two representatives from Glensanda Quarry, Ian Henry (Head of Administration), and David Rawcliffe, (In charge of recycling), recently visited Achnacroich to formally present Energy Officer John MacCormick with three sizeable bins for the disposal and recycling of agricultural plastic. Some time ago John asked Glensanda if they would be willing to pay for one bin of the three the Energy Project were considering buying, and was delighted when the works manager, Darren Lofthouse, agreed to fund all three. 'Lismore is our nearest neighbour,' Ian said, 'and we like to help when we can.' Instructions on the three bins clearly state the type of rubbish they take.

At a meeting on March 24 there was a general consensus that this would be the last year the Community Bus would operate and a timetable was devised to wind up the group and dispose of assets.

It was agreed to honour hires up to the end of June and to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting to seek a two-thirds majority to approve the winding up. The meeting was set for Monday May 16 at 8pm and it was hoped that there would be a good turn out of all user groups and drivers.



Fort William Easter on a plate winners celebrate

Easter came early to Fort William Primary School last week when a competition for pupils to create an Easter plate was organised. Designs of the plates ranged from those depicting the Easter bunny hiding chocolate eggs to the scene of Jesus' resurrection. Head teacher Sue Commander told The Oban Times it was too difficult to choose a winner so each pupil was given a chocolate egg. She said: 'The children made them at home in their own time. They were all so lovely we just gave them all a prize.' P1 pupils Angus Thomson, left, and Cameron Stephen, centre, are pictured with Struan Stephen, P2, and their plates.

DUROR

A MEETING of Duror and Kentallan Community Council was held in the village hall on Wednesday, April 13 when the following matters were discussed:

POLICE representatives are to be invited to a future meeting to discuss concerns about speeding vehicles through the villages.

Several complaints have been made to community councillors by residents and it has been noted

that police patrols have been conducted in Kentallan.

Chairman Jonathan Baxter said he was not sure if the speed checks were continuing and this would be one of the points to raise with the police.

THE mystery of the missing play park seat is deepening!

The seat's disappearance was reported at the council's March meeting, when members said they would ask residents in the area if any of them had taken it away for repairs to be carried out.

Reporting back, chairman

Jonathan Baxter, said: 'We have asked around and it has gone without trace.'

Members agreed that the seat would not be replaced and the issue will only be considered if a request is made to the council.

A NEWLY installed wheely-bin at a beauty spot was stolen almost immediately, it was claimed.

Community councillor Kim Malcolm wrote to Highland Council asking when a replacement bin was to be installed at Cuiil Bay.

The council responded by saying a new bin had been put in, but was immediately stolen.

However, community councillor Jean MacLeod, said: 'No-one has ever seen a replacement bin. Everyone can remember the burnt bin being taken away. They say it was replaced and was immediately stolen.'

The meeting was told Highland Council was not willing to put another bin at the bay, but were prepared to put up 'No Litter' and 'No Fouling' signs instead.

Members declined this offer. 'They would ruin the area,' said Councillor MacLeod.

RESIDENTS are planning a clean-up event at Cuiil Bay and two neighbouring beauty spots in readiness for the influx of summer tourists.

Councillor Jean MacLeod said she had been asked whether the community council would provide a skip for a weekend.

Chairman Jonathan Baxter said he would contact the Community Payback scheme to see if it could help with the clean up.

Failing that, he would contact Highland Council to see if a skip could be provided for a set weekend.

Councillor MacLeod said the clean-up needed to be done within the next three to four months.

'The holiday season with the tourists is about to begin, we

need to get the rubbish cleared up now,' she said.

THE Duror and Kentallan Community Choir has made itself into an officially constituted organisation.

The community council - which has agreed to give £500 towards a new digital piano for the group's use - was told there was now a committee in place.

A SMALL committee is to be formed in an attempt to take projects forward.

Councillor Jean MacLeod said a number of interested people had come forward to offer help with a scheme to restore the old bridge at Duror and another to install signs and maps highlighting the villages' history and places of interest.

NO objections were raised to a planning application for another stage in the Oban-Fort William cycle path.

Members were told plans had been lodged for the section between Lagnaha and Duror village.

COUNCILLORS are to consider a request for cash from the Active Schools co-ordinators based at Kinlochleven High School.

A letter had been received asking if the council was willing to make a donation towards the travel costs incurred by Active Schools during the many activities they attended.

Questions were raised as to whether any donation would be a one-off or whether it would be an annual request. Members agreed to write to Active Schools thanking them for their request but asking for more information.

The matter will be discussed again at the May community council meeting.

COMMUNITY council chairman Jonathan Baxter is to look into whether a life-saving defibrillator could be fitted in the village hall. He explained: 'We

are in a community where there are a number of aged people. If there was a defibrillator in the hall, it could only do good.

'It seems to me that the modern versions of these defibrillators are very user friendly.

'We have the AGM of the community council in November and I would like to work towards having a presentation on the night of the AGM. That gives us all summer to pursue it.

'My idea would be to have everyone in the community familiarised with these things, for everyone to know it's there and how to use it. Then there is the potential to save a life.'

SLEAT

SLEAT Community Trust has opened new offices at Faolinn Cottage, next the filling station and post office in Armadale.

The trust decided it was time to set up a proper office, instead of working out of various places around Slead, including Ardasar village hall.

Big Lottery funding has helped to pay to refurbish the cottage, which will become the working and meeting hub for everything to do with the trust.

Items discovered in the attic as work began included a sunbed and a vast quantity of mammoth lego. The lego has gone to Fas Mòr, the Gaelic medium childcare facility at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig - but the sunbed still needs a home. Visitors are welcome to call in and meet trust staff.

AN INTERPRETATION panel explaining how one of Slead's most notable bogs is to be installed on site at the end of this month.

Moineachd nan Lochain Dubha (moorland of the black lochs) on the road to Broadford is one of the best examples of blanket bog in Britain, and is internationally recognised as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation. Highland Council rangers held a guided walk round the bog yesterday (Wednesday).

KYLEAKIN

KYLEAKIN Environmental Group (KEG) will be carrying out a clean up of the foreshore at Bernera in Glenelg next Saturday, April 30, as part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful - National Spring Clean.

Litter pickers, bin bags, gloves and tabards will be supplied on the day. Helpers are asked to bring a packed lunch and waterproofs and wellies are recommended.

Meeting up point is the campsite on the Bernera freshore (NGR NG. 809206) from 11am - look out for the wee Teardrop Trailer Caravan. Children under 16 should be accompanied by an appropriate adult. All are welcome. For further information contact Alasdair or Flora on 01599 534522.

BALMACARA

SKYE AND Lochalsh Environment Forum's first biodiversity day will be held at Balmacara Square on Saturday May 21.

In addition to free half-hour trips led by local naturalists who will show visitors the wealth of wildlife that abounds a few minutes walk from The Square, there will be stalls of crafts and produce from local producers.



Left to right: David Rawcliffe, Glensanda Recycling; John MacCormick of Lismore Energy Project and Ian Hendry, Head of Administration, Glensanda.



Salen primary Red Nose fun day raises £1,358

Salen Primary School and Pre-School on Mull raised £1,358.36 on Red Nose Day. All the pupils dressed up and staff gave an amazing performance of Dancing Queen. The schools said: 'Thank you to everyone who sponsored us and gave money when we walked around the village shaking buckets.'

South West Ross piping competition winners

SOUTH West Ross Piping Society held its 45th annual competition at Plockton on Saturday April 2.

Full results: Practice Chanter, New Competitors - 1 Gillesbuig MacVicar; 2 Joshua Harrigan; 3 Alexander MacPhee; 4 Jonathan Beaton; 5 Brighde Rankin; 6 Eosaph Caimbeul. Previous Competitors - 1 Duncan Watt; 2 Charlotte Becky; 3 Katie Louise MacKenzie; 4 Dougal McKiggan; 5 Paddy MacInnes; 6 Eleanor Becky.

Novice March Under-15 - 1 Robert MacInnes; 2 Steven McDiarmid; 3 Duncan Wood; 4 Malin Lewis; 5 Kenny Nicolson; 6 Eilidh Beaton. March Under-15 - 1 Seamus O Baoighill; 2 Brighde Chaimbeul; 3 James Roxburgh; 4 Cameron Sharp; 5 Frieda McKiggan; 6 Mairi MacInnes. Strathspey & Reel Under-15 - 1 Brighde Chaimbeul; 2 Kristin Finlayson; 3 Mairi MacInnes; 4 Seamus O Baoighill; 5 James Roxburgh; 6 Eoghain Peutan. Jig Under-15 - 1 Seamus O Baoighill; 2 Brighde Chaimbeul; 3 James Roxburgh; 4 Frieda McKiggan; 5 Cameron Sharp; 6 Kayleigh Nicolson. Piobaireachd Under-15 - 1 Brighde Chaimbeul; 2 Seamus O Baoighill; 3 Cameron Sharp; 4 James Roxburgh; 5 Mairi

MacInnes; 6 Frieda McKiggan. Gaelic Air Under-15 - 1 James Roxburgh; 2 Mairi MacInnes; 3 Archie Drennan; 4 Seamus O Baoighill; 5 Brighde Chaimbeul; 6 Andrew MacIsaac. March, Strathspey & Reel Under-18 - 1 Conal MacDonagh; 2 Conall MacLleachiar; 3 Norrie Gillies; 4 Crisdean MacDonald; 5 Rachel MacDonald; Best Local - Crisdean MacDonald. Jig Under-18 - 1 Conall MacLleachiar; 2 Norrie Gillies; 3 Conal MacDonagh; 4 Crisdean MacDonald. Piobaireachd Under-18 - 1 James Rosie; 2 Conal MacDonagh; 3 Norrie Gillies; 4 Crisdean MacDonald; Best Local - Crisdean MacDonald. March, Strathspey & Reel 18-22 - 1 Alexander Leveck; 2 Alasdair Murray. Jig 18-22 - 1 Alexander Leveck; 2 Alasdair Murray. Piobaireachd 18-22 - 1 Alexander Leveck; 2 Alasdair Murray.

Overall Under-18 - Conal MacDonagh; Local Overall Under-18 - Crisdean MacDonald. Overall Under-15 - Brighde Chaimbeul; Overall 18-22 (excluding Piob) - Alexander Leveck; (Overall 18-22 (including Piob) - Alexander Leveck. Youngest Competitor in Piping Events - Malin Lewis; Turnout & Bearing (Boys) - Norrie Gillies; Dress & Department (Girls) - Fiona MacLennan.

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STAFFIN

STAFFIN Community Council (SCC) has noted local concerns about the newly improved A855 road to Portree. Much of the road was upgraded from single track to two lanes last month, but is already the subject of much debate and black humour. One stretch has already been dubbed 'Codona's road', because it resembles the rollercoaster in Codona's Amusement Park in Aberdeen. SCC minute secretary Sylvia Porter told *The Oban Times*: 'People have scraped the sumps of their cars when they come off a big hump on the road and hit the flat bit.'

BALLACHULISH

BALLACHULISH Community Council is to sponsor a competition for local schoolkids to design posters for bus shelters in a bid to reduce vandalism. The winning designs will feature as laminated panels on shelters in the village, which have been regularly defaced with graffiti and scratchmarks. BCC chairman Mel MacAskill said Highland Council had given permission for the panels to be put up and funding would be now be pursued to fund their installation. 'We will be asking pupils at Kinlochleven High School and Ballachulish Primary School to take part,' he said. 'It's an effort to try and stop people damaging the bus shelters.'

BALLACHULISH Primary School's eco-committee gave a very impressive presentation to Ballachulish Community Council's last meeting. Four young committee members attended with teacher Mrs Mills to talk on their projects to help the environment and encourage more sustainable lifestyles. Their work impressed community council members so much that they agreed to buy planters and bulbs for the children to create and maintain floral displays round the village.

Newsdesk

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Sarah Hobhouse of Balnahard Farm, Colonsay, poses with a canine friend on one of the new ladder stiles.

Colonsay islanders celebrate first spring festival in 'stile'

COLONSAY will be celebrating its first Festival of Spring in 'stile' from April 30 to May 20. Islanders have installed a number of new stiles, strategically placed to improve access for walkers, bird watchers and plant lovers. Resident Les Robinson made the ladder-design stiles from larch, which withstands the weather well and will benefit walkers well into the future. The stiles were made possible by a Wee Green Grant of £500 from Argyll and Bute Council. The grants are available to voluntary or community groups in Argyll and Bute to help with environmental activities that encourage wildlife, support biodiversity and reduce waste. At the north end of the island, Balnahard Farm is home to one of the new stiles; the walk to Balnahard Bay - reportedly HM the Queen's favourite beach - is one of the most popular with visitors to the island, leaving the equally stunning Kiloran Bay. It then passes Julian Meredith's whale sculpture in creation, please add a stone, with stunning views over to Mull. The famous wild goats are often to be found at this end of the island. Focusing on the rich diversity of bird and plant life on the island, as well as its archaeology, with guided walks and talks, the Colonsay Festival of Spring, www.colonsayevents.co.uk, is also offering food foraging, art classes, kayaking, bridge, ceilidhs, wine tasting and much more. Accommodation for the festival is still available. See www.colonsay.org.uk for details.

RAASAY

BENCHES bought with the money raised at the Isle of Raasay Gala Day last summer are now in place at Clachan. The scenic spot offers spectacular views of the Isle of Skye across the Narrows of Raasay.

EASDALE

ROYAL British Legion Easdale Branch held a meeting on Saturday April 9. Anna Putnam Bevis, who is in her 80th year, stood down as chairman at the group's annual general meeting. Anna served the branch well over many years working as the chairman for the last three years. Anna was presented with a bouquet of flowers from the branch by vice chairman, Professor Ted Chance followed by a vote of thanks for all her hard work. Branch meetings are held in the Tigh and Truish Inn, close to the 'Atlantic Bridge' at Clachan Seil. Thankfully Anna is not retiring as a member and she will still be actively involved as we raise funds for the many service charities we support. John Alexander, from the Isle of Luing, has now been voted on as the new chairman.

LOCHGILPHEAD

RESIDENTS at Mid Argyll Community Hospital were treated to a special concert last week by Margaret Knight. The singer and harpist performed a mix of Scottish traditional and classical pieces for patients and staff in Cara Ward as part of a Music in Hospitals Concert. Margaret, who has been making music more widely available to people whose illness, age or disability has prevented them from enjoying music, encouraged people to sing along and have a go playing the harp. With health professionals constantly acknowledging the valuable part music can play in the treatment and care of patients staff in the hospital Cara Ward said the concert provided great stimulation for residents in the ward. Nurse Jimmy McCallum said: 'Everyone enjoys the music, singing along and reminiscing about old tunes. 'The harp is such a unique instrument as well.' Music in Hospitals draws upon the talents of some of Scotland's leading musicians to perform for people in over 500 hospitals, hospices, homes and day care centres across the country.

TAYNUILT



Carpet bowlers from Taynuilt who won the MacGregor Cup.

CONNEL

THE HIGH spring tide saw people from all over the country travelling to Falls of Lora for a 'play wave.' The tide is one of the biggest cataracts where seawater is forced up through narrows, spanned by the Connel Bridge. John Peeden, was with his son Calum as he paddling on the Falls. John said: 'As I was saying when the wave forms on a big spring tide people come from all over Britain and sometimes further a field to play on it. 'The next big tide is on Sunday 17 April, and the wave will start around 10.30 in the morning and run for about three hours - probably at its best around 11.30 - 12.00.'



People from all over the country took to the high seas at Connel Bridge.

Around the Rurals

MORAR

SIX LADIES attended the April meeting of Morar SWRI with John Bryden of Bryden Enterprises guest speaker for the evening. John gave a brief description of his various career changes and went on to explain the intricacies of carpet and rug cleaning. He also made the ladies aware of how easy it is to be conned into believing the authenticity of silk rugs. Members thanked John for his interesting and informative talk and after a brief business discussion the competitions were judged. Winners: Decorated chocolate Easter egg - 1 Isobel Morton; 2 June Foxwell; 3 Eileen Macphie; 4 Heather Simpson. Dressed dolly peg - 1 Eileen Macphie; 2 June Foxwell; 3 Heather Simpson; 4 Mary Ferguson. The raffle was won by Heather Simpson. Hostesses were Heather Simpson and Eileen Macphie.

KILMORE

KILMORE SWRI held its successful biennial concert on Friday March 11. Introduced by president Isabel Smith and compered by Liam Griffin, there was an array of local talent including piper Emma Law, the Morrison boys, fiddlers and dancers and the ladies themselves who performed a one-act play. A good raffle and lovely tea finished the night. Thanks go to everyone for all their hard work. On Wednesday April 13, president Isabel Smith welcomed members and, after business, she introduced Sharon Webb, curator of Kilmartin Museum. Sharon gave an excellent talk and slide show on recent archaeology finds in Mid Argyll. The vote of thanks was given by Christine Hodge and tea was served by Mairi Hodgson and helpers. Competitions: Flower arrangement in a small basket - 1 Mairi Morrison. Marmalade: 1 Mairi Morrison.

APPIN

APPIN SWRI held its AGM and last meeting of the session last Thursday. President Doreen Evans welcomed 30 members and two visitors to the meeting. After the AGM, the meeting continued with an oriental evening. Many members had come dressed in appropriate costume and Alison MacCorquodale was judged to be the 'Best Dressed'. Everyone joined in oriental type games. Then they were entertained by a musical interlude by Three Little Maids, from Appin, who sang the aria of the same name. This was much enjoyed by everyone. Next came a lovely oriental supper supplied by the committee. Towards the end of the evening the branch held its prizegiving for the end of year trophies: Housewives: 1 Myra MacDougall; 2 Ellen MacCorquodale. Handicrafts: 1 Doreen Evans; 2 Pat Wyeth Webb. Our competition for the evening was a pretty cup and this was won by Shiela Appleby. Doreen then thanked everyone for making it a very successful year.



School pupils clean up Kinlochleven

It wasn't all classroom work for community-minded Kinlochleven Primary School pupils before the Easter holidays. The children's eco-project has involved everything from learning how to look after the environment to living greener lifestyles. But last week they ticked another 'must do' item off their list - cleaning up paths and open spaces round the village in a litter-pick. Ten bags of rubbish were collected - with soft drinks cans providing a large part of the haul.

LOCHGILPHEAD



Bug on a Blade was just one of the fantastic images captured by pupils of the Snapberry Project.

A GROUP of Lochgilphead High School students have been snapped up by Scottish Natural Heritage's Good Practice Team after producing some breathtaking landscape photography images. Snapberry, an environmental arts project led by Scottish Natural Heritage, has seen some remarkable productions from the students in its two years of running. The project has seen specialists in photography and natural heritage working with the students on the Taynish and Moine Mhor National Nature Reserves, some of Mid Argyll's most stunning locations. Now the Snapberry model of working will be used as the basis of a talk at The Participant event at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Headquarters next Wednesday (April 20). The team of students, led by Project Manager Caroline Anderson, will talk about their work to a wide variety of sectors such as land managers, local authorities, health, education, voluntary and government, about their individual experiences of the project, as well as exhibiting some of their photographic interpretations of the natural heritage of Mid Argyll taken during their fieldtrips. For more information on the Sharing Good Practice visit - www.snh.gov.uk or contact Scottish Natural Heritage on 01738 458555 for a programme.

Mull Lines

CHARITIES benefiting from a Fire Station open day were delighted to pick up their cheques this week. Watch commander Willie Hume welcomed representatives from various charities to Tobermory Community Fire Station for cheque presentations from money raised at last year's Open Day. The Firefighters Benevolent Fund received £667.48, The SWRI (Scottish Woman's Rural Institute) received £125.00 towards the senior citizen's party, guides, rainbows and brownies were given a total of £125, the Gaelic toddlers group was given £125 and Tobermory Fireworks received £125.



A fire station open day in Tobermory saw island charities benefit.

A CHARITY Shop will be opening its doors this Saturday, April 23. Island Castaways will be moving into its shop - right next door to its old shop, and a day of celebration for the Grand Opening is being planned. The shop will be in the front part of the Mull and Iona Community Trust building. A furniture sale at the storage container site at Fas Choile, Craignure is happening on the same day. Opening times of the shop are 10am - 4.30pm with the furniture sale on from 12.00 - 2pm at the storage site.

ARTS centre An Tobar has been awarded £2,500 towards its core funding by Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee. Councillors praised the work of the centre and agreed the recommended grant but were keen to stress organisations should not rely on third sector grants for core funding.

SOMETHING fishy is happening on the Isle of Mull with some people thinking they are seeing double, while others think it may be a mirage.

But *The Oban Times* can confirm the Waterfront Restaurant, that so many are fond of in Oban, has taken over the Ledaig-side restaurant in Tobermory.

Managing the venue are chef Michael Gilmore and maitre d' Kellyann Dougall, a couple who were tempted away from the bright lights of the Blythswood Hotel, Glasgow, by the lure of running their own establishment in Mull.

Michael says he wants to deliver local food with elegance, with portions that are filling and with a finely tuned list of side orders so diners can eat as much or as little as they like. Staff are still fairly new to the semi-silver service on offer - but they are local folk and not only able to serve the meals but are also able to have a little bit of chat about what is going on in the village. It is certainly a relaxed atmosphere - a place to go and chill out.

Kellyann is knowledgeable about the wines on her list. She is also ready to train staff to a high standard, something she says will be a legacy from the island.

She said: 'We want to say that people came to work for us and they learned something. 'We have a young dynamic team who are keen to take the restaurant to a new standard in semi silver service. 'We are delighted to be here it may be a life change but what we want to do is the same here as it was at the Blythswood. That is allow people to eat well in fine surroundings.'

MULL police officers have introduced a new shift working pattern for the community team targeting resources to times of peak demand, in particular Friday and Saturday evenings. Sergeant Mark Stephen said: 'It is our intention to conduct high profile patrols to address drunk and disorderly behaviour, which was identified as an area of concern during our community consultation process. We will also be conducting speed checks throughout the day at various locations.'

Uist Eco-Film Festival

UIST Eco Film Festival has finalised its programme for the three-day event beginning on April 29. The first of its kind the festival will screen environmentally-themed international documentary and fiction film and video. The main themes of the festival will be climate change and sustainability in relation to island and maritime settings. Organised by Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum and Arts Centre and Sustainable Uist, the festival aims to increase appreciation of landscape and ecology and enhance understanding of the global and local environmental issues through screening of excellent moving image, related talks and events, with ancillary screenings at primary and secondary schools throughout the Uists. A full programme is now online at <http://uistfilm.org/booking/>

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Young Volunteer

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Sports Club/Association

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The 28th HIGHLAND FLING in Oban



Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival



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Wishing all the competitors at the 27th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival every success!

CO-ROINN GHÀIDHLIG LATHARNA/LORN GAELIC PARTNERSHIP

Gàidhlig ann an Sgìre an Obain

Best of luck to all competitors at this year's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival

OBAN will be buzzing with talent during the last weekend of April, when the town once again plays host to the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

The annual festival runs from Thursday 28 April to Sunday 1 May. During that time nearly 1,300 people will participate in the competitions, some which are the most prestigious of their kind in Scotland.

The event developed from the idea of promoting and celebrating the traditional music and dance of the Highlands and Islands in the form of a short festival. The Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival was created in 1984 and featured just four competition categories in its first year. How it has grown!

Since it began, thousands of people of all ages have participated in competitions and special events at the Festival, and now the event offers over 125 competition classes in 12 disciplines including piping, accordion, fiddle, clarsach, piano, recorder, woodwind and brass, singing, Scottish country dancing, Highland dancing and choreography. Competitions are held at many venues throughout the town, including St John's Cathedral, Oban High School, the Argyllshire Gathering and the Corran Halls, beginning on Thursday 28 April with

Primary Schools Day and the Scottish country dancing events.

The Festival aims to encourage young talent to participate in and develop the traditional and historical art of music and dance of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The event is also a focus through which the local population and visitors to the area can come into contact with and appreciate these traditional arts.

One of the festival highlights is the Accordion and Fiddle Masters competition, which takes place at St John's Cathedral on Friday 29 April. Prize-winning fiddle players and accordionists from the main competition throughout the country are invited to take part in this unique competition. Six accordionists perform a traditional March, Strathspey and Reel and Hornpipe and Jig while the fiddle players perform a Slow Air, March, Strathspey and Reel, followed by a Slow Strathspey, Hornpipe and Jig. The evening is now an annual fixture for both competitors and spectators providing a feast of traditional Scottish music of exceptional quality, and is regarded as one of the major competitions of its kind in the country.

