

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Tesco superstore shelves Oban path upgrade

SUPERMARKET giant Tesco has confirmed it has shelved a £60,000 upgrade of the Glenshellach Road footpath next to its Oban superstore.

The company had already withdrawn plans to include the path in its refurbishment plans for the supermarket.

Oban Community Council is among those who have long been campaigning for steps to be installed on the busy walkway.

Chairwoman Marri Molloy said: 'I think it's disgusting. Tesco takes an obscene amount of money from this town and they don't put a penny back. They talk about how they need to revamp their image after a drop in profits - well here's one way they can help themselves.'

The path is owned jointly by three separate parties, Tesco, West Highland Housing As-

sociation (WHHA) and a third party, understood to be a private developer.

Sustainable transport charity, Sustrans, had agreed to contribute £17,500 towards the overall cost of the upgrade following an application by Argyll and Bute Council.

It withdrew funding when it became apparent the work wasn't going to be carried out. The charity 'remains keen' to see the path upgraded.

WHHA committed £15,000 towards the cost of the path, but cannot proceed without Tesco's participation and a £27,500 contribution. A Tesco spokeswoman told *The Oban Times*: 'We will be focusing primarily on internal improvements and at this time there will be no work done on the informal footpath at Glenshellach Road.'

New all-weather sports pitch to be laid in Tiree

A NEW £235,000 all-weather sports pitch will be installed at Tiree High School as part of a £2.1million increased spend in the council's education budget.

Argyll and Bute Council will allocate an extra £730,000 to the education capital plan for the 2012/13 budget, with a further £1.056million planned for the following year.

Another £340,000 will be invested in 2014/15 as the authority aims to upgrade facilities at 11 schools.

Tiree's all weather pitch was condemned by the council nearly four years ago after the £100,000

facility's wooden boards warped in the island's famous sunshine.

Headteacher, Myra MacArthur, had told the Oban, Lorn and Isles area committee that the pitch was the source of the biggest number of complaints at the school.

Delighted

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, she said: 'Obviously, I'm delighted. We've not had a pitch for nearly four years. We had actually done some work to consider fundraising in the community and we were looking at spending £70,000. We could never have envisaged this level of investment.'

Provost to be made honorary freeman

A SPECIAL meeting of Argyll and Bute Council has been called to admit Provost William Petrie as an Honorary Freeman of Argyll and Bute.

The meeting today (Thursday) will take place at 6pm in the Victoria Halls in Helensburgh,

following a regular meeting of the full council.

The award is in recognition of Provost Petrie's service to the community, his work in promoting tourism in Scotland and his service to local government.



Cameron Allen has raised thousands of pounds for charity by planning a sponsored silence.

Silence is golden for brave young fundraiser Cameron

A TOUGH 10-year-old, who suffers from a severe form