The Scottish Area Finals are not only a competition, they are truly an 'event'. As well as providing an opportunity to enjoy dancers from all corners of our country, this is the only Highland Dancing team competition to be held in the world. This is one of the very top Scottish Highland dance competitions, and is open to all.

The busy day of competitions at venues throughout Oban on Saturday 30 April culminates in the 'Concert

of Champions' at the Corran Halls, which will showcase champions from the festival. The annual Festival Fling dance will take place at the Argyllshire Gathering Hall and is a firm favourite with locals and visitors alike. Due to the popularity of the dance, tickets are already very limited, so booking in advance is advised to avoid disappointment.

For Highland dancing enthusiasts the Scottish Area Highland Dancing Finals, which take place at the Corran Halls on Friday 29 April, are not to be missed. The very best dancers from every area of Scotland come together in this spectacular team event to decide the most successful area of Highland Dancing in Scotland. Seventeen areas throughout Scotland will each be represented by a team of six dancers who have qualified by their performance at a selected championship or event held in 2010.

The Scottish Area Finals are not only a competition, they are truly an 'event'. As well as providing an opportunity to enjoy dancers from all corners of our country, this is the only Highland Dancing team competition to be held in the world. This is one of the very top Scottish Highland dance competitions, and is open to all.

On Saturday 30 May, Highland dancing competitions run all day at Atlantis

Leisure, with hundreds of dancers from throughout Scotland taking part.

The Scottish Choreography Challenge, which now takes place over two days, is one of the true highlights of the Festival weekend. Celebrating its 19th year in 2011, the competition opens in the Corran Halls on Saturday afternoon with teams from throughout the country performing choreographed dance routines.

The competition then moves to the Corran Halls on Sunday May 1, for a whole day of sensational dancing arranged in three sessions for teams of dancers aged 12 years and under, 16 years and under and 17 years and over. This is a most spectacular team event with the highest standard of choreographed highland dancing, tremendous music and fantastic costumes being enjoyed by a capacity audience. Teams of dancers compete for the prestigious title using innovative dance routines, which incorporate traditional highland dancing steps. Participants make full use of sound, lighting, costume, scenery and special effects to create a spectacle worthy of national recognition.

In addition to the competitions, there will be the ever-popular Festival Parade when Mid Argyll Pipe Band and Helensburgh Pipe Band will depart from

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The 28th Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival
28 April - 1 May

The Festival Showcase CONCERT OF CHAMPIONS
See and hear the best of the Festival talent
Corran Halls, Saturday 30 April, 7pm

Family Dance 'FESTIVAL FLING'
Susan MacFadyen & her Band
Argyllshire Gathering Hall
Saturday 30 April, 8pm

Tickets from Oban Music, Corran Halls or Festival Office 07510 841198

The festival gratefully acknowledges the support of Argyll & Bute Council

Best wishes for a successful festival from everyone at

Oban Music and musicscotland

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www.musicscotland.com

FESTIVAL DIARY

Make sure you buy your copy of The Oban Times following the Festival for coverage of this spectacular event, which brings so much talent and enjoyment to the town.

Thursday 28 April
Scottish Country Dancing, Action Songs, Choirs, Groups, Ensembles, Singing & Recorder - Corran Halls

Friday 29 April
Accordion & Fiddle Masters - St. John's Cathedral
Scottish Area Finals - Corran Halls

Saturday 30 April
Accordion - St. Columba's Cathedral Hall
Clarsach - Congregational Church
Fiddle - Regent Hotel
Piano - St. John's Cathedral
Piping - Oban High School
Highland Dancing - Atlantis Leisure
Scottish Choreography Challenge - Corran Halls
Singing - Glencruitten Church Centre

and Glencruitten Church
Woodwind & Brass - Corran Esplanade Church

CONCERT OF CHAMPIONS
- Corran Halls

FESTIVAL FAMILY DANCE - 'Festival Fling' - Argyllshire Gathering Hall

PARADE OF PIPES & DRUMS - Station Square 5.30pm to Corran Halls

Sunday 1 May
Scottish Choreography Challenge - Corran Halls
Programmes available from Oban Music & Corran Halls

Tickets for Concert & Festival Fling Dance available from Oban Music

All other tickets and enquiries Telephone 07510 841198

Sport group's pitch survey appeal

LOCHABER Sports Association is urging member clubs, schools and local organisations to complete a questionnaire on a proposed indoor training facility in the greater Fort William area as quickly as possible.

Deadline for responses is April 29 and LSA chairperson Jane Blanchard says the stronger the community response, the better the chances of securing funding for the ambitious £800,000 project will be.

LSA says an alternative playing surface and training area is essential to allow sports to continue during harsh winter weather.

The newly formed group has been given permission by Highland Council to look into the viability of a site in central Fort William for an astro-turf pitch.

The 60m by 40m surface would be suitable for football, shinty and rugby, as well as a variety of other sports such as athletics, archery and golf practice.

Mr Blanchard told *The Oban Times*: 'While some of the clubs may feel it is not relevant to them it may be relevant to people's aunts, uncles or children.'

'In order to get funding we have to have a comprehensive survey done which involves as many people as possible, so we can show that in the statistics.'

The questionnaire seeks people's views on when they would use the facility, how often, what prices should be and whether they would be prepared to volunteer to help run the new centre.



Strongmen Darren McCann, Jamie Crawford, Scott Callender, Brian Campbell, John Hutton and Jerry Vickers.

Lochaber strongmen in training for top events

SOME of Lochaber's brawniest athletes are making names for themselves in the world of strongman competitions.

A number of the squad who train at the Ben Nevis Auction Mart, Torlundy are aiming to qualify for upcoming national events, including the Scottish and UK championships.

Fort William's Jerry Vickers has won his way through to 90 kg final at the Scottish Championships. The 22-year-old carpet fitter is number two in Scotland in his weight section, and narrowly missed out on the elite heavies after being the lightest man to attempt to qualify. Christopher Innes, the first man to

win the Scottish Strongest Man four times in a row, will not be defending his title this year as he has decided to put all his energy towards trying to get to the UK Championships. He will take part in a qualifying event in Dumfries at the end of June.

John Hutton, 28, an oil rig worker who only started training five months ago, has made it to the final of the Scottish Strongest Man competition on his first attempt.

The contest will be held in Edinburgh on June 11.

Coach Muir Watson told *The Oban Times* Lochaber was punching above its weight in

the sport. He said: 'Fort William is a good place for strongmen. The boys are all keen and they work very hard, and we've got a good place to train.'

'We need a lot of space for the size of our weights and we've got a good place. We're very lucky the auction market let us train there because it means we can store our equipment and train all year round.'

He added: 'We've got a good squad, and it's getting bigger all the time.'

'We've got seven members now and hopefully we can have a few more boys competing in these events next year.'

Chief called in to settle windfarm cash row

HIGHLAND Council chief executive Alastair Dodds was called in as troubleshooter to sort out a row between two neighbouring communities arguing over windfarm cash.

Fort Augustus and Glemoriston Community Council (FAGCC) and neighbours Glemoriston Community Council (GCC) were already sharing a near £100,000 annual windfall from 20 turbines at the Millennium Wind Farm, near Fort Augustus.

Amicable negotiations between the two produced a community benefit split of 60-40 in Fort Augustus' favour from the existing 20 turbines.

But when Millennium Wind Energy won approval for six more turbines, relations worsened as wrangling began over who should get the lion's share of the new money.

All windfarm benefit cash is managed by Fort Augustus and Glemoriston Community Council and the Glemoriston Trust, respectively.

FAGCC argued the new machines were part of the same development and the existing percentage split should apply.

But GCC claimed that as the six turbines would be built on land on their side of the administrative boundary, 100 per cent of the new cash should go to Glemoriston.

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Months of talks produced no result, so Mr Dodds summoned three delegates from each side to a summit at Inverness on March 25 to sort things out once and for all.

The meeting produced a result which left neither side happy – GCC will get 65 per cent and Fort Augustus 35 per cent of the extra cash.

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'Mr Dodds was asked to be an independent arbiter.'

'He met both parties and listened to their cases and came up with a ruling, which both parties accepted.'

'There was certainly a dispute between the two parties on what the community benefit split should be.'

'It was very much like a court dispute, with Mr Dodds acting like the sheriff or judge.'

'I think they were all very friendly when they came out, because they had gone into the meeting knowing that Alastair was going to make a ruling and that decision would be final.'

FAGCC chairman Stewart

Findlay, one of the three negotiators for his side, told *The Oban Times*: 'We said it was a single project, one windfarm, and we felt the original 60-40 split should continue.'

'But they started off wanting 100 per cent. Negotiations dragged on and dragged on and were not going anywhere, so an approach was made to Alastair Dodds, who said he would decide the issue.'

'We didn't get upset, we didn't fight and while we might have disagreed about the share [of benefit], in every other sense when we were negotiating with the developers we worked as a team.'

'We shook hands afterwards and that was the end of the matter. We reached a decision and that was it.'

GCC chairman Alastair Hutchison, who also attended the Inverness talks, told *The Oban Times*:

'Normally relations are fine but it was just this one issue where we felt aggrieved because they wanted a pretty large share.'

'We had made it clear to them that as the last six turbines were on our ground we felt we were due a bigger percentage.'

'But we did reach a compromise, although it would be fair to say neither party was totally happy.'

Easter Gaelic classes at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig attract students from across the world



Gaelic learners from across the world gathered at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Sleat this week as part of the college's Easter short course programme. Amongst those attending were learners from the Ukraine, Poland, the United States and Australia, along with students from the universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Cambridge. The college attracts more than 800 students every year to its short courses. For further information visit www.smo.uhi.ac.uk.

Police warning to speeding drivers

POLICE are warning drivers in the west Highlands to watch their speed over the Easter weekend.

Northern Constabulary says their officers will be 'out in force' from Friday to Sunday looking out for drivers breaking the speed limit, particularly on country roads.

They will be using marked and unmarked police vehicles, as well as carrying out static speed checks.

Immigration officers detain four men

UK BORDERS Agency immigration officers detained four men in Fort William on Tuesday when they were discovered to be working illegally in Scotland.

The swoop centred on the Indian Garden restaurant on High Street, where two Bangladeshi men working at the premises were apprehended.

Two more men, also from Bangladesh, believed to be working at another local premises, were detained in the street shortly after, a spokesperson for the UK Border Agency told *The Oban Times*.

She said: 'The men were arrested and are currently detained pending removal from the country.'

'The Indian Garden has been served with a civil penalty notice which means that they have the potential to be fined up to £10,000 for each illegal worker.'

Court hears dramatic rescue call recordings

DRAMATIC recordings of communications between agencies co-ordinating a rescue effort after a fishing disaster off Ardnamurchan in which three men died were played to a fatal accident inquiry on Tuesday.

Three hours of telephone and radio calls from Stornoway Coastguard, which were at times difficult to make out, were played out at Fort William Sheriff Court.

The court first heard a call from Clyde Coastguard giving

specific directions to where the upturned boat was, mentioning Bo Fascalade, Kilmory, Ardnamurchan Point and Isle of Eigg.

Despite this, a call was heard from Stornoway Coastguard watch officer David Smith to cyclist James Lancashire, who had witnessed the boat capsizing from land. Mr Lancashire was asked to confirm the details of where the boat was located.

A second Kilmory resident who saw the upturned boat then

By RICHARD HADDOCK
fort@obantimes.co.uk

told the coastguard: 'We're still seeing a hull. Its not moving, its bouncing in the sea.'

After a rescue helicopter had been launched by Clyde Coastguard, Stornoway was forced to contact the Greenock-based team to clear up confusion over which station was co-ordinating the operation. The helicopter was stood down, but had to be called out again

nearly an hour later.

Towards the end of the rescue attempt, with one man still not recovered from the sea, Stornoway Coastguard put five separate calls on hold to allow for a staff changeover.

Mr Smith, who has worked for the coastguard for 11 years, told the court staff were aware the recordings were constantly being made. He said: 'Everything is recorded. It's been that way since before I started.'

When the recordings finished, Sheriff Paul Crozier called a halt to proceedings, saying: 'We'll recall tomorrow. We'll have to digest what we have heard in these recordings.'

Cumbria men Thomas Sanderson, Peter Hilton and skipper Tony Hayton drowned after their scallop trawler *Aquila* capsized a mile and a half off Kilmory on July 20, 2009. The inquiry continued yesterday (Wednesday) and today.

20 Years Ago

Those Were The Days The Oban Times

Thursday, April 25, 1991



An Comunn Gaidhealach celebrates its centenary

THIS month sees the centenary of An Comunn Gaidhealach (The Highland Association) - an event that will be celebrated on April 26 in Oban. The event will be celebrated at a dinner for civic dignitaries. The date and location are important for the event because this was where the association was founded, at a meeting held in 1891.

The four founders were concerned at the time about the future for Gaelic, even though there were an estimated 250,000 Gaelic speakers in the Highlands at that time. They were concerned, however, both from a language and cultural point of view. As a focus for their Gaelic promotion, the committee created the Mod, now known as The National Mod, which proved extremely successful.

Two of the fundamental objectives, which An Comunn Gaidhealach set out to achieve in 1891, are still being practised today - the continuance of the language and the economic welfare of the Gaels. To best achieve its aims, An Comunn Gaidhealach set up other de-centralised branches, under a democratic structure, to harness support for their main issues.

As the association looks forward to another 100 years, it is appropriate that celebrations throughout the country are held in Bliadhna na Gaidhlig.

Nuclear Nonsense

REPORTS that remote beauty spots in Scotland may be used as dumping grounds for disused radioactive submarines have been dismissed as 'cods-wallop by the Ministry of Defence.'

A recent report in a national newspaper said that a nuclear analyst believed the MOD were interested in Scottish berths as possible sites for the submarines.

Some of these berths include Campbelltown, Broadford, Portree and East Loch Tarbert.

Councillor Donald Johnson for Tarbert said the argument for placing radioactive material away from major centres of population was always being used to the annoyance of the fishing industry. 'We always get caught in that net and if I get official confirmation that this report is true, I will be making a representation to the government.'

The report claimed that berths, known as Z-berths are 'moorings chosen for their remoteness from major centres of population and accessibility for radiation monitoring teams.'

However, a Royal Navy spokesman said the sites mentioned were not under consideration for long-term storage of nuclear submarines.

Patrick Stewart, Secretary of the Firth of Clyde Fishermen's Association said: 'If that ever happened it would be appalling as far as we're concerned.'

Skye Bridge Toll Plan

A FORMER Council engineer says a causeway could still be built from Skye to the mainland despite an announcement from the Scottish Office on Thursday that it preferred the Miller Group bridge scheme.

However, Peter Findlay of Fort Augustus, a former engineer with Ross and Cromarty District Council claims that his scheme for a causeway would be cheaper, more reliable and more environmentally friendly than the Miller bridge. He also claims that the causeway would have no tolls. Mr Findlay adds that it still has a chance of success because Parliament still has to pass the law allowing public roads to be built with private money.

'I'm in deep water. But the point is that we can get a low level barrage built first, quicker than the high bridge.'

Criticism of the Scottish Office's preferred option has also come from Ross, Cromarty and Skye MP Charles Kennedy. He said: 'It remains absurd and unjust that the people of Skye and the Highlands generally should have to shoulder the cost of what is a critical link in our strategic roads network.'

Farquhar MacLennan, regional councillor for South and East Skye, said: 'The causeway was a serious alternative. It may well have been an opportunity missed.'

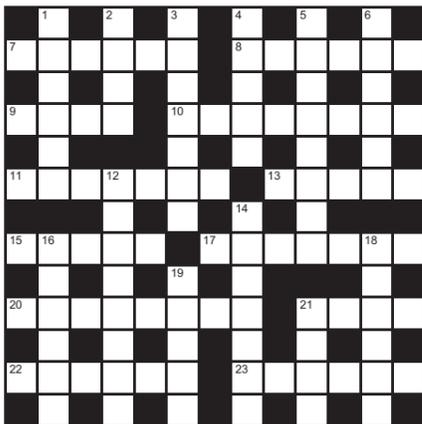
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- 7 Spiral (6)
- 8 Man or his name, Mr Walker? (6)
- 9 Put down (4)
- 10 Round the port (8)
- 11 Either difficult or pongy! (7)
- 13 Money from the bride (5)
- 15 Former capital of Japan (5)
- 17 Unified whole (7)
- 20 Unequally balanced (3-5)
- 21 Terror (holy type!) (4)
- 22 Dance to music (6)
- 23 Bad-mouth (6)

Down

- 1 Autocrat (6)
- 2 Group (4)
- 3 Salt lake (4,3)
- 4 Kick out (5)
- 5 Relax (5,3)
- 6 More vacuous (6)
- 12 Seed coat. That's it! In one! (8)
- 14 The Big Apple (3,4)
- 16 Petty officer (6)
- 18 Legally responsible (6)
- 19 Crackers (5)
- 21 Gathering (4)



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OT

Waverley steams into Loch Linnhe

LOCHABER will get a taste of old fashioned maritime ways when the *Waverley* steamer visits Loch Linnhe this weekend.

The paddle boat will sail down the loch from Fort William on Sunday and will take in Kyle of Lochalsh, Raasay, Broadford and Gairloch next week.

The boat, which was built in the Clyde in 1946 and made its maiden voyage in 1947, can hold up to 925 passengers.

Pony club's delight at £8,000 grant

SUNART and District Pony Club has been awarded £8,000 for equipment by Awards for All Scotland.

The new gear includes a trailer, equipment storage and a new jump.

Pony Club district commissioner for Lochaber, Cheryl Frith, said: "The branch is so thrilled that they are able to have the use of this money to improve the facilities for our young members."



Borge township on Berneray: descendants of families cleared from here could have a story to tell.

Bringing the history of Berneray home

Project looks overseas to emigrants

BERNERAY Historical Society is to expand its activities through a new project, *A'illeadh ar n-eachdraidh dhachaigh* (Bringing our History Home).

The initiative will employ a part-time research worker, based on the island, to examine the historical and cultural impact of emigrations from Berneray, in particular fragments of Gaelic culture the emigrants took with them.

Much of the work will involve contacting people overseas, some of whose ancestors left Berneray either voluntarily or through forced eviction.

One potential rich mine of information are the descendants of 22 crofting families from the township of Borge, who were cleared from their land in 1853

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

by South Harris Estate factor John MacDonald on behalf of owner Lady Dunmore, who paid the displaced people's passage to Australia.

All historical material collected from abroad - Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in Canada are also home to many descendants of Berneray exiles - will be digitised, archived and put on display.

Society secretary Andrew Ross anticipates the collection will fill in some of the cultural gaps left behind after the people went overseas.

He told *The Oban Times*: "So many people left and took so much stuff with them that we

want to find out what that is and, if possible, retrieve it.

"This would mainly be artefacts, but we also want to trace the folklore, culture, stories and songs that disappeared abroad with the people."

Historical Society volunteers will also provide support and continuity to the project, Mr Ross said.

A'illeadh ar n-eachdraidh dhachaigh follows the society's 18-month *Guthan Bheàrnaraigh* (Voices of Berneray) initiative, which saw traditional and rarely-heard Gaelic songs and tunes from Berneray performed at ceilidhs in The Lobster Pot tearoom during the winter months.

It is anticipated the new project will start in May once the researcher is in post.

Local rider warms up for trial with victory

KINLOCHLEVEN was the setting for Round 3 of the ACU British Trials Championship on Saturday - and local rider Gary MacDonald warmed up for the upcoming Scottish Six Days Trial by winning the Expert A class for the second year in a row.

The weather presented perfect riding conditions for competitors to race round the 12 section three lap course and MacDonald dominated to finish well clear of 17 year-old youngster Jack Sheppard.

Sheppard said: "I'm pleased to have come away with second place, I knew Gary would be strong here as it's his neck of the woods."

Organisers and hosts Lochaber and District Motorcycle Club ran the race under the new management of clerk for the course Ally Morrice, from Fort William, and his assistant Duncan MacRae, from Ballachulish.

LDMC chairman David Dougan, from Roy Bridge, said the event had been an outstanding success with its new parc fermé next the all-weather sports pitch on the outskirts of the village.

"Ally and Duncan put on an excellent trial," he told *The Oban Times*. "On behalf of the club I would like to thank them for the amount of time and effort they put in and also Frank Sweeney for organising all the observers - thanks go to them also."

Mr Dougan expressed his gratitude to Kinlochleven for allowing the ground next to the pitch to be used as the event base.

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A82 road group voices anger at lack of focus

SNP TRANSPORT minister Keith Brown has reiterated his party's commitment to improving the A82 after coming under fire from the lobby group fighting to upgrade the lifeline route.

Responding to a rebuff from the Lochaber-based A82 Partnership, Mr Brown said the SNP Government had not specifically mentioned the road in its manifesto because it had already been included in its projects schedule.

The Partnership this week went on record to state that only two of Scotland's major political parties - Labour and the LibDems - had highlighted the A82 in their manifestos for the upcoming Scottish Parliament Elections.

The SNP highlights the A9 and A96, while the Conservatives prioritise the

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Aberdeen peripheral route. Spokesperson Alasdair Ferguson, the boss of Ferguson Transport, said: "This is extremely disappointing as we had hoped that all of the major political parties would have recognised the urgent requirement for the works required to upgrade this social and economic lifeline."

Lobbying

"We have been lobbying the parties to make a commitment in their manifestos for more than six months."

However, Mr Brown pledged his party's commitment to the road would continue if the SNP was returned to power.

He said: "Whilst the Lib Dems and

Labour may talk about the A82 neither did anything during their eight years in government to bring the improvements one step closer and neither have any idea how to fund it in the face of serious public sector cuts.

Importance

"SNP Transport ministers recognised the importance of the A82 as a vital link in Scotland's road network and made our commitment to the A82 improvements in the Strategic Transport Project Review with work already underway on the statutory process that must be completed, including dealing with any objections from communities, before work can begin on the road."

"The SNP is committed to the A82 improvements and our actions in

government mean that preparations are already under way."

Tory candidate for Argyll and Bute, Jamie McGrigor also defended his party's stance.

He said: "This is a very important local and national issue as this road is the main gateway from the west to the Highlands and Islands."

Rebuttal

"The section of the A82 between Balloch and Tarbet was completely rebuilt by the last Conservative Government but much of the remainder is in a bad state."

"This is why page six of the Scottish Conservative manifesto specifically mentions our plans to take forward the Strategic Transport Projects Review, which includes the work on the A82."

Drunk Claggan man split house party girl's head open with door

A DRUNK ejected from a Caol house party split a girl's head open when he kicked open the back door to get back in.

At a trial at Fort William Sheriff Court, Claggan man Martin Black was found guilty of severely injuring Ashley O'Neil and attacking another woman after he was thrown out of the party at 47 Camesky Road, on February 19.

Black, of 20 The Corries, had denied culpably and recklessly kicking or forcing open the back door of the property and

By RICHARD HADDOCK fort@obantimes.co.uk

wounding Miss O'Neil, who required 12 stitches.

The 18-year old has been left with a visible three-inch diagonal scar from her right eyebrow to her hairline.

Black, aged 30, was also convicted of assaulting Jeana Martinez by seizing her by the throat.

Giving evidence, Ms Martinez described Black as being "very, very drunk" when her friends,

including Miss O'Neil, arrived round 9pm.

Almost immediately Black began making abusive comments about Ashley's father and Ms Martinez told him to get out.

Black forgot his jacket and Miss O'Neil put it on the back step as he walked down the path.

But when she tried to shut the door Black kicked it open with such force that it struck her head and knocked her across the room.

"The door just came really fast and hit me in the face," she told

the court. "It swung me right back. It was like it had just been kicked from the other side. I was on the ground and there was a lot of blood coming from me."

Black forced his way into the house and turned on Ms Martinez, grabbing her by the throat and shoving her against a wall.

Finding Black guilty of both charges, Sheriff Douglas Smith said: "I am satisfied the conduct was done with utter disregard for the consequences."

Sentencing was deferred to April 28 for background reports.

Cameron Square bench switch

BENCHES in a busy square in the centre of Fort William have been removed after Highland Council deemed them to be 'at the end of their useful life'.

Cameron Square was home to four benches, which were removed by council workers this week. Temporary seating is due to be put in place before the weekend and will stay until new benches are in place.

Councillor Brian Murphy told *The Oban Times* replacement seats were being discussed, but it was unclear when work would get underway. He said: "We're hoping to replace them as soon as possible. We're conscious of the fact that a lot of people like to sit in Cameron Square."

Postal vote application record

A RECORD number of Highland electors have applied to vote by post at the Scottish Parliamentary elections and the national referendum on the UK voting system on Thursday May 5.

A total of 25,137 electors across the three Highland constituencies of Caithness, Sutherland and Ross; Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch and Inverness and Nairn receive their postal votes this week.

The figure compares to 17,689 applications for a postal vote in the Highlands at the last Scottish Parliamentary Elections in 2007 and 21,908 at the General Election last year.

Alistair Dodds, Returning Officer for the Highlands, said: "Postal voting is growing in popularity as a convenient way for voters to have their say. I would urge postal voters to take the time to read the guidance enclosed in the postal packs and provide the right information so that we can count their votes. We need to receive postal votes before polls close at 10pm on Thursday May 5."



Diamond couple: Keith and Betty Gadsby got married in 1951.

Diamond couple celebrate 60 years of marriage

A FORT William couple are celebrating 60 happy years of marriage, and have taken a week-long holiday in Glasgow to mark the occasion.

Keith and Betty Gadsby, who have lived in the town for more than 30 years, commemorated their diamond wedding anniversary recently after they were married at Chesterfield registry office on March 31, 1951.

Keith, 82, and Betty, 77, both originally from Derbyshire, moved to Fort William in the early 1970's when Keith retired from the RAF and took a job in the Post Office.

The Plantation couple have two daughters, one son and four grandchildren, and the whole family are planning to get together when the pair return from their holiday to celebrate with a family

meal in Fort William. Keith has kept himself busy since retiring, and as well as volunteering with Lochaber Shopmobility, he is a member of Fort William Community Council.

Keith and Betty told friends and family they didn't want any gifts for their special anniversary, but daughter Caroline paid for them to have their photos taken professionally as a memento of the celebration.

Caroline told *The Oban Times* they were using their holiday to see some of the Scottish countryside.

She said: "They're staying in a hotel in Glasgow for a week and just using it as a base to go for day trips around the area."

"We'll all get together when they get back and go for a meal in the town and shower them with presents."

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For more information call Fiona on 01631 568018
Email: fmacinnes@obantimes.co.uk



Ballachulish 'Viking' pupils parade through village

Ballachulish Primary School P3/4 pupils were studying the Vikings as their class topic before the Easter break. The children dressed up in the grab of the Northmen before parading through the village on their way to burn a ceremonial longboat at the flooded quarry.

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Glenfinnan Station Museum refurbishment work starts

MAJOR refurbishment work at Glenfinnan Station Museum got underway this week - with the first stage of project expected to last throughout the summer season.

The museum's owners were given grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, the Railway Heritage Fund, HIE, the Robertson Trust, the Scottish Government and the European Community Highland Leader 2007-2013 Programme, as well as a series of smaller grants from various railway heritage groups to secure the long-term future of the listed building.

The refurbishment work to the station museum, which first opened in 1991, aims to safeguard the museum's collection for future generations. As well as the work to the museum, the opening to the station access road will also be getting an upgrade.

Contractors C&C Conservation, from Perth, commenced work on the first stage of improvement on Tuesday.

The original plan was to have most of the

work completed by the start of the Jacobite Steam Train season, but a combination of delays has meant the first stage should be complete by the end of October.

Project manager Robert Spence said: "We were really impressed with C&C's tender. Their extensive experience of working with historic buildings provides a sensitivity to their approach which is difficult to come by."

Access

A training programme will be running in parallel with the capital works, designed to enable a wider section of the public to access and learn about the heritage.

The museum's opening hours will be restricted during the summer season due to the ongoing refurbishments, but while work on the new permanent exhibition is going on behind the scenes, a railway poster art show will be on display every day.

The dining car and the sleeping car, however, will not be affected by the work and will be open for business as usual.

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Lack of faith in council

THE most disturbing aspect of the marathon council session which resulted in 11 rural schools going forward to formal consultation on closure is the absolute lack of faith the parents and families affected have in the process.

Despite the leader of the Conservative group insisting that the council was voting for 'consultation, not closure,' the SNP's Donald MacDonald spoke for many of those protesting outside when he stated: 'For many, consultation means closure.'

Now that the proposals are being put out for consultation it is incumbent on the council to be scrupulously fair in considering the future of these 11 threatened schools.

There must be no suggestion of a 'fait accompli' or that closure is a done deal.

Parents have worked too long and hard to make the case for their schools for the council not to consider every single piece of evidence raised before reaching a set of final proposals.

The issue of the rural schools review has highlighted the wider issue of a cynicism and lack of faith in those at Kilmory who provide our public services.

No effort must be spared in restoring faith in our council.

A change in fortunes

COULD there be a family more deserving of a Postcode Lottery win than the MacNivens of Dunbeg?

Last year, we reported how their home had been ravaged by fire and a hole had to be cut in the roof to aid their escape.

On top of that, a second blaze destroyed the warehouse where their belongings were being stored.

So if anyone deserves a change in fortune, it is the MacNivens. We are sure the £10,000 they have won will be put to good use.

GLASGOW LETTER

The 'Wee Skye'

'KEEP the best for last' may well have been what Glasgow Skye Association had in mind when it put together its programme for the 'Wee Skye' which traditionally brings its session to a close.

With retiring president Donald Fletcher efficiently chairing proceedings in Partick Burgh Hall, this was one of the most enjoyable concerts I have attended in recent years.

The singers, Rhona Morrison, Mary MacMillan, Ewan MacLeod and Gillebride MacMillan, are all past winners of Mod competitions and they were all in fine voice.

They were joined by young piper Mairi MacDonald, who has Eriskay connections, and fiddler Carolea MacKay, originally from Dundee.

You may have noticed the lack of Skye participants but there is nothing wrong with a multicultural evening now and again!

You may also have noticed the relatively young age of all of the artists - their average age was probably less than half of the average age of the audience!

Ewan MacLeod will be heading off to represent our traditional music at the Pan Celtic Festival in Dingle in the next few days and we wish him well.

Norma MacDougall was accompanist but, given the traditional nature of many of the songs, she had ample opportunity to sit back and enjoy the evening.

Past President Seumas Campbell had the pleasant task of proposing a vote of thanks and took the opportunity to inform those present that not only was this the last ceilidh of the session but it would also be the last to be held in Partick Burgh Halls.

These halls have been the home for the Glasgow Skye, and many of the other associations, since the closure of the Highlander's Institute and it is extremely sad that the cost of hall hire is now so expensive they are being forced to move elsewhere.

For next session the 'Skye' will hold its functions in the Crawford Hall on Beith Street and if they can provide the quality of entertainment and food as described above they deserve to be rewarded with increased attendances.

Ceol's Craic

THIS month's Ceol's Craic will take place in the CCA, 350 Sauchiehall Street, on Saturday evening and it will be a celebration of the links

between our culture and Breton culture.

Starting at 7pm, there will be a viewing of the film 'Bridesmaid' which was filmed in Brittany and then at 8.30pm music until late will be provided by three Glasgow based Breton bands and our own Fiona Dunn.

The Bretons will be the Tristan Le Govic Trio who combine Breton singing with the music of the Celtic harp, Ann Chaurand who with two guests will provide classical guitar music as well as Breton, Gaelic and Scot's music and the band Askolenn who will play traditional music from both Brittany and Scotland.

The organisers hope to include a considerable amount of audience participation so that should add extra interest to what promises to be an enjoyable event.

Edinburgh Argyll Association

MOST local associations are nearing or are at the end of their activities for the session but the Edinburgh Argyll Association will hold its first ceilidh on Saturday, April 23, in St John's Episcopal Church Hall, on Lothian Road, at 7.30pm.

The ceilidhs will continue throughout the summer providing for the many tourists who visit the city.

Diary dates

Thursday April 21: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Mike Freeman.

Saturday April 23: Ceol's Craic - see above. National Youth Pipe Band, Old Fruitmarket, 7.30pm. Edinburgh Argyll Association - see above.

Thursday April 28: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Mike and Ali Vass.

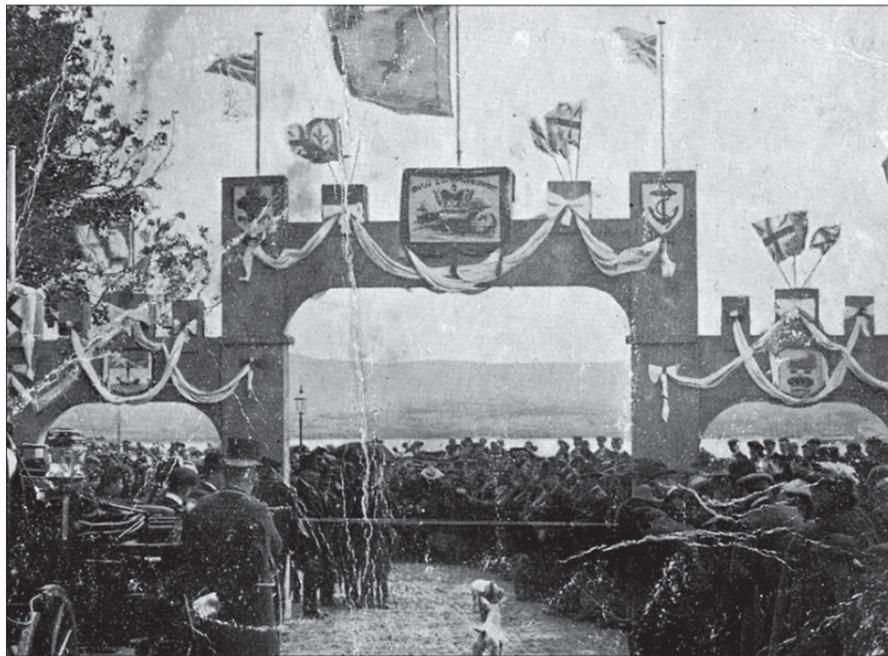
Friday April 29: Uist and Barra Association ceilidh dance, Crawford Hall, Beith St, 9pm to 1am.

Saturday April 30: Acoustic Affair with Rab Noakes, City Halls, 8pm.

Pub scene

IN THE Park Bar Eriskay Lilt will be playing on Friday. Willie Cameron on Saturday and Stewart Cameron/ Simon Moran on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Alasdair Whyte and his ceilidh band on Friday and Andrew MacDonald and his band on Saturday.

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



Grand opening of Ganavan Sands

Reader D Ferguson of Dunollie Road, Oban, submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows the grand opening of Ganavan Sands, Oban, in the early 20th century. D Ferguson is curious as to what happened to this impressive archway. Was it demolished during the Second World War when Ganavan was a flying boat base? We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Morally bankrupt

Sir,
Now that the developers have successfully reneged on their commitments to Dunbeg, it appears that construction of the Science Park at Dunstaffnage is imminent.

The unholy trinity of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Scottish Association for Marine Science and Dunstaffnage Estate are to be congratulated that, through a combination of bullying, being economical with the truth and sheer dogged persistence they have overcome, totally legitimately of course, all resistance and secured their pots of gold at the end of the murky rainbow.

In this harsh economic climate it is a tribute to them that they have achieved this whilst, in the process, managing to only declare themselves morally bankrupt.

Iain Moody, Meadow Road, Dunbeg.

Disgusted at Oban memorial litter

Sir,
I am so annoyed and disgusted, at the amount of litter left at the grass just passed the war memorial in Oban.

On April 9 my partner and I had picked up cans, bottles and bags from the area.

And there was litter, bags and cans thrown onto the rocks near the sea.

There was even a circle of wreaths thrown and damaged.

To hear visitors to Oban talking about the mess is disappointing.

Mark Reed, George Street, Oban.

First call of the cuckoo?

Sir,
On leaving Gruline Church on Mull this morning, April 17, a number of us heard the cuckoo calling.

Can anyone beat this?
John E G Bartholomew, Beathaich, Calgary, Isle of Mull.

The shape of things to come

Sir,
We Scots are in danger of sleepwalking into an offshore mechanised nightmare, as evidenced by the visualizations of Scottish Power Renewable's

(SPR) Tires Array, in your March 31 edition.

Not content with decimating mainland Scotland and permanently destroying vast swathes of internationally acclaimed natural beauty, multinational energy companies, supported by massive Scottish Government subsidies have now turned their attention to repeating the same irreversible damage, supposedly offshore.

How the Tires Array, 3-500 turbines, only 5km from the shoreline constitutes an offshore windfarm beggars belief. No other European country is planning such windfarms so close to shore.

SPR, the developer of Tires Array if it gets consent, concedes, reluctantly, that the Tires Array 'could deter tourism,' as printed in SPR's Scoping Report, page 72.

The impact of loss to the Tires economy will be very serious. But what possibly is not fully understood by Scots, is that the national plan for off shore wind projects, if fully implemented will devastate the whole of the West Coast, and therefore the tourist industry of the West Coast of Scotland at large.

To quote W H Murray, renowned Scots travel and author: 'The Scottish Highlands have no counter part on this planet. Comparisons failing to survive even brief examination. The outstanding beauty of the Highland Scene has been haphazardly expended and no account kept. Are Scots so blind that they cannot prize it for its own?'

This statement made in 1968 has proven prescient with regard to shore windfarms and their irreversible destruction of mainland Scotland. Surely we are not going to idly stand by and prove its prescience, yet again, to Scotland's West Coast if inshore wind farms such as the Tires Array are consented.

A J Sutherland, Balevullin, Tires.

Proud of Oban Co-op staff

Sir,
I read *The Oban Times* dated April 14 about the attempted raid at the Co-op in Oban.

I work for the Oban Co-op and I was working that day. I was very scared about what happened that day and I hope this doesn't happen again.

Everyone did a good job that day and I am very proud of the Co-op staff.
Lesley Allan, Oban.

Blood unit should travel free of charge

Sir,
During a visit to donate blood I was surprised to learn that when the mobile unit travels to The Outer Hebrides, they are charged full price by Caledonian MacBrayne.

As a publicly owned company, controlled by the Scottish Government this charge, per vehicle and foot passengers, is truly unacceptable.

Where is the common sense factor here?

If an individual donates precious blood, then surely CalMac can see its way to waving the fare to enable the life saving service to continue to reach remote areas in the country without the worry of overstretching their budgets, or would that be too much like getting blood out of a stone?

Catriona Hunter, The Farm House, Glenfinnan.

Cure worse than the disease?

Sir,
I refer to Michael Foxley's letter in your edition of March 31.

I find it deeply ironic that Council Leader Foxley accuses the Crown estate of 'failure to consult local people'.

Since Highland Council has taken over marine planning, consultation with main stakeholders has fallen dramatically whilst costs have risen exponentially.

There is no doubt that any right thinking person would find the Crown Estate's exploitation of Scotland's coastal waters an abhorrence but who would control the seabed once the Crown Estate has been sent packing? The council?

Perhaps the cure is worse than the present disease - something as a GP, Dr Foxley should be well aware of.

John Hermes, Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association.

Council complaints concern

Sir,
With regard to Arthur McFarlane's letter about the efficiency of the Ombudsman, I responded by describing my good experience with this organisation.

At that time, I was not aware these people had several different

departments. Concerned that my letter might give an unbalanced view of the Ombudsman, Mr McFarlane wrote to me pointing this out.

I now write to explain that I have had no contact with the particular section of the Ombudsman that Mr McFarlane had experience with.

He was most concerned about the outcome of matters handled by the Public Services Ombudsman, which handles complaints against Scottish public service bodies such as Argyll and Bute Council, and which has been appointed by The Queen.

His letter to *The Oban Times* highlighted the fact that of the many cases against Argyll and Bute Council taken to the Ombudsman, these people had not had an outcome favourable to the complainant.

Here is, indeed, cause for concern.
Jill Galbraith, Croig, Isle of Mull.

Intelligent enough to resent insult

Sir,
I write in reply to an article in 'A View from the Tower' in *The Oban Times* of April 7 concerning the broadcast of 'Brian Taylor's Big Debate' from Ardrishaig Public Hall.

Even as one of your less intelligent readers - according to McCaig - I am still intelligent enough to resent being insulted by someone who has no idea what he is talking about.

I am certainly not one of the party faithful and I did not ask a question handed to me at the hall.

When it was known that this broadcast was to take place anyone who wished to attend and wanted to ask a question had to submit the question of some relevance to a hustings programme.

This I did and on arrival at the hall I was told that I would be asked to put my question to the panel.

I assume that all the other questions were chosen similarly.

Finally I would point out this programme was broadcast from Ardrishaig as it was originally scheduled for December.

Unfortunately it was postponed as a result of bad weather.

When the new date was decided, it coincided with the announcement of the election therefore it became a hustings programme.
Jim Ballantine, Ardrishaig.



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

THEAGAMH NACH B' ANNASACH gum bheil cothroman cuimhneachaidh air a bhith nochdadh aig an àm seo is sinn air stàrsaich na Càisge. Disathairne as fhaisge air ceann-latha a' bhliar. Air an aon latha, bha Urras Leabhairichean nan Eilean a' cumail cruinneachadh ann an Gleann Dail san Eilean Sgitheanach a' cuimhneachadh air sri an fhearainn agus na dùbhlain a thug air daoine èirigh an aghaidh uachdaran is seasamh ri poileas is saighdearan a chuireadh nan aghaidh.

Cha b' urrainn dhomh a bhith an Gleann Dail, ach tha mi glè mhothachail air a' cheangal làidir a' th' aig Cùil Lodair ann an 1746 agus na thachair aig àm an Land League as na 1880an, rium. 'S e Iain Dubh nam Beanna a bh' air fear dem shinnisrean agus a rèir beul-aithris, fhuair ean a bheatha a Cùil Lodair ach bha e fon choill a' chuid eile de bheatha is na Saighdearan Dearg ga lorg. 'S ann ri linn 's gum b' fheadar dha bhith ri falach as na monaidhean a fhuair e an t-ainm.

Tha an eachdraidh sin cudromach dhòmhsa agus dha feadhainn eile agus tha e cudromach gum tèid a gleidheadh dha ginealach-ichean a leanas sinne. Agus nach iongantach cho beag sum 's a tha cuid a' gabhail innt! Nach annasach gur iad coigrich a th' air gluasad a-staigh dha sgìrean Gàidhealach a tha gu math tric a-nise a' dèanamh oidhirp dualchas agus eachdraidh nan coimhearsnachdan a chruinneachadh is a ghleidheadh. Agus nach bochd gu dearbh gum biodh sliochd nan laoiach a dh' fhalbh, nach eil iad fhèin a' dèanamh dad agus an fhiosrachadh luachmhor sin a ghleidheadh, ri càineadh nan oidhirpean aig an fheadhainn a tha a' gabhail aire dha. 'S dòcha gur e nàire a tha gan gluasad oir nam biodh iad fhèin air moit a gabhail nan cuid eachdraidh roimhe, cha bhiodh dad ann dha coigrich a dhèanamh ach uail a gabhail ann cuide riutha.

LAST SATURDAY I joined many others at the Gaelic Society of Inverness' Annual Remembrance Service at Culloiden, but I would also have liked to have been in my native Glendale at the Islands Book Trust conference on the land struggle of the 1880s.

I am very conscious of my family links with both events as an ancestor who survived Culloiden lived the rest of his life a fugitive and became known as Black John of the Hills.

Our history should be precious to us but it is frequently left to incomers to take initiatives to preserve and promote it while their efforts are often criticised by locals! Perhaps such criticism is rooted in shame that they themselves have hitherto done so little!
Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.

A view from the tower

By McCaig

Quietest election ever?

IT MAY be a trick question as elections to the Scottish Parliament first took place in 1990 so there haven't been too many of them, but as far as I can see there is neither much enthusiasm from either candidates or electors so far.

A fortnight today the polls open at 7am and close at 10pm. Unfortunately, Argyll and Bute will be one of, if not the last, to declare its result. Although there have been overnight counts, the last one descended into farce as the computer system broke down and we all had to return the following afternoon for the completion of the parliamentary count and that for the local government one. The resultant shambles led to an inquiry that decreed there should not be two sets of elections on one day to avoid confusion.

What do the powers-that-be do? They allow the two elections for the Scottish Parliament - constituency and region - and a referendum on the AV voting system. 'There will be no confusion', say those who decide these things.

Who is kidding whom? The polling clerk will hand each elector a purple ballot paper to vote for their chosen local parliamentary representative, a peach one to vote for their regional representative and a grey one for the referendum on AV voting system.

Anyone prepared to organise a competition to make up a tartan with these colours - to conform with the rules prescribed in Sir Jamie McGrigor's Registration of Tartan Act?

However, so far the political parties seem to have been conscious of the need to economise with the amount of paper to send out their election addresses, which is a blessed relief, but we don't know what is to come with banners and posters, some of which will be allowed to dangle from lamp-posts, trees and rocks for weeks after May 5 despite the rules that all must be removed immediately after polling day. Who is enforcing these rules and what is the penalty for failing to remove such by the weekend after the result is declared?

However, the arrogance award goes to UKIP which has a candidate for the Highlands and Islands on the Regional List. Must say I've never heard of him, never seen any literature - and don't want to - and know of no hustings meetings that UKIP has organised here or in any other part of Scotland. My advice is to treat them with the same contempt with which they are treating us.

Tavish stirs it up

IN A VERY forthright interview in a Sunday newspaper, Tavish Scott, leader of the Scottish Liberal

Democrats, advises Scottish electors to pay no attention to the ramblings of his British leader Nick Clegg who has a very different agenda to Tavish and Liberal voters north of the Border.

Mr Scott makes it clear in a blunt statement of rebellion to Clegg 'the clown' that he won't be taking any instructions from him as his input to the current government is not helping to solve the serious economic state in which the government finds itself but supervising totally irrelevant legislation for the majority of us while 'weeping to recorded opera arias'.

How many votes does he expect to gain by advocating unlimited immigration while Prime Minister David Cameron puts forward reasonable controls which are necessary? Of course, his chief sidekick, Vince Cable, would also flood this country with uncontrolled immigration. Take my advice Tavish: make the Scottish Liberal party totally independent of the one led by Nick Clegg and we'll all be better off.

Serving the community for a quarter of a century

THERE was a very justified air of celebration for 'jobs well done' last Saturday evening at Oban's Soroba House Hotel when Oban and Lorn Lions had its Charter & Silver Jubilee Dinner to which I and a number of other guests were invited.

It was a really splendid dinner - full marks to the young staff at the training hotel for cooking and serving an exceptional meal while the Lions were very firm about the length of speeches. Three of the 'founder members' were there and looking remarkably fresh from all their diverse labour over the 25 years of volunteering, as did those who joined subsequently and are happy to help those who need assistance in many ways as well as with cash.

Lions - a world-wide organisation - is always one of the first to provide funds when disaster happens and organise special events to add to what can be given from their accumulated kitty. But they don't neglect individuals or organisations in their district. Every Lion I know gives hours of their unpaid time to help others and do such very generously and successfully. I am sure the three founder members who are still with us know there will always be those who will take up the same challenges as they did and carry on the Lions tradition.

McCaig

Famous Mull eagles make mark on Twitter

DO EAGLES Tweet? Well some do. Two white-tailed eagles, made famous on BBC's Springwatch, are now causing a stir in the world of social media.

Almost 300 people are following eagles Skye and Frisa on micro-blogging site Twitter, which is currently tweeting updates from the nest site.

Skye and Frisa became resident eagles at Loch Frisa on the island of Mull in 1998, but it wasn't until their appearance on the first series of Springwatch in 2005 that they became household names and an internet sensation.

The popular pair are monitored and protected daily by the watchful eye of the Mull Eagle Watch, a partnership project involving the Royal Society for

the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, Mull and Iona Community Trust, Strathclyde Police and local volunteers.

The team makes sure the birds are not disturbed or targeted by irresponsible photographers or egg collectors.

Dave Sexton, RSPB Scotland's Mull Officer, says it's particularly important to be extra vigilant at this time of year.

'We're now into the breeding season and Skye and Frisa are sitting tight on their eggs. However, there are real concerns that the gale force winds and torrential rain that we have had recently on Mull may make life really tough for these devoted birds trying to nest successfully. We're hoping that they

can sit it out until the sun shines on them again and hope the worst of the weather is now behind us. We can but hope.

'The Date with Nature project, which has just started again for the summer, is a great way to see these birds from what is the only eagle hide in the world offering views of white-tailed eagles at their nest.

'But rest assured if you can't get over to see us this summer you can follow all the action via our Twitter@SkyeandFrisa, Facebook and blog pages.'

More details about the Mull Eagle Watch and the Date With Nature project can be found at www.rspb.org.uk/datewithnature/sites/mull. To book a trip to see Skye and Frisa this year call 01680 812556.

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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



CD review
Duncan Chisholm - Canaich
 Duncan Chisholm is best known as the fiddle player with Celtic rock band Wolfstone. Canaich is part two of his Strathglass trilogy of solo recordings, which began with his previous album Farrar - a more mellow, traditional acoustic sound.

As well as several self-composed pieces by Duncan, tunes by other composers including Allan MacDonald, Phil Cunningham, John MacLean, Donald Shaw, Willie Lawrie, Gary Innes, Cairistiona Nic Fheargais, Michael McGoldrick, Mike Katz, Mark Stewart, Mary MacPherson, Gordon Duncan and Niall Vallely are featured.

The Paul McKenna Band - Stem The Tide
 Traditional music as well as original songs and tunes from this dynamic young 5-piece led by singer Paul McKenna. The Paul McKenna Band have been playing to audiences throughout the UK and beyond since 2006. With a contemporary approach to songs, although not straying too far from their roots, their arrangements are both fresh and innovative. Their exciting sound is created through outstanding vocals, driving guitar and bouzouki, intense fiddle playing, a warm pairing of flute and whistles, and dynamic bodhrán and percussion. Their first album (self-titled) won them Best Up And Coming Artist Of The Year at the Scots Trad Music Awards in 2009, and received critical acclaim.

Eric Bogle - Live At Stonyfell Winery DVD
 A live performance DVD recording made at Stonyfell Winery, Adelaide, Australia - this is Eric Bogle's first and (he says) last DVD. Including additional interview material. UK television has never recorded a documentary of this 'Scottish son'. This DVD containing many of Eric's most popular and requested songs should fill the gap to some extent. As Eric prepares to hang up his 'touring boots' and embark on his final UK tour, he thought this an appropriate time to record a concert in Australia. The DVD contains 21 of Eric's most requested songs from a remarkable recording career, plus some chat with Eric and his touring buddy John Munro.

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Return to China for Ballet West

REPORT
 by EUAN PATERSON
 epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

BALLET West will return to China this month with its highly acclaimed Romeo and Juliet production. Last year, the Taynuilt-based ballet school's Nutcracker touring schedule was disrupted after flights were delayed because of the ash cloud from the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull. Yet the company still managed to attract an audience of around 20,000 during 21 performances across China. Ballet West was the first dance school in Scotland to graduate students from a BA Course in Classical Ballet and Dance Performance and this year's 50-strong company includes students in the final stages of their BA course, performing alongside leading professional dancers in the company. Together they will give 20 performances in 20 venues, including Beijing and Shanghai. Kenn Burke's production of Romeo and Juliet, with brother and sister Jonathan Barton and Sara-Maria Smith, in the title roles, has just completed a very successful Scottish tour, including a date at Oban's Corran Halls. The company leaves for China on April 27, returning to Scotland



Principal dancers in Ballet West's Romeo and Juliet are Taynuilt brother and sister Jonathan Barton and Sara-Maria Smith.

Guests from far and wide enjoy visiting musicians

VISITORS from far and wide were among the audience who gathered in the Royal Hotel, Portree, to be entertained by some great traditional Scottish music at the April meeting of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club. After a welcome from the club chairman and regular MC Jim Campbell, it was the club's vice chairman Aly 'K' MacPherson who stepped up to the microphone with his piano accordion to get the music under way with a fine selection of jigs, reels and waltzes. Keeping him company on stage were local musicians John Cameron on keyboards and Donald John Campbell on drums. There was a change of instrument for Aly 'K' who moved on to drums and for John



Guest band, the Glencairn Scottish Dance Band. Left to right: David Bell, Gordon Howe, leader Nicol McLaren and Issy Hodgson.

Campbell and the trio stayed on stage to close the first half of the evening with a great 'stramash' with all the local players. The entire second half of the evening was devoted to the great sound of the guest band, The Glencairn Scottish Dance Band, with Nicol McLaren leading on accordion, Gordon Howe on fiddle, Issy Hodgson on keyboard and David Bell on drums. This superb band lived up to and, indeed, exceeded expectations with its lively and full bodied sound and a thoroughly professional performance was enhanced by the variety in its programme. Guest band for the next club night in the Royal Hotel, Portree, on Thursday May 5 will be The Iain Cathcart Trio.

John Grundy

Stramash proves a sell-out success

TWO WEEKS of outdoor activities have proved a real success for Oban's charity Stramash. Adventures for children from aged eight included dingy sailing, gorge walking, mountain climbing and camping out overnight. All the activities were fully booked apart from one. Events were held all over Argyll and Bute including some in Tarbert and Helensburgh. Paula Turnbull from Stramash said: 'It was a packed programme for children and shows that kids really do want to get out and about and enjoy the whole of the area.'

Lions' silver celebration

Pictured at the Oban and Lorn Lions Club's 25th anniversary celebrations are current president Joe Collier, second from right, and founding members, from left: Derek Coates, Jim Edge and Norman Martin. A dinner with 60 guests in Soroba House Hotel last Saturday marked the anniversary. Among those attending were Lions club members from the north-east of England and past and present members of the Oban and Lorn club. The club thanked Soroba House Hotel for an excellent evening.



Beauty, Health and Well-being

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Nicola qualified at Stockport College of Technology in Level 3 Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy. She scooped credits and distinctions in all beauty and holistic therapies and also won the Student of the Year Award and the Award for Endeavour. The prize took her to Paris where she attended the Dermal Institute, furthering her knowledge in skin care. Lucky enough to work with amazing tutors and company's over the years,

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Wolfstone and Skerryvore confirmed as headliners for new WestFest festival

TWO OF Scotland's biggest and best trad/Celtic fusion bands, Wolfstone and Skerryvore, have been confirmed as the headline acts at 'WestFest - Strontian' - Scotland's most exciting new music festival. Tickets are now on sale for the much-anticipated event, which is to be held beside scenic Loch Sunart from Friday May 13 to Sunday May 15.

The traditional west coast music festival is expected to attract people from far and wide looking to enjoy three days of fantastic music while taking in some of the most breathtaking scenery in Scotland's west coast. Wolfstone, the world's premier Celtic fusion band, will headline the festival on Saturday May 14, in addition to a great line-up, which includes a performance from Runrig's Malcolm Jones, with the Calum Iain Ceilidh Band, and the superb Skerryvore. The full festival line-up, all advance ticket sale details, advice on accommodation and camping and other information can be found either via the festival website at www.westfest-strontian.com or www.thebooth.co.uk. With demand expected to be high, festival-goers are advised to book early for what promises to be a superb musical May weekend.



Wolfstone: headlining at WestFest-Strontian with Skerryvore.

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 Tickets £4/£3
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 Online www.thebooth.co.uk

Clive Chandler & Co present
Dragon of Krakow
 Craignish Village Hall, Ardferr
 Tuesday 26th April, 6.00pm
 Tickets £4/£3
 01852 500746
 Online www.thebooth.co.uk

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 Fun fitness friendship
Taster Class
Wed 27th April
 Church of Scotland Centre, Oban
 8pm - 10pm
 £4 (Students £3)
 Men, women, teenagers all welcome
 Contact Sue 563103/Liz 710845
 RSCDS Lorn (Argyll) Branch
 Registered Scottish Charity Number SC 025326

CHARITY CAR BOOT SALE
Co-op Car Park
Sunday 24th April
10am - 2pm
£5 per table

Eileen Eisdale proudly presents
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THAT'S RUBBISH
 an animation based on recycling waste!
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 www.easdaleislandhall.org

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Oban Pipe Band members Angus MacLennan, left, and Iain Hurst watch on as pipe major Euan Dewar takes his turn to play. 15_116kilt01

Piping marathon adds cash to appeal

THE skirl of the pipes became a familiar sound to pedestrians in George Street on Saturday as Oban Pipe Band completed its 10-hour sponsored play.

From 10am-8pm pipe band members and friends took it in shifts to play tunes in Skipinnish Ceilidh House in a bid to boost the band's Cash for Kilts Appeal, which aims to kit out new band members with kilts and equipment.

As a result of their efforts, £1,100 was raised, although this sum is expected to increase as more sponsor money is collected.

The event kicked off in the morning with the full band playing, thereafter

pipers and drummers, including 12-year-old Alexander Anderson from Tobermory on the Isle of Mull, who came over especially to help Oban Pipe Band, took turns to play.

The band played once more at 8pm to begin a ceilidh held that night in Skipinnish.

Alistair Dewar, the band's fundraising convenor, has indicated there is still some way to go yet to fully equip the band.

However, he added: 'The committee and band members would like to thank most sincerely everyone who has contributed so far.'

Families flock to fun day in aid of cinema

OBAN Phoenix Cinema volunteers added another £1,000 to its coffers with a fun day in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

The event last Sunday attracted a large attendance of all ages, with craft and food stalls, a Zumba demonstration and a bouncy castle among the main attractions.

The event was organised by

Dawn McBay from the cinema group but she was unable to attend on the day because of an illness in the family.

Phoenix group members Isla McColl, Louise Fraser and Katharine McKerrell were on hand to help out on the day.

The final total of £1,057.11 will go towards the project to bring a cinema back to Oban.



Five-year-olds Cara Hegarty, from Fort William, and Zander Craik from Oban take their turn on the bouncy castle slide. 15_116phoenix02

Angus hits right notes in Kintyre



Benderloch's Angus J MacColl was crowned champion at a competition in Kintyre at the weekend. A high quality of piping was heard at Kintyre Piping Society's annual Junior Piping Championships with Angus picking up an abundance of prizes. 0_c16pipe01

Benderloch gig for Kieran

ONE of Northern Ireland's most talented singer/songwriters, Kieran Goss, is to visit Benderloch this month for a gig at the village's Victory Hall.

Following the success of his sold out run of shows at Belfast's Grand Opera House, his trip to Argyll

comes as part of a 24-date live solo UK tour.

His gig at the Victory Hall on April 27 follows on from his first UK date on the Isle of Mull the day previous.

For more information or tickets, contact Campbell or Joy on 01631 720247.

Ceilidh to aid blind children

FEIS Latharna's Ceilidh Trail group, better known as Ceol an Aire, have organised a fundraising ceilidh dance in Glasgow next Wednesday in aid of a school for the blind in Sri Lanka.

The Argyll musicians will be familiar faces to many following last year's successful Argyll Ceilidh Trail, playing all over the county. Last year the group heard about the

school, which is struggling to provide music tuition for its blind children.

Anyone unable to attend but still wishing to donate can do so by getting in touch with Christine MacIntyre on 07769 637754.

Auditions
Feis Latharna will be holding auditions for this year's Ceilidh Trail. Forms can be found and filled in online at www.feislatharna.org

Margaret sails away with win

WELL done to *Oban Times* reader Margaret Kirk, of Mossfield Drive, Oban, who has sailed off with first prize in our recent Tall Ships competition.

Margaret has won a six-day voyage on a tall ship with Jubilee Sailing Trust, Oban, to Belfast from Monday June 20 to Saturday June 25.

Local Producers Market
Spring Fayre
Thursday 21st April
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch,
1 mile along the Tralce road
10 am to 3 pm
LOTS TO EAT AND DO
Every First / Third Thursday
Interested Producers contact
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www.lorn.org.uk

gig argyll guide your essential guide to live music in argyll

Thursday 21 April > Ceilidh/DJ Night
Skipinnish Ceilidh House from 9pm

Friday 22 April > The Shee in Concert
Skipinnish Ceilidh House Doors open 7.30, tickets £8

Friday 22 April > Live Music with Chris Suckle
Markie Dans

Saturday 23 April > One off special Easter Ceilidh
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 9pm-11pm - £5 entry

Saturday 23 April > Live Music with Crooked Reel
Markie Dans

Saturday 23 April > Chunks
Skipinnish Ceilidh House with DJs 11-2, £6 entry

Sunday 24 April > Easter Sunday Club Night
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 11pm-2am, - FREE ENTRY

Sunday 24 April > Sandra MacBeth
Markie Dans from 5pm-9pm

Sunday 24 April > Shivering Shake
Markie Dans From 9.30pm

Thursday 28 April > Live Music with Chris Suckle
Markie Dans

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It's the question on everyone's lips - apparently! - how many people are going to be doing something special for the Royal wedding? Or is everyone just not interested? Or, unlike some, will April 29 be just another ordinary working day? We asked our growing army of Facebook followers for their thoughts...

Lee Williamson: I'm blocking off George St to have my own party, David Cameron says it's okay.

Catriona Fisher: I'm not working - hooray for Glasgow! But my poor mum will be - boo for Highland Council! I'll be in Ardnamurchan avoiding the whole shebang like the plague.

Neil Morrison: You mean for the Mull Music Festival? Hope Kate and Willy are not needing a ceilidh band!

Ian Kirkpatrick: Camping with no TV or phone come rain or shine!

Sheila Ferguson: Not only will I be watching it 'live', I will also be taping it as well. Sad I know.

Allan Strang Jr: I'll be working, thank the lord! All I can say is, good luck Katie, for marrying a nobber.

Jenna Duffy: Will be working - not interested. Hundreds of people get married all over the world every day but do we care?

Julian Baird: We are making a day of it. Family over to watch the ceremony followed by a massive



roast dinner. Maybe a couple of bottles of wine as well. It's the royal wedding of a generation.

Shona Hilton: There's a royal wedding?

Ross Bull: The royal wedding exists in the time-honoured tradition of distracting the masses during times of massive ruling-class failure.

And to get us all on side and stop complaining, many of us are being

Fran Kirkham: I'll enjoy my day off and I'll be watching it on the telly. And of course I'll have to have a small refreshment to toast the happy couple, only to be sociable, you understand.

Caragh Scott: I will be trying to avoid it!

Ron Shaw: Thousands of people get married everyday and no-one bats an eyelid. What's so special about this lot of unemployed toffs!

Fraser Leith: Not even remotely interested. You'd think they could get this family and their chaotic lifestyle off social security.

Kathryn MacCallum: Good celebration of one woman's achievement in bagging her prince. Loved how she got him back when he split with her!

Go Kate - girl power and it's nice to have something good on telly other than politicians lying to their back teeth in an effort to get your vote!

Chase Wild Goose Hostel: We plan to sit with our backs to the TV singing communist songs. Know any..?

Have your say - go to facebook.com/obantimes



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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

WIN Competition

WIN A TWO NIGHT BREAK AT THE ISLE OF MULL HOTEL

Mull & Iona Wildlife Week returns this year on Saturday May 7 to Friday May 13 with a programme full of walks, talks, boat trips, exhibitions and family activities. The events will promote the exceptional beauty of the islands and celebrate the huge diversity of wildlife to be seen and enjoyed. Two opening celebrations, in conjunction with the Craignure Visitor Information Centre, will take place on the first weekend. Saturday will see wildlife talks and fun for all the family in the centre followed by a one hour coastal walk with the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust. On Sunday, the Visitor Centre and Wings Over Mull are inviting visitors to meet some beautiful birds of prey. There will also be information on the White Tailed Sea Eagles, owl pellets for children to dissect, mini nest boxes and free literature to take away.

The rest of the week will include photography days, talks on bee keeping and geology, guided walks, cycling events and much, much more. For further details visit www.wildisles.co.uk.

To celebrate the event, The Oban Times is offering one lucky reader the chance to win a two night break, dinner, bed and breakfast for two people at the Isle of Mull Hotel, Craignure. There is also a second prize of two Tall Tales of Mull Tour tickets and a third prize of a bottle of Tobermory Whisky, courtesy of Tobermory Distillery.

Question:
In which centre will the opening celebrations take place?

Fill in your details along with your answer below and post to Competitions, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Entries must be submitted by 12pm Thursday 28th April.

Answer

Name

Address

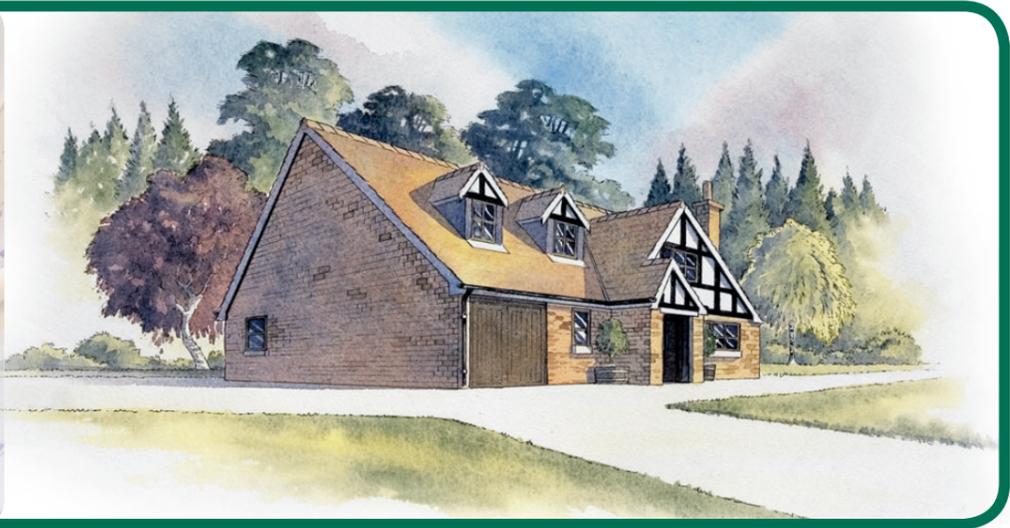
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I would like to receive information on Mull & Iona Wildlife Week and for The Oban Times to share my details with the organisers.

I would like to receive information on special offers and promotions from The Oban Times.

Terms & conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. The prize does not include spending money, connecting travel or travel insurance. Entrants must be aged 18 years or over. Winners will be chosen at random. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity. The hotel break can be taken at any time, subject to availability and is at the discretion of the hotel. The Tall Tales Tour must be booked in advance. The winner of the whisky will be issued a voucher and will need to collect in person along with proof of age.



FOR many, embarking on the first bold steps towards the base rung of the property ladder, building ones own home from scratch is, at least on paper, a tempting prospect.

Those who have already successfully achieved their self-build ambitions will confirm that there is a fine line between completion of a dream - or the arrival of a costly nightmare - but while it may be easy to measure the

plus or minus of financial implications, how do you put a figure on the warm glow of self-satisfaction if your dream home becomes reality.

As well as embarking on a steep learning curve into the complex world of budgeting, legal jargon and the planning process, determined self-builders may find that they learn as much about themselves and their own character as they

do about construction.

Along with the land, bricks and mortar, you will need large volumes of dedication, commitment and patience throughout the entire project. It will take longer than you thought. It will probably extend both deadlines and budgets so make a list in large lettering of the top three reasons of why you are constructing your own home - read it regularly, and put it in a prominent position that keeps you focused, especially when the going gets tough.

Remember that undertaking this self-build is to achieve the home of your dreams.

You will need to inspire others to have the level of enthusiasm for your project as you have. Having the right attitude will fundamentally affect your self-build plan in a positive way.

There are many ways in which you will locate your ideal plot of land. Estate

agents, advertisements in newspapers and word of mouth are probably the most common.

Land may also become available via auctions or on-line auction sites. These may appear as a cheap option. And they can be. But they come with their own complications.

Plots being auctioned are often the result of bankruptcy or other problems that make a quick sale desirable for the seller. They are traded on a 'sold as seen' basis. It is up to the bidder to ensure that the details being presented are accurate, suitable to the

intended purpose and not without 'hidden' dangers.

If possible, visit any site for sale via an auction and make your own assessment - or better still pay an expert to survey the property or plot on your behalf. It may cost a little, but could save you a lot.

Whatever your chosen route to a piece of land, there are four basic areas to consider before embarking on a plot purchase - ground conditions, planning permission, utilities and services, and any legal considerations.

GROUND CONDITIONS

Ground conditions are important as it forms the foundations of your dream home. It may be necessary to employ a specialist to ensure that the plot of land is ideally suited for your project. Simple things like a high water table, while not insurmountable, need to be identified, as do more serious issues with potential flooding, industrial or agricultural pollution and, if the site has been subject to infill, what was it in-filled with? Building land may have been built on previously



and what lies beneath the surface in terms of drains, pipe work, foundations, etc may have cost implications that are not immediately obvious.

Something as simple as the incline of the proposed plot should also be noted as this may add extensively to the cost of groundwork prior to the first stages of construction.

When viewing a plot, bear in mind that the overall dimensions should not only be capable of containing the house but that planning authorities may also want evidence of sufficient space

for parking or garages, turning vehicles, space for safe central heating fuel storage, if applicable, and other amenities in relation to the size of said home.

Don't take the sellers word as to the size of the plot.

It is your responsibility to ensure that the dimensions of the land for sale is as stated.

It would also be advisable at this stage to come back from the site and, if possible, view it from a distance - get the 'bigger picture'. This will give you a better feel for the surroundings or the neighbourhood.

PLANNING

Planning is often the biggest single obstacle that a self-builder has to negotiate.

Don't be put off by the multitude of nightmare scenarios that others will willingly relate to you. Learn from their errors and experiences, do the homework, and seek help from experts who do these often complex communications with local authorities on a daily basis.

Planning restrictions and interpretations may differ slightly from area to area so gain expert local knowledge

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Plots with outline planning permission already granted will cost in the region of 500% more than land without. Obtaining planning from scratch may be time consuming and is not without its pitfalls, but it can also be rewarding if approached correctly.

There are also areas that come under the category of 'designated' - these are subject to complex planning and are probably best avoided by the inexperienced. Designated areas include Green Belts, which are not as the term suggests open green field sites, they will most likely have strict restrictions on sizes and styles of house building. National Parks, which are exactly what the name suggests, have few permitted developments and have rules regarding not only style of building but also materials used. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) or National Scientific Areas (NSAs) which have rules relating to traditional architecture, plus Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), which are aimed specifically to protect wildlife and/or geological features.

UTILITIES AND SERVICES

All plots will require utilities and services at some stage.

Plots adjacent to other houses or existing buildings are often easier to get through the planning maze simply because water and power supplies may already be on-hand.

Rural and isolated locations are a very different proposal, with the cost of installing utilities becoming a major cost factor in negotiating the original purchase price of the land.

Considerable consideration should be given to the proximity of schools, shops and public transport. These may not be priorities in your dream location - but should

you opt to move in the future, they may affect the resale value of your house - what you view as a positive asset could be a potential buyers idea of a real turn-off.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Before agreeing to buy building land ask your solicitor to a pre-purchase check for any title issues, the legality of the boundaries, rights of access through, or indeed, on and off the site - there is little point in buying a site that you cannot then gain entry to.

This is particularly relevant if the plot is in a rural or remote location where access is via neighbouring land. Old or verbal agreements between previous landowners/friends/ neighbours mean nothing and must not be regarded as automatically transferable.

This is also true of shared access which can sometimes be a very grey area shrouded amid myth, lies and well-intentioned assumptions - an area that needs to be clearly defined in writing and map before money changes hands.

Shared access normally also means shared liability in relation to maintenance costs and shared liability for incidents or accidents that happen on that piece of shared land - ie trees falling onto neighbours' property, broken or damaged fences, injury to residents or visitors as a result of neglect to said shared access.

Sometimes, in order to get planning permission, you will be asked to sign a legal obligation, also known as a planning agreement and in Scotland commonly called a Section 50 Agreement. This can restrict how land is used or make the applicant bear the cost of off-site works before building work can go ahead.

You will also have to find out if there are any such agreements relating to the

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plot that may have already been signed. As the purchaser, you are legally bound by any agreement that comes with the purchase. It's up to you to find it if it exists.

Also, there may be verbal agreements made with the vendor with regard to building or reinstating walls, fences, drains or even to the extent of getting the vendor's permission before extending, altering or even selling your property - these ancient

feus are legally binding and should be discussed at length with a solicitor before entered into.

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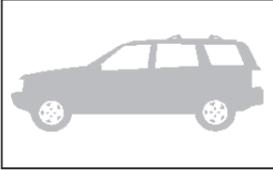
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COUNCILLOR SURGERY
Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W.4 Oban South and the Isles)

Councillor McIntosh will be holding a surgery in The Business Centre, Crossapol, Isle of Tiree on Thursday 28th April from 11.00am - 1.00pm. Appointments are not necessary. Councillor McIntosh can also be contacted by e-mail - donaidd.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk

PLANNING
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS
● Ref No: 11/00534/LIB
Applicant: SGE Hotels
Proposal: Alterations to fire exit door.
Site Address: Columba Hotel North Pier Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5DD
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS
● Ref No: 11/00563/PP
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Neil Scott
Proposal: Erection of annex accommodation to existing Bed and Breakfast establishment - revised proposals to planning permission 10/00016/PP (retrospective)
Site Address: The Inns Over-By The Square Barmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA43 7JP
Location of Plans: Barmore Area Office Isle of Islay

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008
REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 12/05/2011

● Ref No: 11/00431/PP
Applicant: Mr Colin Ferguson
Proposal: Installation of oil tank and boiler (retrospective)
Site Address: Glencripesdale Cum-Dhùr-Rìgh Banderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1ST
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig

● Ref No: 11/00533/PP
Applicant: SGE Hotels
Proposal: Alterations to fire exit door.
Site Address: Columba Hotel North Pier Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5DD
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 11/00541/PP
Applicant: Mr G Gage And Ms M McKeerrell
Proposal: Erection of extension and alterations to dwellinghouse
Site Address: Cairnvaan Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QB
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 11/00551/PPP
Applicant: Mr And Mrs R MacEachern
Proposal: Site for the erection of 3 dwellinghouses
Site Address: Land South Of Drimmin Kilchrean Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HF
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt

● Ref No: 11/00560/PP
Applicant: Mr John Doerr
Proposal: Erection of 2 x 20kw wind turbines (27 metres to tip height)
Site Address: Land North West Of Friesland Farmhouse Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6TB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Coll

● Ref No: 11/00577/PPP
Applicant: Mrs Ibbel Livingstone
Proposal: Site for the erection of 16 dwellinghouses including 4 affordable.
Site Address: Land West Of Glenview Dalmailly Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmailly

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.
Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.
Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.
The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.
Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.
Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/01018/FUL	Gorteneorn Gortan Road Ballauchulish	Alterations and extension	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/01200/FUL	Land 460m West of Coille Diohain Roy Bridge	Installation of hydro scheme and associated equipment	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/01211/FUL	Oterburn Bonavie Fort William	Installation of an air source heat pump	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk



ATLANTIS LEISURE - NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Annual General Meeting of Oban & Lorn Community Enterprise Limited will be held at Atlantis Leisure on Monday 10th May 2011 at 7.00pm.
All welcome.

CROFTERS COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NAN CROITEARAN
DECROFTING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Applicant, Croft, Case number	Extent & Purpose
John F MacDonald, 27 Mingary, Anisalg & Moidart, 4.86.29705.	0.84 ha - site for four dwelling-houses.

Within 14 days of the date of this newspaper - Comments can be made to the Crofters Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land.
Applications marked with an asterisk - Interest can be expressed in obtaining the tenancy of the area subject to the application.
Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW info@crofterscommission.org.uk

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of the business community read the regional press

Regional Press
closer to home



Graphic Design
Short Term Contract
OBAN

The Oban Times requires a graphic designer to work on a variety of print related products and publications. It is envisaged that the requirement will commence late May/early June for a period of 3-4 weeks. Ideally candidates will have the following:
Knowledge of working on PC's, Adobe InDesign and Photoshop.
A good eye for design, typography, colour sense and a keen eye for detail.
The ability to produce print ready artwork.
Please apply with a CV and any examples of work to: personnel@obantimes.co.uk



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Oban Distillery
885 hours per year (mainly worked between Easter & October)
Visitors will look to you as an enlightening and engaging authority on the entire whisky distilling process as you talk them through the key quality messages and answer questions. You'll also work as part of the wider team to maximise sales and ensure facilities are always of the highest standard. Evening and weekend work is an integral part of the role.
To find out more and to apply please visit www.diageo-careers.com and click on "Search and Apply" then "Search Openings". Enter "26708" in the keyword box to find this role.
Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 5th May 2010.
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NORTH ARGYLL HOUSE
Bealach An Rìgh, Oban
Care Home For the Elderly
A vacancy has arisen for a part time Domestic/Laundry Assistant
£7.03 per hour
For an application form contact Manager Morag Telfer. 01631 562168
Closing date 2nd May

MOTOR MECHANIC VACANCY
Time-served Motor Mechanic required.
M.O.T. Tester an advantage but not necessary as training will be given.
Basic computer skills necessary.
Salary negotiable depending on experience.
40 hour week/overtime available as required.
To apply send CV to:
Gordon Penman, Slipway Autos Limited, Unit 3, Annat Point, Corpach, Fort William
Tel 01397 72404
Email Gordon@slipwayautos.co.uk

Notice of Cancellation of Registration (Friendly Societies Act 1974 s.91)
Notice is hereby given that the Financial Services Authority has this day cancelled the registration of British Alcan Highland Smelters Kinlochleven Recreation Club (Register No. 41 WS) the registered office of which is at Riverside Park, Kinlochleven, Argyll. The grounds of the cancellation are that the society has wilfully violated section 43 of the Friendly Societies Act 1974 by not submitting to the Financial Services Authority any annual returns acceptable for filing since that submitted for the society's financial year ending 31 December 1995.
The society ceases to be entitled to the privileges of a registered society, but without prejudice to any liability incurred by the society, which may be enforced against it as if such cancellation had not taken place.
Date: 28 March 2011
Financial Services Authority, 25 The North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HS

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 SINGLE MOORING: LOCH CRERAN
Notice is hereby given that Kirsty (McQueen) Rogers has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of a new mooring at the following location in Loch Creran:
Description Latitude Longitude
Mooring 56 31.575N 05 23.190W (WGS84)
Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Port Appin Post Office, Port Appin, PA38 4DE
Objections relating to safety of navigation, in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB, quoting reference: 041119/110417
Kirsty Rogers, Achnacladach, Appin, Argyll

HARVEY HARVESTING LIMITED
On 8 April 2011, a petition was presented to Campbeltown Sheriff Court by the Advocate General for Scotland for and on behalf of the Commissioners for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs craving the Court inter alia to order that Harvey Harvesting Limited, C/O Wm Duncan & Co, Lochawe House, Barmore Road, Tarbert, PA29 6TW (registered office) be wound up by the Court and to appoint a liquidator. All parties claiming an interest must lodge Answers with Campbeltown Sheriff Court, Castlehill, Campbeltown, within 8 days of intimation, service and advertisement.
J NOONAN
Officer of Revenue & Customs
HM Revenue & Customs
Debt Management & Banking
Enforcement & Insolvency
20 Haymarket Yards, Edinburgh
for Petitioner
Tel: 0131 346 5943

THE ORIGINAL FACTORY SHOP CAMPBELTOWN
The Factory Shops are a niche concept, providing local communities with a department store packed with quality products at reasonable prices.
Our extensive range of discounted products changes with new deliveries every week, creating an exciting retail atmosphere.
We currently have over 160 stores nationwide, and we pride ourselves on offering customers an excellent combination of real value for money and outstanding customer service.
So if you are looking to move your career forward, or simply want to work locally as part of a team, why not join us?
STORE MANAGER
£18,000 - £22,000 p.a.
Closing date: Friday 29th April
To apply please visit our website: www.theoriginalfactoryshop.co.uk

McEwens of Perth
A long established family owned independent store group with branches in Perth, Inverness, Ballater & Aberdeen.
*Are you customer focused?
Do you enjoy selling?
Love Fashion?
Give exceptional service?*
McEwens are opening a new branch in George Street, Oban soon and are looking to recruit a Shop Manager, Senior Sales & Flexible Part-time staff.
Interested?
Then please apply in writing or email to Mrs Jackie Cleisham, HR Manager
McEwens of Perth,
56 St John Street, Perth PH1 5SN
j.cleisham@mcewensofperth.co.uk
Interviews will be held locally

INVERAWE
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Marketing Assistant (hours to suit min 20)
We are a leading specialist food producer. Our range is sold to both consumer and retail markets. Building on many years success in direct marketing we are looking to fill a new position within our existing DM team.
Tasked with developing and delivering direct marketing campaigns you will create compelling promotional strategies for both printed and digital media. You will have a background in direct selling, show a creative flair and display excellent analytical skills.
If you have a drive and desire to succeed are naturally numerate and articulate and possess good computer skills, you could be part of the team, and help to drive this local business forward.
Please apply in writing, only, to Lucy Burke, Marketing Director, Inverawe Smokehouses, Taynuilt, Argyll PA35 1HU. www.smokedsalmon.co.uk

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Component Accountant
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Salary : £35,875 - £42,206 per annum
35 hours per week
Argyll Community Housing Association Limited wishes to procure component accounting project delivery support for an initial fixed term contracted period of six months.
The contract is open to submissions from both individuals and/or firms with suitable skills sets.
To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk ;
Tel 01546 605859 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk
Closing Date: 12 noon on Thursday 28th April 2011
Interviews for this post will be held in Lochgilphead in May 2011.

Social Care Worker (Temporary)
£20,372 - £21,626
37 hrs per week
01546 604034
Ardfenaig, Ardrishaig Ref: CMA00460
Closing date: 6 May 2011.
To apply visit our website
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

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CrossReach is Scotland's largest voluntary social work organisation, offering care and counselling. At Auchinlee in Campbeltown, our aim is to provide a quality of care for older people that incorporates the principles of privacy, choice, dignity, independence, rights and fulfilment and which encourages people to regain and retain the skills of living.
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By providing administrative support to our team you'll make a big difference to the quality of care we offer. You must have a strong background and relevant experience in financial processes and be confident with Microsoft Office and computer accounts systems.
In return we offer a comprehensive benefits package, including a generous pension and holiday allowance. Applicants must be in sympathy with and supportive of our Christian Ethos. This post is subject to PVG Scheme Membership. For more information and to apply visit www.crossreach.org.uk or call 01586 552568.
Closing date: 6 May 2011.
CrossReach is the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland - a charity registered in Scotland SC011353.
crossreach.org.uk **CROSSREACH**
providing a caring future

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS
Assistant Administrator
The post holder will be assisting with the day to day administrative activities supporting the operation of a busy Oban based marine/diving company. Duties will include answering customer and supplier calls, day to day communication with work teams, basic stock administration & general office admin. Applicants will need to be computer literate and will also require a clean driving licence. Hours are 8.00am till 5.00pm. Salary commensurate with experience.
Please contact The Business Services Manager on 01631 565740 or email your CV to enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk or send to 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, PA34 4HG

Development Officer
required for Kilmoran Community Forest Company, based in Tighnabruich, Argyll
Salary circa £27,000
This is a 3 year full time position to develop, plan, coordinate and deliver a range of sustainable development activities identified by the community.
This project is being part-financed by the Scottish Government, the European Community Argyll and the Islands Leader 2007-2013 programme and Highlands & Islands Enterprise. Visit www.kilmorancommunityforest.com for a job description and application form. Or email info@kilmorancommunityforest.com or telephone 01700 811159.
Argyll and the Islands, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Company No 333208 Scottish Charity No SC038908

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Prime sheep trade rises 21p per kilo at Caledonian sale

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 2,341 prime hoggets, spring lambs and cast ewes and rams at Stirling last week when trade for hoggets rose more than 21p per kilo on the previous sale.

Prime hoggets averaged 244.30p (+21.33p on the week) selling to 318p per kilo for Beltex's scaling 40kg from R and S Downie, Newton of Crathie.

Prime lambs sold to 274p per kilo for Texel crosses scaling 35kg from J A Norval, Tullygarth Farm.

Suffolk ewes sold from Middlerigg sold to £178.50 and to 295p per kilo for Texel crosses from Drumlochty.

Oban Times FARMING

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8 rolls - used - cost new £60 per roll - now £30 per roll
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Neriby Limousin heifers sell to 257p per kilo in Islay

UNITED Auctions held their second Spring sale of grazing cattle at Islay Auction Mart.

A catalogued entry of 1,418 head sold to a good ringside of buyers from throughout Scotland and England.

An excellent offering of grazing cattle sold at rates comparing favourably to mainland centres when the bullocks levelled out at £706.47 or 189 pence per kilo (£662.92 last year) and the heifers averaged £604.50 or 176 pence per kilo (£601.29 last year).

The top priced bullock came from Gartacharra's consignment when their bullocks sold to £1,150.

Neriby's consignment included the top priced heifer per head which was a Limousin cross selling at £900.

The top priced bullock per kilo came from Dunlossit Farms, Cattadale when their Charolais crosses sold to 231pence whilst Neriby led the heifers per kilo at 257pence.

Prime sheep back slightly at Dingwall this week

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 73 prime cattle and 933 prime sheep at Dingwall on Tuesday this week.

Prime bullocks averaged 178.8p (-1.6p) and sold to 202p per kg for a 610kg Limousin cross from Lower Gledfield, Ardgay, and £1,338.75 for a 765kg Limousin cross from Ashley, North Kessock.

Prime young bulls sold to 161p per kg and £974.05 for a 605kg Limousin cross from Kindeace, Alness.

Prime heifers averaged 181.5p (+4.1p) and sold to 191p per kg for a 560kg Limousin cross from Ashley, to Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall, and £1,149.35 for a 635kg Charolais cross from Mountrich Farm, Dingwall.

Hoggs averaged 227.3p (-16.5p) and sold to 255.4p per kg for 41.5kg Texel crosses from Eilean Darrach, Dundonnell, and £110 for 52kg Beltex crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge, to Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall.

Ewes with lambs sell to £169

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 1,301 store cattle, 15 young bulls, 719 hoggets and ewes with lambs at foot at Stirling on Monday.

Bullocks averaged 182.3p (+1.5p) and sold to 231p per kg for a 325kg Limousin from Camreggan, Girvan and £1120 for four 635kg Simmentals from Loanrigg, Slamannan. Heifers averaged 178.9p (+1p) and sold to 222.5p per kg for a 400kg Limousin from Carslae, Newton Stewart and £955 for a 560kg Limousin from West Park, Braço.

Ewes with lambs at foot sold to £169 from Groan Farms while ewe hoggets sold to £102 from A Hamilton, Mid Forrest. Hoggets sold to £93 for Mules from D Gracey, Edengrove and ewes sold to £125 from M G Walker, Kilt.

Cattle trade back slightly at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 1,909 store cattle, 109 young bulls and 179 cows and 58 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 174.62p per kilo (-11.52p) and sold to 220.8p per kg for a 360kg Charolais cross from Auchenflower and £1,110 for a 616kg Simmental cross from Mid Rottearms.

Heifers averaged 177.98p (-5.62p) and sold to 231.5p per kg for a 298kg Charolais cross from Auchenrioch and £1,070 for a 586kg Limousin cross from Bankwood.

Cast cows averaged 127.56p and sold to 163.20p for a Limousin cross from Graystale and £1335 for a Limousin cross from Lathrisk.

Blackface hoggs from Forneth sold to £95.

Vets issue warning ahead of warmer weather

SHEEP farmers, particularly hill farms on the west coast that are lambing on land that was used for lambing last year, or improved pasture, are being warned that their lambs could come under threat of worms which can cause sudden death in their flocks.

With spring temperatures slow to rise Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) vets anticipate that in early May could see an increase in Nematodirus which will threaten lambs as young as six weeks old.

It is at this age lambs begin to eat more grass and also swallow Nematodirus battus worms. The worms can cause sudden deaths, with watery diarrhoea, while those lambs that survive are left sickly and weak. There can be further losses from a parasite causing Coccidiosis with kidney damage causing renal failure.

The risk of losses increases when a cold period in the spring is followed by a warm spell, when the temperature rises above 10 degrees celsius leading to a mass hatch of eggs on pasture. As that fits this year's pattern it is anticipated that a simultaneous hatch of N battus larvae will occur from the first week on May onwards.



There is a particular risk on heavily-stocked low ground pastures and any grazing with a history of the disease. If the Nematodirus hatch continues into June, hill lambs on improved

pastures, which are relatively heavily stocked, may also be affected.

Ayr-based SAC vet Dr George Mitchell said: 'It is important to remember that the parasite can

kill lambs before eggs appear in faeces, so if any unexplained deaths occur in lambs it would be wise to send freshly dead lambs for post mortem examination to an SAC Disease Surveillance Centre (DSC). That way the disease can be diagnosed or ruled out.'

Where the risk factors apply then farmer should begin treatment once the lambs reach six weeks of age.

'If the risk is high then don't wait for signs of scouring, but treat with a wormer effective against Nematodirus, but remember to check the data sheet before you buy,' said George Mitchell.

'If in doubt, dung samples should be checked for worm eggs 7-16 days after treatment depending on the product used.'

'You should find no eggs if the drench was effective. However anticoccidial treatment may also be required.'

As the rise in worm numbers on the pasture is extremely rapid Dr. Mitchell recommends two doses at 7-10 day intervals for most situations. Where there is a particularly severe problem the best solution may be to move the ewes and lambs to low risk pasture (eg reseeded pasture) if it is available. While cattle don't develop clinical Nematodirus disease, if young calves graze with sheep they can become infected and increase the build-up of larvae on the pasture.

ISLAY

United Auctions

Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X: £1010 Dunlossit Estate £865(2) and £855 Rockside £830 Keppols £805(14) and £785 Rockside £785(2) Balmartin £765(7) and £750(9) Craignis £748 Octomere £745(5) Craignis £740(4) and £735(2) Rockside £735(9) Craignis £720 Dunlossit Estate(2) and Craignis(4) £702(21) Octomere £690(9) Craignis £675 Island £665 Keppols and Lorgba £650 Octomere £645(3) and £605(3) Craignis £600 Rockside(10) and Ballinaby. British Blue X: £975 and £935 Octofad £915 Blackrock £805(2) and £800 Octofad £720 Blackrock £680 Octofad.

Charolais X: £955(2) Craigfad £905 Brybruch £865 Craigfad £850(4) Brybruch £845 and £825(2) Craigfad £815 Uiskentuie and Eorrabus(2) £805(3) Eorrabus £800(5) Balmartin £795 Craigfad £765(8) Balmartin £755(5) Craigfad £745(2) Gartacharra £740(4) Craigfad £735 Island £730(2) Balmartin £715(9) Mansefield £690(6) Ballinaby £675 Eorrabus £620(6) Ballinaby £610 Craigfad £600 Ballinaby.

Limousin X: £1150 Gartacharra £1005 Lossit £975 Octofad £970 Gartacharra £940 Tallant £935(2) Kilchiaran £935(3) Sunderland £925 Kilchiaran £920 Brybruch £905(6) Kilchiaran £895 Blackrock and Lossit(7) £880(5) Sunderland £870(4) Octofad £865 Neriby £850(2) Uiskentuie £845 Eorrabus(2) and Kilbride(2) £840 Balmartin(2). Kilchiaran(8) and Lossit(3) £830 Balaclava(7) and Sunderland(2) £825 Tallant(3), Kilchiaran(3), Gartacharra(2) and Sunderland £820 Gartacharra(2) and Bayview £815 Uiskentuie £810 Lossit(3), Cladville and Craigfad £805(3) Octofad £800 Ballychattrigan and Neriby(3) £795 Octofad(2), Tallant(6), Sunderland(2) and Craigfad £790 Kilchiaran(3), Lossit(3) and Kilbride(8) £785 Octofad(5) and Tallant(3) £780 Kintra and Sunderland(8) £775 Octofad(6) and Sunderland £770(13) Tallant £765 Uiskentuie £760 Octofad(6) and Blackrock £750 Uiskentuie(5) and Neriby £745 Uiskentuie(5), Eorrabus(3), Kilchiaran(2), Corry(6), Gartacharra(2) and Balaclava(5) £740 Gartacharra(7), Kilbride(8) and Craigfad(6) £735 Uiskentuie(4), Balmartin(2) and Island £730(3) Tallant £725(4) Balmartin £720 Blackrock and Kilbride(2) £715 Blackrock, Tallant(5) and Blackrock(11) £710 Portrantraun £700(6) Balaclava £695(18) Duich £690 Kintra and Cladville £680 Octofad(6) and Island(8) £675 Mulindry(3), Starcmill(5), Kilchiaran, Corry(2) and Island £665(17) Tallant £660 Lossit(2) and Cladville(3) £655 Mulindry(3) and Tallant(3) £650(7) Kilbride £645 Octofad(4), Mulindry(3), Tallant and Kintra £635 Tallant(2), Portrantraun(3) and Sunderland £625 Uiskentuie and Blackrock(2) £615 Mulindry(7),

Ballychattrigan(4) and Kilbride(7) £610 Octofad £605(3) Balaclava £600 Uiskentuie(2) and Smaladh(2). Luing X: £700 Blackrock £685(9) Duich.

Saler X: £635(2) Duich
Shorthorn X: £702 Octomere £615(2) Kilchiaran.

Simmental X: £950 Craigfad £920(3) Uiskentuie £875 Coillabus £810 Corry and Cladville(3) £805 Coillabus £780 and £775 Uiskentuie £775 Cladville £765(3) Kilchiaran £760(5) Corry £750 Coillabus £745 Kilchiaran £735 Uiskentuie £725(8) Kilchiaran £690 Ballinaby(2) and Cladville(2) £685(2) Coillabus £680(2) Island £635(6) Kilchiaran £620 Corry £600 Ballinaby.

Aberdeen Angus X: £685(6) and £670(4) Craignis £650(4) Rockside £645(12) Octomere £640(3) Rockside £635(5) and £595(10) Craignis.
British Blue X: £670 Starcmill £620 and £595(4) Octofad.

Charolais X: £845, £740 and £735(2) Craigfad £720(8) Balmartin £685 Brybruch(3) and Craigfad £675 Eorrabus £610(4) Ballinaby £590(3) Craigfad.

Limousin X: £900 Neriby £860(2) Brybruch £840(3), £825(6) and £800 Lossit £790(3) Brybruch £760(4) Kilchiaran £755 Octofad(4) and Lossit(4) £750 Gartacharra(2) and Sunderland(4) £745(2) Kilchiaran £730 Cladville £720 Corry £705 Blackrock(2), Balaclava(4) and Craigfad(3) £700(5) Neriby £695 Ballychattrigan(2) and Balmartin(2) £690(2) Tallant £685 Sunderland(2) and Neriby(8) £680(2) Kilchiaran £675(4) Tallant £670 Corry.

Ballychattrigan £660(8) Octofad £645 Eorrabus, Blackrock(5) and Craigfad(6) £640(6) Balaclava £635 Ballychattrigan(2) and Corry(2) £630 Starcmill, Tallant(10), Kilchiaran(4), Island(15) and Sunderland £625 Mulindry(5) and Kilchiaran £620 Octofad(5) and Starcmill £610 Carrabus and Portrantraun(4) £595 Octofad(2), Island(11) and Cladville(2).

Simmental X: £845 Craigfad £725(2) Coillabus £705(2) Corry £675(2) Cladville £670 Uiskentuie £635 Corry £620(3) and £605(2) Coillabus £605(2) Kilchiaran £595(2) Corry.

Breeding cattle
Cow with calf at foot: £1000 Knockmore, Jura.

Prices per kilo

Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X: 219p(2) Balmartin 203p(14), 200p(2) and 199p(4) Rockside 199p(2) Dunlossit Estate 196p Rockside(7) and Craignis(16) 193p(21) Octomere 191p(9) Craignis.

British Blue X: 219p and 202p Octofad 195p and 193p Blackrock.
Charolais X: 231p Dunlossit Estate 211p(5) 9 Mansefield 210p and 209p(2) Carrabus 206p Brybruch(4) and Craigfad(2) 204p Brybruch 203p(5) Balmartin 201p Dunlossit Estate 199p(5) Ballinaby 198p Balmartin(8), Island and Craigfad(5) 197p(2)

Gartacharra 190p(2) Carrabus. Limousin X: 217p(3) Lossit 216p Tallant 211p Blackrock(5), Bayview and Duich(18) 210p(5) Tallant 209p Carrabus 208p(5) Starcmill 207p(2) Kintra 205p(3) Mulindry 204p Tallant(17) and Eorrabus(3) 205p Tallant(3) and Neriby 202p Octofad(4), Tallant, Gartacharra(2), Lossit(6) and Smaladh(2) 201p Starcmill, Balaclava(7) and Neriby 200p Tallant(9), Brybruch and Blackrock(7) 199p(7) Mulindry 198p Kintra and Island(9) 197p Balmartin(6), Kilchiaran, Corry(2), Gartacharra(2) and Balaclava(6) 196p Octofad(6), Mulindry(3), Carrabus(2), Kilchiaran(2), Gartacharra(7) and Sunderland(2) 195p Mulindry(3), Carrabus(3) and Duich(3) 194p Carrabus(2), Tallant(5) and Kintra 193p Tallant(16), Lossit and Neriby(3) 192p Eorrabus(2), Kilchiaran(3) and Kilbride(8) 191p Tallant(5), Corry(6), 14 Mansefield, Lossit, Balaclava(5), Kilbride(8) and Smaladh(2) 190p(3) Tallant.

Luing X: 203p(2) and 196p(9) Duich.
Saler X: 192p(2) Duich.

Shorthorn X: 193p Octomere.
Simmental X: 229p(3) 9 Mansefield Terr 205p Corry 197p(2) Island 186p Kilchiaran and Ballinaby 191p 14 Mansefield Terr.

Heifers
Aberdeen Angus X: 184p Rockside(4) and Octomere(12).
Charolais X: 195p(3) Brybruch 189p(4) Balmartin.

Limousin X: 257p Neriby 212p(3) Lossit 211p(2) Blackrock 210p(6) and 206p(4) Lossit 194p Brybruch(5) & Duich(9) 193p Starcmill and Uiskentuie(5) 191p(4) Balaclava 190p(5) Blackrock 189p Tallant(10), Corry, Lossit, Portrantraun(4), Neriby(3) and Smaladh(2).

STIRLING

Caledonian Marts

Bullocks:
0-250kg - £520 Lower Greenyards, 208p Hilton of Beath;
251-300kg - £620 Drumbovie, 214p Mid Craigton;
301-350kg - £750 Upper Inchwood, 231p Camreggan;
351-400kg - £840 Callendoune, 218p Upper Inchwood;
401-450kg - £875 Callendoune, 205p Torr;
451-500kg - £975 West Park, 203p West Park;
501-550kg - £1000 West Park, 192p West Park;
551-600kg - £1055 Briarlans, 181p Briarlans;
601-650kg - £1120 Loanrigg, 176p Loanrigg.

Heifers:
0-250kg - £480 Myothill Mains, 192p Myothill Mains;
251-300kg - £620 Drumbovie, 194p Torr;
301-350kg - £760 Hilton of Beath, 217p Hilton of Beath;
351-400kg - £890 Carslae, 222p Carslae;
401-450kg - £825 Carslae, 187p West Kelt;
451-500kg - £920 Carslae, 192p Carslae;
501-550kg - £925 Waulkmill, 171p Plean;
551-600kg - £955 West Park, 170p West Park.

Bulls:
301-350kg - £640 Gillandersland, 188p Gillandersland;
351-400kg - £655 Balcachie, 185p Balcachie;
401-450kg - £600 Badenkep, 170p Badenkep.

Sheep
Ewes with Lambs at foot: Mules (twin lambs) - £168 Groan Farms; Tex x (twin lambs) - £168 Groan Farms; Chev x (twin lambs) - £163 Kinnhallen; Tex x (single lambs) - £130 Kinnhallen. Store Hoggets: Tex - £89 Edengrove; Chev - £78 Little Ballow; BF - £77 More; Suff - £70.50 Silliaig; Cross - £68 Boreland.

Ewe Hoggets: Mule - £80 High Smithston; BF - £71.50 High Smithston. Feeding Ewes: Mule - £87 Little Ballow; Chev - £72 Larchie; BF - £58 Little Ballow.

STIRLING United Auctions

Bullocks
Up to 250kg West Mainshill £500, 210p; 251-300kg Toward £600, 219p; 301-350kg Auchlin £730, 219.2p; 351-400kg Auchinrover £795, 220.8p; 401-450kg Upper Whitestone £900, Auchinrover 206.7p; 451-500kg Peacockbank £920, 198.7p; 501-550kg Tulcan £1030, Gillmill 194.7p; 551-600kg Holehouse £1075, 188.6p; 601-650kg Mid Rottearms £1110, 180.2p; 651-700kg Hillhouse £1090, 164.7p.

Heifers
Up to 250kg Percival £340, 174.4p; 251-300kg Auchinrover £690, 231.5p; 301-350kg Arnyne £690, 210.4p; 351-400kg Craigenroan £845, 212.3p; 401-450kg Craigenroan £845, 198.8p; 451-500kg Bankwood £1020, 213p; 501-550kg Townhead £920, Lethame 173.1p; 551-550kg Bankwood £1070, Spott 184p; 601-650kg Kerelaw Mains £980, 161.2p; 651-700kg Craigenroan £960, 164.7p.

Young Bulls
251-300kg Keirsbeath £540, Ardvorlich 181.6p; 301-350kg Borland £610, Ardvorlich 184p; 351-400kg Ashfield £750, Borland 197.9p; 401-450kg Brownhill £770, 187.8p; 451-500kg Innerwick £880, 184.1p; 501-550kg Craigalbert £820, 152.7p; 551-600kg Whitstone Laws £870, 159.6p; 601-650kg Woodhall £980, 159.6p

OTM Cows: Lathrisk (Lim) £1335, Graystale 163.2p; Forneith (Sim) £1145, Borland 155.6p; Strathavon (BA) £1075, 160.8p; Brownhill (Ch) £1065, 143.1p; Whitstone Laws (BS) £1055, 135.6p; Millhills (AA) £1005, Nutholm 144.6p; Stockholm (BB) £945, 158.9p; Claunch (BF) £905, 127.5p; OTM Bulls: Preston (Sim) £1470, Whitstone Laws 150.2p; West Shirva (Lim) £1450, 136.5p.

Breeding cattle
Hirs & calves: Armbathie (Lim hfr & hfr calf) £1700; Keilburn (Char Hfr & Hfr calf) £1450; Fletcherfield (Cont hfr & hfr calf) £1200.

Cows & calves: Leckin (BB cow & hfr calf) £1550; (AA cow & bull calf) £1420; (BB cow & bull calf) £1300; Pitcairn (Sim cow & bull calf) £1200; (Lim cow & bull calf) £1120

In-calf cows: Pitcairn (Sim) £1120, £1100
In-calf hirs: Ardgate (sim) £1120
Sheep
Hoggs; Forneith (BF) £95

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or 01838 200 399

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Has recently had a new volvo penta 3.0 engine fitted and has a brand new full body cover, washed after every use v.g. condition and has been well looked after, sits on a roller coaster trailer will throw in a few extras

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2-berth GRP bilge keel cruiser, believed 1974
Roller reefing; GPS plotter; 4 hp. Yamaha outboard; inflatable tender; launching trailer (rough). Ashore Tobermory harbour.

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1979 bilge keeled GRP sloop.
28hp. diesel (new 2004), GPS autopilot, VHF, depth sounder, dinghy.
Ready for cruising.

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£14,950

ORKNEY FASTLINER 19 WITH CUDDY

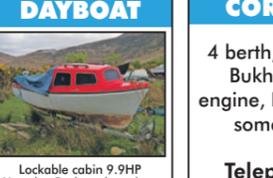


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Lochranna

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Galvanised launch trolley
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Ideal tender/run about/starter pack for learner.

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PINK BUMBO SEAT with tray, £20 Telephone 07766 579797.

TIE BACKS Mamas and Papas Once Upon a Time Bear tie backs, neutral in colour, hardly used, £15 Telephone 07766 579797.

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CYCLING SHOES with cleats, size 7, new, £10 Telephone 01631 565241.

GENTS CLASSIC RALEIGH BICYCLE, £48 Telephone 07770 623486.

LADIES RALEIGH BICYCLE can email pics and can deliver to Oban area, £35 Telephone 01852 314009.

OLDER BOYS/MAN'S BICYCLE can email pics and can deliver to Oban area, £30 Telephone 01852 314009.

SPIDERMAN BICYCLE HELMET good condition, would suit 4-8 years, £5 Telephone 01631 564364.

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BOURNE DESIGNER SHOES SIZE 39 brand new black Sling back shoes from Bourne. Bow detail with diamante, 4" heels. Stunning price new 165Stg, £49.99 Telephone 01631 710889.

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DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

ELECTRIC DOUBLE OVEN Dilomat brown electric double-oven. Lower oven fan assisted, £49.99 Telephone 01586 554769.

FIVE RING GAS HOB stainless steel, excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 07766 579797.

JUICE EXTRACTOR, £10 Telephone 01631 564275 or 07757 972969.

STOVES BUILT-UNDER ELECTRIC OVEN Stoves electric double oven and grill. Used but still in great working order. Stainless Steel finish, instruction manual avail, £100 Telephone 07747 631117.

TUMBLE DRYER, £15 Telephone 01546 606938.

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BLACK LABRADOR PUPPIES gorgeous and ready for new homes, wormed and vet checked. Must be seen, KC Reg with excellent pedigrees. Telephone 01880 740636.

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BOOKCASE mahogany bookcase, Leon Levin of Glasgow, 3 shelves, very good condition, £40 Telephone 01631 570767.

BOOKCASE tall solid wooden bookcase, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

CABINET 1950's glass fronted display cabinet, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

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DINING CHAIRS wood mahogany stained, set of four, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562750 evenings & weekends.

DINING TABLE solid wood, mahogany stained, 80x120cm, (extending to 180) seats up to 10, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562750 evenings & weekends.

DINING TABLE mahogany inlaid dining table and 6 chairs with light green soft seats and backs, excellent condition, hardly used, £230 Telephone 01631 564578.

FOOTSTOOL large dark green, can email pics and can deliver to Oban area, £10 Telephone 01852 314009.

GLASS TV STAND glass TV stand with silver legs, 3 shelves and in good condition, £40 Telephone 07989 931322.

HEXAGONAL LAMP TABLE mahogany, 50 pence piece shape, by Leon Levin of Glasgow, in excellent condition, £45 Telephone 01631 570767.

HIGH BACKED CHAIR with wings, good upholstery, dark red with small pattern in blue and gold, £45 Telephone 07733 365290.

IKEA CHEST OF DRAWERS blue and beech, great for child's bedroom. Can email pics and can deliver to Oban area, £15 Telephone 01852 314009.

IKEA DISPLAY UNIT long narrow with 7 glass shelves, 16 1/2" W x 51" L, brand new, £45 Telephone 01499 302791.

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PERSONALS

Malcolm and Elizabeth would like to thank all family and friends who shared in their Silver Wedding celebrations particularly those who gave a donation to our chosen charities. To date the total to be shared between the Glasgow Islay Association and the Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir is £1,400. Many thanks also for gifts received. Moran Taing Dhiubh Uile.

Happy 50th Hazel

Love John and Kayleigh

Danny, Lynn and Kaitlyn would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards, presents and good wishes they received on the birth of their twin daughters Lillias (Lily) and Danielle Evans-Lauder.

Thank you all x

Happy 50th Frances Thomson

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Lest we should take things for granted

AS A minister who is also an agriculturalist I'm often reminded that farming is still a very positive experience for most farmers. According to a recent news item in the Farmers Weekly they believe that the outlook for their businesses is encouraging and they have an optimistic view of the future. Their way of life is enjoyable, rewarding and challenging. It's healthy and is spent out in the open where they work as part of a beautiful landscape. Few would want to change what they do and where they work and there's increasing evidence to indicate that there's an up-and-coming generation that's keen to join them.

For others however, the scene isn't quite so positive or the experience so fulfilling and rewarding. They might still find pleasure in exercising their skills but their businesses are struggling, frequently through no fault of their own, and their future looks increasingly bleak.

The old adage 'Up corn down horn' has possibly never been more apt as arable growers currently enjoy buoyant cereal prices and livestock producers suffer the consequences of high feed costs. When the circumstances of the latter are further exacerbated by continued rises in the price of fuel and energy and depressed returns on the commodities they produce you have a recipe for increased trauma and stress. For many cattle producers in other parts of the UK, that trauma is intensified by the continued nightmare that is Bovine TB. Happily that's not the case in Scotland as back in 2009 Europe recognised that the Scottish cattle herd is Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF).

Ten years ago we were at the height of the Foot and Mouth outbreak. In certain parts of the country farms, land and roads were blocked to public access, newspapers carried banner headlines about the scale of the outbreak and there were photographs and TV coverage of the pyres of burning carcasses. Everyone knew what was happening and as a result there was unprecedented support and sympathy for the industry.

As time passes such memories fade and folk tend to forget their dependency on those who feed them and the effort and sometimes trauma that that work involves and as they forget the producers so too they ignore the Provider.

There's a warning in the Bible in Deuteronomy 8 of the implications of taking things for granted, and of forgetting where our food comes from, who grows it and who gives the growth - we go hungry. As a nation we need to learn humility before God and gratitude to God for the continued provision of our food.

We also need to appreciate those who produce it and when times are tough to remember them and their families in our prayers and every now and then just to say 'thank you'.

Rev Dr Gordon Gwatford
OBE, FRAGS, FIAGRM
Director Arthur Rank Centre
The Churches' National Rural Resources Unit



Brother and sister Duncan and Nicola MacNiven, from Polvinister in Oban, tuck into some cakes at the Oban Free High Church Soup and Pudding Lunch last Saturday. The event was held in the church hall to raise money for its Fabric Fund.

Caring couple take a break in North Connel

THE 'MOTHER and Father' of more than 200 children took a well deserved break when they visited North Connel.

Ralph and May Spinks told an inspirational story that brings hope to orphaned youngsters in the poverty and AIDS stricken country.

"When I was a very young man I found out I had cancer. It was a terrible time because until then I had not believed in anything. But I discovered a book *The Ministry of Healing* that changed my life.

"I simply decided not to believe I had a tumour and that I was going to die. We changed our lifestyle from living in the middle of the city and moved out to the country in the Bush near Adelaide."

Through a series of fortunate events we ended up on a flight to Kenya with our two children. At this time we had extensively studied the holistic use of homeopathy and healing foods so we were delighted when people started to come to us for help.

"Through our work May went to the local hospital one day and came home with a baby who did not have a home. That first baby became two then three and so on and eventually we had 20 children.

"In Kenya there is no support for babies or children and so many are abandoned. We felt we had no choice other than to bring the children with us. We did not get any money for this - we just knew that we had to help.

"Over time people began to give us money. We eventually got the money to buy a bigger home with dorms for boys and girls. We now have 200 children.

"I have told May it has to stop. We cannot take any more children. But then another one will come along and it is very hard to say 'no' to a child who needs help.

"Sometimes children come to us with terrible troubles - maybe they have HIV, we have lost a fair few children to that condition.

"Sometimes they have been so badly neglected that all we can do is nourish them and give them love and care and a new home.

"We have a good number of people who support our work but we always need more."

The orphanage is a charitable institution registered with the Kenyan Government for the purpose of caring for the homeless orphans. Many of the children supported would end up either dying a premature death through malnutrition or walking the streets in search of food.

East African Mission Orphanage promotes its work in first world countries, endeavouring to turn their stronger currencies into food, clothing, education and love. With more than 200 children the East African Mission Orphanage is always in need of money, for more details www.eastfricmission.org.

Andrew and Denise MacDonald of North Connel invited the couple to Scotland and will be continuing to support the couple.



Ralph and May Spinks with Denise and Andrew MacDonald at a talk about the East Africa Mission Orphanage.

BIRTH

WATSON - BLACK - Chris and Julie are delighted to announce the arrival of William Peter James, on March 11, 2011 in Hereford. First grandchild for Duncan and Susan Black, Lochgilphead and first grandchild for Pete and June Watson. First great grandchild for James and Charlotte Black, Lochgilphead.

DEATHS

GARDINER - Mary (Maisie) Gardiner passed away peacefully at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on April 11, 2011. The funeral service took place at Mortonhall Crematorium Edinburgh on Wednesday 20th April. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. A retiring collection was taken and any donations for charity in her memory can be sent c/o Kevin Buckley, Scottish Co-operative Funeral Directors, 1413 Liberton Brae, Edinburgh EH16 6LD.

HONEY - Jean passed away suddenly on April 11, 2011 in Coventry. She loved her home and friends in Inveraray and will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Funeral Service, Tuesday May 3, 2.30pm. The Cannon Hill Chapel. Canly Crematorium, Coventry. Flowers Welcome or donations to Diabetes UK, c/o The Co-Operative Funeral Service, 11 Lower Holyhead Road, Coventry CV1 3AX, 024 76 22 58 26.

KELLY - Peacefully at Ashgrove Care Home, Dunoon on April 14, 2011, Hugh M Kelly in his 82nd year, formerly of Dunaverty, Brackley Park, Ardrishaig. Formerly of Barr and Stroud, Glasgow. Loving husband of Ruth, much loved father of Fiona, Morag and Calum and adored grandfather of Siobhan. Dear brother of Audrey. A dear friend and good neighbour to many.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday
Oban High School
Main Hall
10:30am
All Welcome
01866 822286 or
07788598843
www.lorncf.org.uk

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 24 April 2011
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Thursday 21 April 2011
Maundy Thursday
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Eucharist.....19.30
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
Friday 22 April 2011
Good Friday
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Children's Service10.00
The Good Friday Watch.....
.....12.00 - 15.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Mattins, Litany, and Ante-Communion.....11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Quiet Service.....14.00
Saturday 23 April 2011
Holy Saturday
St John's Cathedral, Oban
The Easter Vigil.....20.00
(Candlelit Service in preparation for Easter Day)
Saturday 24 April 2011
Easter Day
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
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Provost.
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Kilbrandon Kirk
Holy Eucharist.....15.15
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
Evensong.....20.00

IN MEMORIAM

GADSDON - Rena (nee MacLean) - In loving memory of our dear mother, grandmother and great grandmother who passed away April 24, 2009. Our hearts still ache with sadness. Our secret tears still flow. For what it meant to lose you No one will ever know. Forever missed, Sylvia, Bernard, Alistair and family.

MACKENZIE - Murdo Angus, formerly of Morvern Hill, Oban. Peacefully at Inverclyde Royal Hospital on April 10, 2011 after a short illness, a dear husband of Audrey and Angela, father-in-law of Alasdair, devoted grandpa of Ruby, Morven and Eilidh. Funeral service was held at Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church and Greenock Crematorium on April 14, 2011.

MACLEAN - Isabella. Peacefully at Glasgow Royal Infirmary on Friday April 15, 2011, Isabella (nee Macaulay) beloved wife of the late John, adored mother of Janette and Donald John, loving mother-in-law of Keith and proud gran of Iain and Allan. Funeral service at Kilsyth Burns and Old Parish Church on Friday April 22, 2011 at 11.00am. Interment at Kilchoman Cemetery, Isle of Islay on Wednesday April 27 at 11.30am. Collection will be taken for the Islay and Jura Sick Children's Fund.

McKEOWN - Patrick William. Pat dearly loved husband of Cynthia, much loved father of Margaret. Memorial Service will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 6pm, Kilmore and Oban Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban. Followed by Clydebank Crematorium on Friday, April 22, 2011 at 1.30pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - Sandy, Margaret and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of their mother, Mary (Doxey). Special thanks to the staff of Belhaven Ward and Invernevis House for their care and kindness to Mary, Mgr MacKinnon for the comforting Requiem Mass, to Mike McFall for his help and guidance and to the West End Hotel for providing refreshments. Many thanks to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and who donated so generously the sum of £275.37 for Invernevis House.

FRASER - The family of the late Neil Fraser, would like to thank everyone for their overwhelling love, support, kindness, sympathy cards and floral tributes received at this sad time. Special thanks to all at Tweeddale Medical Practice, Rev Mr MacQuarrie for his comforting service, Ewen and staff for their care and compassion, Joan, Faye and staff at Caol Community Centre and to all who attended the church and graveside. £605 was collected for the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church.

MATHESON - The family of the late Peggy Matheson, would like to thank everyone who has offered sympathy and condolences at this sad time, all the kind actions, thoughts and words are deeply appreciated. Thank you to staff at Taynuilt Surgery, their professional and pastoral care has been exceptional. Special thanks to Dr Neil Bennett. We are very grateful to Father Fraser not only for such a comforting funeral service but also for his kindness, compassion and care. Very sincere thanks and deep gratitude to Macmillan and Marie Curie Staff whose help and support have been invaluable over the recent months. Thank you to all at Hamish Hoey & Son and Taynuilt Hotel for their excellent service.

GRADUATIONS

Violet MacInnes graduated BSc in Nursing with Stirling University, she is the daughter of Ruairidh and Heather MacInnes, grand daughter of Sheila and the late Duncan Henderson, Acharacle and Bella and the late Roddy MacInnes, Lochailort.

WEDDINGS

HOOTON - PICARD
Caroline Hooton and Simon Picard were married at the beautiful Castle Lachlan, Strathlachlan on March 26, 2011. They celebrated at the castle with close family and friends.

MACINNES - MACPHEE
Moira MacInnes and Alan MacPhee were married at Oban's Christ Church on April 2, 2011. They celebrated with family and friends at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

ROE - McGRATH
Amy Roe and Brian McGrath were married at the Holly Tree Hotel in front of spectacular views at Kentallen on February 19, 2011. They celebrated here with family and friends at this beautiful venue.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of our dear mum and granny, Sheila, who died April 17, 1996. Gone from our homes But not from our hearts. Remembering also all loved ones gone before and after. - Love from all the family in Kinlochleven and away x.

PURDEN - Precious memories of our son Angus, who left us April 22, 1998 aged 25. We do not need a special day To bring you to our minds The days we do not think of you Are really hard to find In life we loved you dearly And beyond we love you still In our hearts forever son. - Love Mum and Dad xxx

PURDEN - In loving memory of our dear brother Angus, Time may pass and fade away But precious thoughts and memories stay. - Frances and Andrew xx

STEWART - In loving memory of a dear father and grandfather Jimmy, who died April 25, 1989. Gone are the days we used to share But in our hearts you are always there. - Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

SUTHERLAND - In loving memory of our dear mum and grandpa, passed away April 26, 2002. Loved and remembered always. - All the family.

SWAINSON - My dearest wife, Rachel, who died April 18, 1997. If love could have saved you You would not have died If tears could bring you back You'd be here by my side I will always love and miss you. - Tony.

SWAINSON - Mum. She was a mother so very rare Content in her home and always there On earth she toiled in heaven she rests God bless you mother You were the best. You will always be our hero Thank God you are with us beneath our wings We miss you so much. - Marie and Jacqueline.

TIMMS - Treasured memories of a dear dad and grand dad Arthur, who passed away April 17, 1984, also remembering all other loved ones. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts - Love Catherine, Lachie and family.

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Mark delivers a knock-out performance

Teenager takes senior Scottish karate title at first attempt

A TEENAGE karate student from Oban delivered a knockout performance to win the lightweight division at the Scottish Open Knockdown Tournament at his first attempt.

Mark Welsh, competing in his first tournament as a senior, won all three of his fights within the distance at the Jack Kane Sports Centre in Edinburgh.

The 18-year-old won his first fight by technical knockout and his second victory came by way of a first round knockout, following a jodan mawashi geri (head kick) knockout.

In the final of the tournament, Mark's opponent was forced to retire with a damaged foot after Mark blocked an attempted kick. Mark, who works at Atlantis

REPORT
by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Leisure, said: 'I just went to this tournament for the experience so I was really surprised to win. I had no thoughts of winning, I was just concentrating on each fight as it came and focusing on the next guy.'

Mark said he had been training every day ahead of the event and thanked his coach and sensei Iain Rodger for his help.

He added: 'It all feels a bit weird to call myself Scottish champion; I don't think it has sunk in yet.'

'My dad, Mark, drove me down because he doesn't get to watch me very often but he said he was

very impressed and very proud of me.'

Iain Rodger, who runs Kyokushin Schools of Karate (Scotland) in Oban, praised his young student's dedication.

'This was Mark's first senior tournament. This type of fighting isn't done as a junior as the object is to knock your opponent down,' he said.

'Over the last year Mark has been getting steadily stronger and this showed in the tournament; he overpowered his first two opponents.'

'He is naturally about 73kg, but cut his weight to just under 70kg to enter as a lightweight.'

'He is a pleasure to teach as he wants to improve and is constantly striving to get better.'



Mark Welsh knocks out his opponent with a head kick during the Scottish Open Knockdown Tournament.



Magnus Bradbury at Murrayfield.

Magnus lines up for national under-17s against England

RUGBY

SCOTTISH rugby prospect Magnus Bradbury lined up for the national team's under-17s against England Blues on Tuesday in the international Wellington Cup in Somerset.

The lock forward, who is the youngest squad member at 16 years of age, missed the team's 32-10 victory over France in their first match but said he was hoping to impress the coaching staff against England.

If his debut went well Magnus could feature in the final match of the Wellington Cup and against France under-17s at Selkirk on Sunday.

Magnus' international ambitions for the season were almost dashed after he injured his hand playing for Argyll and Bute.

But the Oban Lorne player got back to action in time to attend trials.

Magnus said: 'I was really disappointed when I injured my hand but I would like to thank all the medical staff who helped me get back playing so quickly.'

Speaking before the match, he said: 'I am nervous but also excited about pulling on the blue jersey.'

Magnus' younger brother, Fergus, along with Ruairidh Morrison from Oban Lorne, attended regional training for the Glasgow divisional squad on Wednesday and Thursday last week.

Five Oban players and others from Argyll attended the under-14s equivalent last Monday and Tuesday.

See next week's *Oban Times* to find out how Magnus and Scotland got on.

Leisure Sport Trophy result

GOLF

DALMALLY Golf Club hosted the Leisure Sport Trophy, played April 3 and 10.

The result was: 1 John MacKechnie 74pts (overall winner); 2 Billy McKay 70pts; 3 Stuart Buchanan 68pts.

The result of the Scottish Hydro Medal, played on April 17, was: 1 Billy McKay (11) 62; 2 Robbie Johnston (9) 63; 3 Stephen Turner (11) 67.

The club is holding its popular Seniors Open on Wednesday May 18. The competition is singles stableford, with sections for ladies and gents.

Players can enter through the club's website www.dalmallygolfclub.co.uk.

A family affair at Tobermory

IN AN eventful weekend the Junior Willie MacAllister Trophy and the Ladies and Gents Marie Curie Trophies were contested in drizzly conditions on Sunday, April 17.

William MacCrone carded an exceptional 69 (net 57) to win the junior tournament.

Mother Catherine Anne MacCrone took the Ladies Marie Curie and dad Ewan only lost on countback from Graham Davidson with a creditable 35 points.

In fact there were six players covered by one point in a keenly contested tournament which raises money each year for the cancer charity.

Donations from members amounted to £57.

Result: 1 Graham Davidson 35pts; 2 Ewan MacCrone 35pts; 3 Donald Brown jnr 35pts.

High school girls overcome Douglas to secure Donella Crawford Cup

SHINTY

LOCHABER High School's shinty girls are celebrating regaining the Donella Crawford Cup in an exciting tournament held at Ardnamurchan High School.

After a slow start, the girls scraped through to the semi-finals where they were to face Ardnamurchan A.

Iona MacKay came close to opening the scoring with a well struck shot which was matched with an excellent save. Lochaber pressure began to tell and Ashleigh Fraser put them into the lead after a strong run and clever finish.

The introduction of Megan Gillies and Zoe Smith immediately paid dividends when Gillies scored to give Lochaber a bit of a cushion.

Captain Beth MacDonald added a fortunate third goal to send her team through to the final where they would play Douglas Academy who had defeated Lochaber 2-1 in the group stages.

Douglas had comfortably beaten last year's champions Kinlochleven 4-0 in the other semi-final.

In a tense opening, the play swung from end to end but Megan Gillies settled the nerves with a long range shot into the bottom corner of the net to put Lochaber ahead. Despite this narrow lead, Douglas Academy poured forward but the Lochaber defence of Kirsty Delaney and



Donella Crawford Cup winners; Lochaber High School girls.

Shannon MacDonald were outstanding. However, in a sustained period of pressure, Katie Dougan was called upon to make two excellent saves to maintain the Lochaber

advantage. Megan Gillies eased the pressure with a well-taken second goal before Beth MacDonald, displaying exceptional skill, volleyed the resulting throw up into the Douglas net

for a 3-0 victory. Thanks go to Ardnamurchan High School for their organisation and support of this marvellous competition. A good day was enjoyed by all the teams that attended.

Kinlochleven crowned dodgeball champions



The victorious Kinlochleven Primary School team which won the recent Associated Schools Dodgeball Tournament in Duror village hall.

Two in a row for Lochalsh

BADMINTON

The Lochalsh badminton team which won the Isle of Skye badminton league for the second year in a row. Missing from the photo is Shona Jones, who injured her ankle at the SW Ross badminton championships.



First past the post: Chris Bell, Andy Dale and Alastair Hall.

Andy leads 5k runners home in Oban athletics season opener

THERE was an impressive turnout for first outdoor event of the Oban athletics season.

Thirty-one runners assembled on the Corran Esplanade on April 12 for a 5km run to Ganavan, finishing back at the war memorial.

Conditions on the evening were favourable with just a moderate breeze from the sea. There were impressive contingents from Jog Scotland, Oban Runners and SAMS.

This was the first of a series of events organised by Atlantis Leisure to provide a target for new runners, especially those who run with Jog Scotland.

ATHLETICS

The next event will be another 5km run in Fearnoch Forest on Tuesday May 24.

In the men's event, Andy Dale was the clear winner in a time of 19.15mins. There was an epic tussle between Chris Bell, Alastair Hall and Cameron McKellar for second place.

Chris and Alastair were both given times of 20.06mins, although Chris was awarded second place with a superior dip at the line.

Cameron came in fourth in a time of 20.08mins.

Andy, Alastair and Cameron were first, second and third respectively in the male veteran category.

The winning woman was new Oban nurse Paula Laidler in a time of 22.30mins. Paula, who has been running for less than a year, improved her personal best time by more than three minutes. Second woman was Lizzie Rose in a time of 23.12mins and Rae-ann Miller came home third in a time of 23.33mins.

Oban Runners and Jog Scotland are always looking to recruit new runners and details of both groups can be found on the Atlantis Leisure website.



Training boost: Lochaber Yacht Club members.

Junior training boost as Lochaber club takes delivery of new dinghies

LOCHABER Yacht Club has taken delivery of three new RS Feva dinghies - thanks to an Awards for All grant.

The dinghies will take the junior training to a new level by having an asymmetric spinnaker - a third sail that allows the boat to go faster going downwind - fitted as standard.

Jamie Riley, junior rep on the committee, said: 'This is what we've been waiting for for about a year. Without the grant from Awards for All we just wouldn't

SAILING

have been able to buy three boats. Everybody's really keen to try them out.'

Enough of the grant is left for the Fort William club to try out boats to replace some of the Wayfarers that are used for adult training.

Member Martin Faulkner said: 'The aim is to have something stable to teach the basics, but can then be used to stretch people to

the next stage of using a spinnaker, and maybe even a trapeze.

'If people want to try out sailing as a sport or a new challenge then drop in on the club any Wednesday or Thursday evening.'

The club offers training to youngsters from P7 and high school age every Easter holidays, following it up every Thursday night during the summer. Young sailors can hone their abilities further by taking part in racing on Wednesdays.

Dalmally men go in search of cup upset

Winless in league, but Glenorchy hope one-off cup contest will provide much-needed boost

OBAN Camanachd co-manager Diarmid MacMillan will be happy with a repeat score against Glenorchy this weekend in the Celtic Cup.

From the first whistle on Saturday Camanachd seemed to be on their game with the energetic Daniel Cameron taking up a new role as centre, playing some good balls up to the forward line.

Aidan MacIntyre was on fine goal scoring form, netting a hat-trick within 10 minutes of play. Ian MacMillan, who was back after recovering from cracked ribs, was first on the scoresheet on 25 minutes and Scott MacMillan increased the lead after 36 minutes before MacIntyre's three goals, one of which was in the second period.

Diarmid said: 'Ian MacMillan seemed to be moving freely and having him back in the squad made the forwards click.'

'This was a badly-needed result. It was time for us to start playing shinty again and today it all seemed to click. Next week's match won't be easy as the Celtic Cup rules make the game harder for defenders with a bigger box and direct free hits.'

'We have a big pool of players to choose from and it's becoming very difficult to pick the correct team to challenge the opposition. We have what, I would say, is the perfect balance.'

Glenorchy manager Allan MacKechie says the one-off nature of this weekend's match and the prospect of a Celtic Cup

final place will give his players a lift this weekend.

Plagued by injury woes this season, Glenorchy have yet to gain a point in the league and on Saturday slumped to a 5-0 defeat at the hands of Oban Camanachd.

However, the re-match on Saturday could be a different game, says Allan.

'We will set up differently from last Saturday and we have a couple of players to come back in. We'll also look to strengthen areas in which we didn't perform.

'We are not going to do anything in the league with the start we've had and the long-term injuries, so you start to look at where success is going to come from and it is the cups.'

'If we can get past Camanachd we have a semi-final tie against Kilmory or Taynuilt, so we have a chance of getting to the final.'

'If we're going to win on Saturday the boys can't give their strikers as much space as they did last weekend.'

'They have good strikers but we will have learned from that defeat.'

Kyles Athletic dropped points for the first time this season on their trip to Newtonmore but will be happy having come through three tough away ties with five points.

Newtonmore started the game more brightly, Glen MacKintosh scoring a penalty after just nine minutes, but Kyles bettered their northern opponents in the second

half with Grant Irvine scoring on 75 minutes.

Trainer James Perlich said: 'We didn't play well in the first half but to only be 1-0 down gave the boys confidence.'

'This was the first time we had tinkered with the team because our full-back, Peter Currie, was missing and that seemed to unsettle the team at first.'

'If you had said at the start of the season that we would get five points from consecutive away trips to Inveraray, Fort William and Newtonmore we would have taken that without a doubt.'

This weekend Kyles travel to take on Glasgow Mid Argyll in the Celtic Cup with a full squad but they are aware anything can happen with the altered rules.

James added: 'It will be good to get a break from the intensity of the premier league but this will not be an easy game.'

Newtonmore's lack of cutting edge cost them as they drew 1-1 with league leaders Kyles Athletic at The Eilan on Saturday.

'The more took the lead after nine minutes through a Glen MacKintosh penalty in a first half they dominated, but Kyles came back strongly after the break and equalised late on through Grant Irvine.'

Manager Norman MacArthur said: 'It really was a game of two halves. We were good in the first half and poor in the second. We defended well though. They had a lot of pressure but they only really had one chance and they scored.'

Newtonmore travel to take on north division side Beaulieu in the MacTavish Cup quarter final this weekend, and Norman says finding the back of the net will be key.

'It's not going to be an easy game,' he said. 'We're not scoring goals again. We created a lot of chances but we were pretty wasteful.'

Glenurquhart and **Lovat** will go head-to-head for a second weekend in a row, with the Drumadrochit side knowing another win would move them into second place in the league.

The local derby at Balgait Park ended in a 3-1 win for the Glen, with Calum MacCauley opening the scoring. The home side pulled level through a Fraser Gallacher goal on the half hour mark and Lovat had chances to take the lead before half-time.

Glenurquhart came out stronger at the start of the second half and two goals in the space of a minute from Lewis MacLennan and David Smart gave them a comfortable lead. They were able to hold out for the win and continue their impressive start to the season.

Glenurquhart manager Jim Barr said he felt the better side won the game. He said: 'It was a close game. We were in control for most of the game, and we scored a couple of goals early in the second half which settled us down.'

The sides meet again at Blairbeg Park on Saturday in the only Premier Division match of the weekend. The Glen will have Eddie Turnbull and Paul MacKintosh missing for the tie, but Jim is hoping for more of the same.

'I guess we start as favourites,' he said. 'We've started scoring goals again which is the important thing for us. We'll be hoping to put pressure on early, get the ball to our forwards and let them carry on where they left off this week.'

Lovat coach John MacRitchie is targeting a draw as the least his side must take in the Premier League return game against Glenurquhart on Saturday.

Glen's 3-1 win last weekend leaves Lovat in second bottom spot after Kilmallie jumpedstart their campaign with victory over Inveraray.

John told *The Oban Times*: 'The heads went down after they scored two goals in 30 seconds, but we have a real opportunity to bounce back against them on Saturday with our game up at Drum.'

'We definitely need to do something with Kilmallie beating Inveraray, and I would regard one point as being the bare minimum.'

Euan Ferguson and Iain Nicolson are both out because of work commitments. We will miss Euan especially because he is probably our most experienced player, but we will just have to work round that.'

Drew Howie remains a long term absentee as he awaits a knee ligament operation.

Kilmallie go into Saturday's Co-operative MacTavish Cup quarter-final clash against local rivals **Lochaber** in fine fettle after last Saturday's comprehensive Premier League win against Inveraray.

A sparkling second half performance saw the Blues forward line finally kick into gear after a stuttering start to the season.

Inveraray had raced into a 2-0 lead with strikes from Gary MacPherson and Euan McMurdo before John Stewart pulled one back.

But after the break Kilmallie were a different proposition with the wind at their backs as two Liam MacDonald strikes, one a penalty, and further goals from Stewart and Peter MacIntyre broke the visitors' resistance.

A fine win, then – but chairman Hugh MacIntyre knows Lochaber will be a hot hand.

'If our forwards keep going as they did on Saturday we should manage to win I hope,' he told *The Oban Times*.

'But we must take our chances as they are a good team. It's a local derby so it should be fairly close.'

Kilmallie will have a full squad to choose from, MacIntyre said.



Oban Celtic's Lee Askew prepares to pass before he is tackled. 07_116c61c01

Nothing to separate local rivals as Oban derby ends in thrilling 2-2 draw

AS expected the derby between **Oban Celtic** and **Lochside Rovers** produced an entertaining game of shinty with Lochside scoring in final minutes to claim a draw.

Alan Duffy put Celtic ahead within the first minute and a Lee Askew wonder strike looked to have stunned their opponents.

However, the fight back was on after half an hour played when young Malcolm Clark scored his first of two goals; his 87th-minute equaliser was a sickener for Celtic.

Although the match was fairly well-tempered, Lochside coach David MacInnes was booked for comments made to referee Billy Witherspoon.

David refused to comment on the incident, instead praising his players for their plucky comeback.

He said: 'I think our fitness told and if the game had gone on another five minutes I think we could have won it. In the end it was probably a fair result.'

This weekend Lochside face a tough away tie to **Bute** in South Division One.

'This is a rescheduled match but I said the first time round that this would be our hardest match of the season.'

'They put 12 past Celtic this season and it will be a real test for the boys.'

Lochside will be missing Drew Walker, who damaged ankle ligaments last Saturday but will welcome back Chris Munro to the fold.

Oban Celtic have no game this weekend, so are unable to react immediately to the disappointing draw last Saturday.

Manager John Smylie hopes his **Inveraray** team will continue their fine form in the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup, which they have won every season since 2006.

This weekend they have a tough cup tie at **Balachulish** and a potential semi-final with form team **Kyles Athletic** but as John explained: 'We think of it as our cup.'

He added: 'We will be missing Gary MacPherson and Russell McKinlay through work commitments but we could do with a run in the cup because it tends to improve our league form.'

Inveraray went down to Kilmallie at the weekend despite their more recognised forward line turning out to answer their manager's forward line SOS.

With a selection headache ahead of the trip to Kilmallie, forwards Gary MacPherson, Euan McMurdo and Grant Griffin turned out for the Royal Burgh to give their side a fighting chance.

Gary changed his work shift to play and Euan McMurdo put in 90 minutes carrying an injury.

Another striking casualty, Grant Griffin, also travelled but played no part in the game.

Inveraray, with the wind at their

backs got off to the perfect start with goals from Gary and Euan but conceded just before half-time and Kilmallie dominated the second period.

John said: 'I was delighted that Gary could play and that Euan put played the full 90 minutes half-fit but Kilmallie played well in the second half.'

'We conceded a silly goal before half-time, when we were looking for that killer third goal, and that seemed to give Kilmallie a lift.'

Despite putting up a strong fight, **Lochcarron** were unable to get the better of an impressive **Kinlochsheil** side at Battery Park on Saturday.

The league leaders opened the scoring after 20 minutes through Finlay MacRae, but were pegged back by a goal from Gregor Cushnie. Lochcarron fought hard but eventually Sheil managed to breakthrough and scored three goals in the last 20 minutes through Finlay MacRae, Keith MacRae and John MacRae.

Lochcarron president Henry Dalgety said there were plenty of positives his side could take from the match. He said: 'Although it was a poor result, the performance of the team was hugely improved. There was much better commitment from the team.'

'Kinlochsheil were very, very good but we had them rattled in the first half. Unfortunately our lack of fitness took its toll in the second half.'

Lochcarron face winless Skye Camanachd at home on Saturday, with Dickie MacKenzie back from injury. Henry feels their improved performance gives them hope of getting a good result. He said: 'We're confident for next week. We think we can give them a good run for their money.'

Kinlochsheil take on **Kingussie** at The Dell on Saturday in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup with predictions that they could spring an upset the talk of the shinty world.

'Shiel's form so far in North Division 1 has got 'premier league' stamped all over it. Now the Lochalsh men have a chance to test their mettle against one of the sport's big boys.'

Coach Johnston Gill will have a full squad at his disposal following last weekend's tough 4-1 win at Lochcarron and will stick with 'Shiel's free-flowing style despite Ronald Ross being likely to feature for Kings at some stage.'

'We are not going to change our plans simply to mark him out of the game,' Gill told *The Oban Times*.

'Our defence has been playing very well and we will put out the same team and play the same way we have been doing for the past four weeks. If our forwards can see enough of the ball I honestly believe we can score goals. We won't let ourselves down.'

He added: 'I'm more interested in winning our league than any cups – though it would be nice to

put one over Kingussie!' **Kingussie**, meanwhile, will be hoping the return of Ronald Ross will help them bounce back from Saturday's 4-3 loss to Fort William.

A young Kings side faced an uphill struggle after conceding three goals in the first 30 minutes at An Aird. The game seemed over when Fort scored a fourth with 15 minutes left, until a late fight back from Kingussie saw them score three goals in the last eight minutes through Thomas Borthwick, Ryan Borthwick and Lee Bain. But Fort managed to hold out for a narrow win.

Kingussie manager Steven Borthwick told *The Oban Times* his side gave their opponents too much respect. He said: 'The first 20 minutes killed us. We fielded a young team and they were a bit in awe of Fort William to start with. But to the boys' credit they came back really well and we were unlucky in the end not to get anything.'

Louis Munro and Ian Borthwick with both miss this weekend's game at The Dell, but Ross should be available from the bench.

'It's a massive boost,' Steven said. 'We've been playing really well without him but we've just not been putting the ball in the back of the net.'

Fort William won't be taking any chances when they take on North Division 1 side **Caberfeidh** in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup at An Aird on Saturday.

The Strathpeffer men posted a useful 2-1 win away at Beaulieu last weekend and will carry high hopes of putting one over the premier league title contenders.

Fort had to withstand a spirited Kingussie fightback in their 4-3 win over Kingussie and coach Peter MacIntyre will be warning his players to be on their guard for the cup clash.

'They beat Beaulieu last weekend and they will be on a high after that,' MacIntyre told *The Oban Times*. 'We got put out by Kilmallie in the semis last year so that will be part of our pre-match talk. I'll be using that as a wee reminder to put the point over that any of the top division one teams are capable of beating a premier division team in a one-off cup match.'

Fort had to rejig their team to fight off Kingussie to ensure they go into the Caberfeidh game with a win.

'We lost three goals in the second half and had to pull Jimmy Clark back from full centre to shore things up a bit,' MacIntyre said.

Lochaber kept up the pressure on Kinlochsheil at the top of North Division One with a 3-1 win away to **Skye Camanachd** on Saturday.

This weekend the Spean Bridge side face a tough local derby away to Kilmallie, and manager Michael Delaney said the game had excited the whole squad. He

said: 'It's something to look forward to and it has got all the boys talking. It'll be a good chance to rekindle some old friendships.'

Scott Paterson is likely to be the only Lochaber player who will miss Saturday's game.

The victory over Skye means Lochaber sit in second place in the league. Goals from Lachlan Campbell and Ben Delaney gave the away side a 2-0 half-time lead, but Skye were fired up at the start of the second half and pulled one back through Sorely MacDonald.

The game was close until Delaney added his second of the game with 30 minutes left.

Michael said he was happy with getting a win from what was traditionally a tough away trip. He said: 'That's the first time we've won up there for a long time. They hammered us up there last season.'

Skye Camanachd travel to Lochcarron in search of their first league points but boosted by an encouraging display against Lochaber last weekend.

The Portree outfit were without key players for visit of the Spean Bridge men but nevertheless did enough to suggest an improvement in fortunes may be just around the corner.

Coach Nui MacDonald said a lack of match practice was a telling factor – Skye have only played two league games so far this season – but was pleased how his young team matched up to Lochaber.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We were fitter in the first game of the season than we were last week. We also had six or seven missing, so I was quite pleased with how it went considering that they had their full team and on another day we could have taken a point or even won.'

Skye's cause was not helped on Saturday when Danny Morrison dislocated his shoulder, an injury likely to keep him out for eight weeks, while Iain Morrison is also a doubt for the Lochcarron game after needing 13 stitches for a nasty head gash.



Oban Celtic's Alan Miller skips round a Lochside defender. 07_116c61c02

Glasgow Celtic Society cup final switch

THE FINAL of this season's Glasgow Celtic Society cup final has been switched to Inveraray.

It is only the third time in more than 100 years the final will have been played outside Glasgow.

Society president Duncan Cameron said the switch had been made because of financial reasons.

He said the cup has not had a sponsor for five years, during which time cup final income has failed to cover match costs.

He said this meant the directors had 'reluctantly' chosen to play this year's final outwith Glasgow.

They also plan to increase their efforts to attract sponsorship to enable the cup final to return to Glasgow in future years.



Kilmallie staged a storming comeback to get the better of Inveraray at a blustery Canal Park on Saturday. Two goals in the first 25 minutes from Euan McMurdo and Garry MacPherson gave the visitors the lead, but the Blues fought back and went into the interval level after a John Stewart strike was followed by a penalty from Liam MacDonald. Just after the hour mark, MacDonald scored to put his side into the lead, and Stewart got his second of the game ten minutes later. Peter MacIntyre scored with nine minutes left to secure the win and move Kilmallie up to eighth in the league. Pictured, Kilmallie's Martin Graham fends off a tackle from Garry MacPherson of Inveraray. 10_11616h01

Shinty results, fixtures and league tables

Results:
Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup preliminary round:
Aberdour 0, Strathglass 5.

Scottish Hydro Premier Division:
Fort William 4, Kingussie 3;
Kilmallie 5, Inveraray 2;
Lovat 1, Glenurquhart 3;
Newtonmore 1, Kyles Athletic 1;
Oban Camanachd 5, Glenorchy 0.

Marine Harvest North Division 1:
Beaulieu 1, Caberfeidh 2;
Lochcarron 1, Kinlochsheil 4;
Skye 1, Lochaber 3.

Marine Harvest South Division 1:
Ballachulish 2, Kilmory 1;
Glasgow MA 4, Taynuilt 4;
Kyles Athletic 0, Bute 2;
Oban Celtic 2, Lochside Rvrs 2.

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Marine Harvest North Division 2:
Glenarrary 5, Skye 0;
Glenurquhart 3, Lovat 4;
Kingussie 3, Fort William 5;
Kinlochsheil 0, Newtonmore 9;
Lochaber 4, Kilmallie 1.

Marine Harvest South Division 2:
Aberdour 1, Ballachulish 0;
Inveraray 7, Glasgow MA 1;
Strachur 1, Bute 0.

Marine Harvest North Division 3:
Aberdeen University 3, Beaulieu 1;
Ardnamurchan 3, Boleskine 8;
Caberfeidh 4, Lewis 0;
Lochcarron 3, Lochbroom 3;
Strathglass 2, Inverness 5.

Fixtures: Saturday 23 April
Co-operative MacTavish Cup Quarter Final:
Beaulieu v Newtonmore, 3pm
Graham Cameron;

Kilmallie v Lochaber, Billy Witherspoon;
Kingussie v Kinlochsheil, 3pm
Deek Cameron;
Fort William v Caberfeidh, Charles Young.

Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Quarter Final:
Glasgow MA v Kyles, 3pm
Ted MacDonald;
Taynuilt v Kilmory, Innes Wood;
Ballachulish v Inveraray, Colin MacDonald;
Oban Camanachd v Glenorchy, David Mitchell.

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 1st Round:
The Scots v Lovat, Jock Matheson (at Kiltarity).

Strathdearn Cup 1st Round:
Strathglass v Fort William, Robert Morrison;
Lochaber v Kilmallie, (noon)

Gus Campbell.

Scottish Hydro Premier Division:
Glenurquhart v Lovat, Evan MacRae.

Marine Harvest North Division 1:
Inverness v Strathglass, 3pm
Barrie Dallas;
Lochcarron v Skye, Graham Irving.

Marine Harvest South Division 1:
Kyles Athletic v Aberdour, Jim Innes;
Bute v Lochside Rovers, Dunkie Kerr.

Marine Harvest North Division 2:
Glenarrary v Glenurquhart, John Angus Gillies;
Kingussie v Kinlochsheil, (noon)
Daniel MacRae;
Skye v Newtonmore,

Graeme MacMillan.

Marine Harvest South Division 2:
Bute v Aberdour, (noon)
Ewan MacDonald
Col Glen v Ballachulish,
Dougie Cameron;
Glasgow MA v Tayforth (noon)
Robbert Baxter
Inveraray v Strachur, George O'Rourke.

Marine Harvest North Division 3:
Ardnamurchan v Caberfeidh, Ronnie Campbell;
Beaulieu v Lochcarron, (noon)
Donald MacRae;
Boleskine v Lochbroom,
John Sloggie;
Inverness v Aberdeen University, Iain Kennedy.

Marine Harvest North Division One:
Kinlochsheil 3 3 0 0 6
Lochaber 3 2 0 1 4
Caberfeidh 3 2 0 1 4
Beaulieu 3 1 0 2 2
Strathglass 2 1 0 1 2
Lochcarron 2 0 1 1 1
Inverness 2 0 1 1 1
Skye 2 0 0 2 0

All throw ups 2.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

P	W	D	L	Pts	
Kyles	6	5	1	0	11
Fort William	5	3	1	1	7
Glenurquhart	5	3	1	1	7
Newtonmore	5	2	2	1	6
Kingussie	6	2	2	2	6
Oban Camanachd	6	3	0	3	6
Inveraray	5	2	0	3	4
Kilmallie	5	2	0	3	4
Lovat	5	1	1	3	3
Glenorchy	6	0	0	6	0

Marine Harvest South Division One

P	W	D	L	Pts
Bute	4	4	0	8
Lochside Rvrs	5	3	1	7
Taynuilt	5	2	1	5
GMA	3	2	1	5
Kyles	4	2	0	4
Ballachulish	4	2	0	4
Kilmory	4	1	0	3
Oban Celtic	4	0	1	3
Aberdour	3	0	3	0

Marine Harvest North Division Two

P	W	D	L	Pts
Newtonmore	5	4	0	18
Glenarrary	4	4	0	8
Fort William	3	3	0	6
Kingussie	5	3	0	6
Lochaber	6	3	0	6
Kinlochsheil	6	2	0	4
Skye	6	2	0	4
Lovat	4	2	0	2
Glenurquhart	5	1	0	2
Kilmallie	4	0	4	0

Marine Harvest North Division Three

P	W	D	L	Pts
Aberdeen U	6	6	0	12
Boleskine	6	5	0	10
Lochcarron	5	3	1	7
Caberfeidh	5	3	0	6
Beaulieu	5	3	0	6
Lochbroom	5	2	1	5
Strathglass	6	1	1	3
Inverness	4	1	0	2
Ardnamurchan	7	1	0	2
Lewis	5	0	1	4

Boxing bronze for Lochaber youngsters

TWO YOUNG boxers from Fort William clinched bronze medals after fantastic performances at the GB championships in Manchester last weekend.

Recently crowned Scottish champions Chris Bradley and James Aitchison of Lochaber Phoenix ABC pulled on international vests for the very first time to represent Scotland at the prestigious event.

Chris had a tough ask in his semi-final against current British and English champion Derek Robson, but the 14 year-old rose to the occasion magnificently, negating Robson's height advantage by cleverly coming forwards with double jabs to keep the Englishman on the back foot throughout.

Inexperience
Going into the last the bout was level and Chris tried to gain victory by firing right crosses after his jabs, but inexperience at this level showed slightly as he walked onto the occasional jab.

These careless punches were all that separated Bradley from a sensational triumph as he lost by only two points, an achievement put into focus when

Robson cruised his final 9-1. Thirteen year-old James Aitchison boxed reigning Welsh champion Lee Griffiths in his semi-final bout in what turned out to be a real war.

James is fairly tall for his weight class but Griffiths was even taller which presented problems he had not faced before.

In the first Aitchison took control, but in his eagerness to land left himself open to stinging counters. James tightened his defences in the second and his constant pressure began to tell on Griffiths who found the fast pace of his Scottish adversary tough to handle.

Round three was all Aitchison, who did all he could to land enough on the exhausted Welshman before time ran out. At the final bell the Scotland coaches thought he had done enough, but the close decision went to Wales. Lochaber Phoenix official Steve Docherty, one of only three Scottish officials selected for the tournament, was full of praise for the young Fort William lads.

He said: 'When you consider that at the beginning of

BOXING

the season these two boys had never even entered a Scottish championships and now they are both Scottish champions, full internationalists and ranked third in Great Britain it is an amazing achievement.

Determination

'These boys have gained this through hard work and determination by training at least five days a week for month after month.'

'It was fantastic to see them at the medal ceremony being presented with their bronze medals as the Flower of Scotland was being played.'

'The club itself is now starting to gain recognition on the national front as both club coaches Niall Clark and Vince Lopez were asked if they were available to be part of the Scottish coaching team for this trip.'

'So it's all systems go for us at the moment with Ryan Watson, Aidan Donnelly and Denver Small all boxing for the Scottish intermediate championships in a fortnight.'



Packing a punch: Chris Bradley is welcomed back to Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club with his GB Championships bronze medal by coaches Vince Lopez, Stevie Docherty and Niall Clark. 10_f16boxing01



Sam MacLeod, John Viray, Danny Mackintosh, Nathan McDade with their trophies. 116box01

Nether Lochaber boxers do well in Huntly

THREE SOUTH Lochaber boxers have boosted their club's reputation after coming home from a trip to Huntly with wins under their belts.

Nether Lochaber Amateur Boxing Club were guests at the Insh ABC's show last Friday and took four fighters on the trip.

Kinlochleven's Sam MacLeod, took on Aberdeen ABC's Nick Paterson and dominated from the outset. Sam's tight defence and relentless onslaught of powerful jabs and vicious right hooks to his opponent's head and body proved too much for Paterson. The referee gave him the first of two standing counts, and after three rounds 15-year-old Sam earned a unanimous points victory.

Nathan McDade, also of Kinlochleven, was next up, and faced Craig Brown of Kincorth ABC. Nathan was firmly in control throughout the match, parrying his opponent's jabs and responding with accurate punches of his

own, and was given a unanimous decision by the judges.

Glencoe's Danny Mackintosh faced a tough technical fight against Aberdeen's John Brannigan. The Aberdonian came forward bullishly, but Mackintosh blocked his shots and responded with carefully aimed fast jabs and long left hooks which rocked Brannigan.

The Nether Lochaber club received their third unanimous point victory of the night, getting a loud cheer from the crowd, which included professional boxer Lee McAllister.

Sixteen-year-old John Viray of Kinlochleven was forced to bow out in the second round of his fight with Artur Selievanov from Peterhead ABC after suffering a back injury.

Nether Lochaber coach Martin Glenesk said the outing had provided 'a huge boost for the club'.

BOXING

Lachlan finishes off the skiing season as British champion

FORT WILLIAM skier Lachlan Veitch has finished off a great season by winning the British Children (I) Slalom Championship in Meribel, France.

The 13 year-old from Torlundy, one of three young Scottish skiers currently heading the GB rankings for their age group, delivered a top performance to take gold and the British title.

Lachlan was lying second after his first run then posted a brilliant second run to finish a full second ahead of any of his rivals, which in ski racing terms is a huge margin.

The victory more than made up for disappointment in the giant slalom and in the SuperG, when

his ski popped off only five gates from the finish.

The win, arguably Lachlan's best performance all season, came only days after he won gold in the giant slalom and silver in the slalom at the Scottish Championships in Courchevel, France.

His GB win tops off a great season for the talented young skier, who has made the podium at every single event.

Lachlan told the Oban Times: 'Despite the tough conditions in Meribel, with soft snow and hot temperatures, I am so pleased to win the slalom event.'

'This has topped off my season nicely and hopefully secured my place in TeamGB next season.'

SKIING

'I now move into Children 2 category which means I will be racing against older age groups next year.'

'I need to train and work hard during the summer to be ready for this challenge. I would like to thank my sponsors and supporters who helped make this a great season for me - thank you.'

'I would also like to thank all my coaches at FAST, SSC, BSA and Team GB for helping me throughout the year.'

Lachlan has his own website where supporters and sponsors can follow his progress - www.lachlanveitch.co.uk



Lachlan finds a great line round a gate on his winning second run in the slalom.

Lochaber seven a side tournament

RUGBY

LOCHABER Rugby Club are gearing up for their annual sevens tournament, which will be held at Banavie on April 30.

Teams from across the country are being invited to take part in the day-long event, which is becoming increasingly popular on the sevens circuit.

After the tournament, players and supporters are invited to enjoy music and dancing at a party in the clubhouse, which this year has a royal wedding theme. Fancy dress is optional, but a prize will be awarded to the best bridal couple. Non-members are welcome to enjoy the day.



Season opens at Fort William

GOLF

TWO competitions were held at Fort William Golf Club at the weekend, with the Nevis Radio Texas Scramble seeing a particularly hard fought battle between two evenly matched teams.

Texas scramble - 1, James Duncan, Martin Duncan, Ian Robertson 64-7 = 57 (BIH); 2, Neil Feggans, Brian Gillespie, David Martin 63-8=57.

April medal - 1, Ian Robertson

80-12=68; 2, Joe Sweeney 92-22=70; 3, Martin Duncan 86-14=72.

Pictured above, Fort William Gold Club gents' captain Donnie Gillies and ladies' captain Patricia Miller are joined by a few hardy stalwarts at the opening of the season earlier this month.



Fort William Cricket Club prepared for the new season with a narrow 24 run defeat against Oban. Fort play their first league game on Saturday against Ross County. 10_f16cricket01

Young team suffers heavy defeat

FOOTBALL

ONE OF Fort William's youngest ever teams fell to a heavy defeat away to mid-table Formartine.

Fort were under the cosh from the first whistle and the home side took the lead after just four minutes.

Sean Ellis scored a spectacular volley just before half time, but his side went into the break 7-1 down. Formartine striker Stuart MacKay scored a double hat trick as his team went onto to win 11-2. Youngster Raymond Munro got Fort's second goal.

The defeat followed a close game away to Forres last Wednesday, which Fort lost 3-2 after going 2-0 up.

Manager Calum Maclean faced a tough task to raise his troops for a match with top-of-the-table Deveronvale at Craggan Park last night (Wednesday). The Lochaber men will welcome second-placed Buckie Thistle on Saturday.

First medal at Dragon's Tooth

GOLF

THE FIRST medal competition of the year was held at Dragon's Tooth Golf Club, Ballachulish on Sunday, with David Mathieson the winner.

1, David Mathieson 94-28=66; 2, Tom McCallum 88-18=70; 3, Terry Goodwin 101-28=73.

Graham leads the field in Skye Cup

GOLF

OVER THE weekend of 16th/17th April at Sconser, the first round of the Skye Cup, a best three from four rounds medal competition, took place in excellent conditions. Graham Wilson leads the field with a net 63 holding a two shot advantage at this early stage over Alasdair Grant and Jamie Beaton, who shot net 65s.

Skye Cup Round 1: 1st G.Wilson 76 (net 63); 2nd A Grant 71 (net 65 bh); 3rd J Beaton 75 (net 65).

Loch Ness entries required

MARATHON

WEST HIGHLANDS athletes are being urged to enter the Baxters Loch Ness Marathon before midnight on Sunday 1 May to be sure of their place in the event's 10th anniversary year.

Runners who have competed in all the previous Loch Ness Marathons will be awarded a unique memento to at the finish of the 2011 event on Sunday, October 2. More information on www.lochnessmarathon.com

Handicap event

TABLE TENNIS

FORT WILLIAM Table Tennis Club are planning a handicap tournament, to allow players of all abilities to compete.

The club meet every Monday night at the Nevis Centre at 6.30pm, and are inviting anyone interested in taking part to come along and have a go. For more information contact James Hinchley on 01397 708827.



Spot the

SHINTY BALL

Competition

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
D Cruickshank, Kames, Tighnabraich and J McNulty, Ardtornish, Tayvallich

Bronze medal for Matthew

SWIMMING

OBAN teenager Matthew Anderson produced some outstanding performances at the Scottish National Age Group Swimming Championships, held over four days at Tollcross Park Leisure Centre, Glasgow, the venue for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

The 15-year-old had qualified in all nine events he entered in his age group, no mean feat in itself as these championships are open to non-nationals and attract top age group swimmers from south of the border.

The highlight for Matthew was winning the bronze medal in the 1500m freestyle, only narrowly missing out on another medal in the 800m freestyle, finishing fourth. In both events, Matthew produced Scottish Youth Squad qualifying times.

Matthew made four other finals during the event, finishing seventh in both the 400m individual medley and 200m butterfly events, eighth in the 200m individual medley and ninth in the 200m breaststroke, emphasising his ability over all strokes and distances.

Matthew's time in the 400m individual medley only missed the youth squad qualifying time by less than half a second.

However, Matthew still has time on his side as the closing date for qualification is July 31.

Matthew's performances were all the more remarkable in that, not only was he the youngest competitor in his age group - having just turned 15 a couple of weeks before the start - but he also swam with a broken finger, having fractured it 12 days before the championships started.

Matthew's ability at the longer distance especially has now led to an invitation from Scottish Swimming to attend a training day at the National Swimming Academy on April 24.

Matthew is current national champion in the 13-14 age group having won the Open Water event at Lochore, in Fife, last summer.



Badminton prospect Harry Mobey. 15_t16harry01/02

Harry makes the feathers fly

BADMINTON

A YOUNG badminton player from Taynuilt says he aims to play internationally one day after taking up a place in a talent squad, organised through the Glasgow School of Sport.

Harry Mobey attended a talent identification trial at the school on March 27 at Scotstoun Leisure Centre and, after impressing coaches, was this week offered a place in the squad.

Harry said: 'I'm really excited about going down to Glasgow and developing my game.'

He thanked his coach, Debbie Craig, who also coaches Harry's brother Stewart.

The eleven-year-old will now train twice a week (Monday and Wednesday) with the squad. There were up to 100 under-11

boys competing for a place on the programme and Harry was chosen as one of the select few. During the trial he had to complete a range of technique and fitness tests. The squad offers Harry the opportunity to progress to National Performance Programmes and international tournaments.

Harry's mother, Karen Campbell said: 'It has been a bit of an eye opener to see how quickly both Harry and Stewart are progressing.'

'This extra coaching will give Harry the opportunity to develop his game even more and one day represent Scotland, although he was born in England.'

'When we went down to the School of Sport we saw an order of merit of players that had

represented Scotland and Oban's Cameron Barbour was on it in 2003. I think it was good for Harry to see someone from this area on that.'

Harry now has a Badminton Scotland under-11s ranking of sixth.

This, coupled with getting into the Glasgow School of Sport's Satellite Squad is a remarkable achievement in his first year of playing badminton tournaments.

Karen added: 'I would like to give a special thanks to Debbie for supporting and encouraging both my sons in this sport. They couldn't have got as far as they have without her.'

Lorne lose out to Lenzie

SHE West League Division One
Lenzie 18
Oban Lorne 16

OBAN Lorne made the trip to Lenzie last Saturday hoping to make amends for the narrow league and Bowl losses to their opponents earlier in the season.

Oban welcomed Robbie MacDonald into the side for the absent Cammy Smith with Connor Ferris, Andy Park, Craig Nicholson and Radu Teodoru all making returns to the team.

Lenzie were to score the first try of the game which was gifted to them by a silly Oban mistake in their own 22. The Oban forwards lost control of the ball that went backwards from the lineout. Lenzie were first to react and after a quick ruck, spun the ball wide to score on the left hand side of the posts. This was unconverted meaning the home side led 5-0.

Both sides replied with a penalty each with Oban having a lot of good pressure form the kickoffs in the Lenzie half forcing some errors from the home side. This pressure was not converted into points and as soon as Lenzie returned to their own half they responded with another penalty to extend their lead to 11-3.

After a good opening spell in the first half Oban were rewarded with a try from player/coach Corrie Louw from close range. MacCallum added the extras to narrow the score to 11-10 near half time.

Second Row Jamie MacMillan was unlucky not to score for Oban just before the break. He took the ball from the lineout, got behind the Lenzie defence but lost control near the line with at least two defenders trying to stop him.

Both teams made good starts to the second half. Oban again used their forwards to gain the yards up the pitch but were undone by some poor discipline near the line while Lenzie's efforts were stopped with some poor handling out wide and good tackling from the Oban defence.

Oban were the team who made the most of their chances and were rewarded with two successful penalties from Angus MacCallum meaning the visitors led 16-11.

Lenzie looked to reply straight away but were denied a certain try with their left winger knocking the ball on over the line. Lenzie continued to press but the scrambling Oban defence stood

strong on several occasions to hang onto the five point lead.

With less than ten minutes remaining Lenzie had a player yellow carded meaning they had to finish the game with 14 men.

Oban gave the ball away on the half way line with only a few minutes to go. Lenzie reacted quickly to this and completed a great team move with a player less to score under the posts. The try was converted meaning Oban needed a score to win.

From the kick off Oban were awarded a penalty in the Lenzie half. This was missed but Oban gained a lineout in the 22 as a result. Several attempts were made at the line from this with Louw, MacDougall, MacQueen and MacCallum all going close before the referee blew the final whistle with the ball held up over the Lenzie line.

The result means Oban still sit in second place in the league on 60 points going into their last game of the season away to Strathendrick on April 30.

Argyll & Bute RFC have a home match v Irvine at Glencruitten on Saturday, kick off 3pm. This is the first leg of a home and away friendly series against them.

Oban win inaugural West Coast Cup

CRICKET

THE summer cricket season arrived early last Saturday as Oban travelled to local rivals Fort William for a match which marked the opening of the home side's new all-weather wicket.

Overcast conditions welcomed Oban's opening batsmen Mal Mackenzie and Neil Clark to the crease and some accurate bowling early on from Duncan and Spencer restricted the scoring.

After 20 overs Oban had progressed to 65 for 2 but Fort got the breakthrough through they were looking for when Paul Farrell bowled Mackenzie, which

brought Sukanta Debnath to the middle.

The big-hitting Indian didn't waste any time in smashing three sixes and two fours in a very useful partnership of 44 with Santos.

Some late sloggery from Tristan Carre and excellent placement by Neill Belshaw ensured Oban posted a competitive 154 for 7 after their 40 overs.

The Fort William reply was well-placed at 57 for 2 after 20 overs but then Allan Laycock was introduced into the Oban attack and the 18-year-old took

three quick wickets during a devastating spell of swing bowling to leave the run chase at 61 for 5. Davy Brown then removed the dangerous Rodger for 19. The home side needed to stem the flow of wickets and a partnership between Farrell and Spencer consolidated their position.

Requiring 68 runs from the last 60 balls Fort William were still in the game, however Laycock had other ideas when he cleaned-up the tail in emphatic fashion to leave Oban winners by 24 runs.

Saints' league championship hopes back on track

SAFL Premier Division
Kilpatrick 0
Oban Saints 1

TEMPLE Recreation was the venue for this top of the table premier division league match and the spectators watching weren't disappointed as both teams went at it hammer and tongs right from the first blast on referee James Carberry's whistle.

This was a must win game for Saints as defeat would surely have ended any hopes they had of retaining the premier division league title won last season.

The visitors got off to a perfect start with a goal in only the second minute. Dene Cassells picked up the ball in midfield and played a pass through the Kilpatrick defence to Donald Campbell who seemed to take the ball too wide, but he managed to turn and shoot home despite a desperate effort from Willie McKellar to clear the ball off the line. This was just the start Saints had been looking for.

Kilpatrick were stung by this early goal and it took them a while to get going, but were unlucky when a Gordon Martin effort whistled past the Saints up-

right. Saints should have taken a two goal lead in the 22nd minute when Donald Campbell played a great pass through the middle for Keith Millar who had a clear run in on goals, but the Saints skipper passed up a great opportunity.



Donald Campbell

The visitors were awarded a free kick in the 34th minute which was taken by Willie Gemmell. He fired in a shot and was unlucky to see the ball crack off Paul Halpin's right hand post.

The ball ran tantalisingly along the Kilpatrick goal line but Saints had nobody following up and the ball was cleared.

Just on the half time whistle Donald Campbell had the ball in the Kilpatrick net but the 'goal' was ruled out for offside - a decision that must have been very close.

The half time whistle blew with Saints leading 1-0, but the home side couldn't have complained if it had been two or three nil.

Kilpatrick came out at the start of the second half in a more determined mood and had Saints pinned back in the early exchanges but Jamie Graham, Alex Craik and Marc MacCallum were outstanding at the back for the Oban side.

The visitors created a great chance in the 69th minute when Ross Maitland, who had come on for Craig MacEwan, raced past his marker and into the box but he will be disappointed that his cross fell behind Donald Campbell who would have had a simple tap in.

The Oban side were awarded a free kick 25 yards out in the 77th minute which was again taken by

Willie Gemmell and the Saints contingent thought they had taken a 2-0 lead, but Kilpatrick keeper Paul Halpin made a tremendous save low down at his left hand post to knock the ball away for a corner.

At the other end it was the turn of Saints keeper Graham Douglas to do the same when he touched a Chris Kenny free kick onto the post before the ball was booted clear. This was followed by a last ditch tackle from Alex Craik to deny the home side a shot on target.

Celebrated

There were no more chances created from either team and it was a happy Saints contingent who celebrated a narrow, but very important 1-0 win at the final whistle.

A delighted Saints manager Iain Jackson said: 'We had to win this game, if we had lost then our chances of retaining the league title would surely have gone, but now we have given ourselves a fighting chance. Kilpatrick are a good side and still have games in hand over us, but they have to win these games and five of them are

FOOTBALL

away from home.'

Saints play their last home league game of the season on Saturday when they face high flying Aikenhead Thistle.

Although sitting bottom of the table at the moment, the Glasgow side are one of the top teams in the amateur game, having reached the final of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy and are in the semi finals of the West of Scotland Cup, so Saturday's game will be a tough test for the Oban boys.

The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee is James Jamieson.

SCOTTISH AMATEUR LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Saints	16	9	5	2	35	18	32
Kilpatrick	13	8	2	3	24	16	26
Greenock HSF	15	6	4	5	23	24	22
St Joseph's	15	7	1	7	24	30	22
Arkleston	10	4	3	3	17	16	15
Thorn Athletic	13	4	3	5	18	25	15
Castlemilk	13	4	1	8	22	28	13
Cambria	13	3	2	8	13	18	11
Inverclyde	10	2	3	5	17	22	9
Aikenhead	6	2	2	13	9	8	8



Youngsters enjoy Easter shinty camp

Young shinty players enjoyed two days of action at Mossfield Stadium as part of an Easter camp organised by Shinty Development Officer Darren Reid in partnership with the local Active-Schools Co-ordinator, Dale Kupris. All the players received a T-shirt at the end of the camp courtesy of the MacAulay Association.

Weather

Thursday Sunny intervals.
Winds light, south, south easterly.
Temperatures 9°C to 15°C

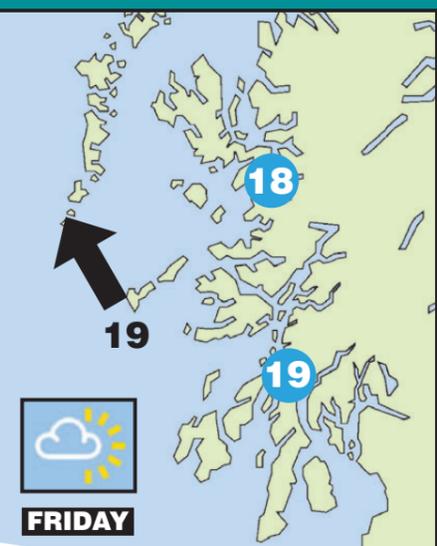
Friday Sunny intervals.
Winds moderate south easterly,
Temperatures 12°C to 19°C.

Weekend Sunny intervals.

Outlook Winds moderate south, south easterly.
Temperatures 19°C to 19°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 21, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	07.27	3.8	14.00	pm	19.50	3.8
Thur	01.41	0.4	07.27	3.8	14.00	0.7	19.50
Fri	02.27	0.7	08.07	3.4	14.45	0.9	20.34
Sat	03.16	1.0	08.49	3.1	15.34	1.2	21.23
Sun	04.09	1.4	09.39	2.8	16.30	1.4	22.25
Mon	05.12	1.6	10.55	2.6	17.35	1.6	** ** *
Tues	00.04	2.9	06.29	1.8	13.38	2.6	18.56
Wed	01.42	2.9	08.00	1.7	14.43	2.7	20.20

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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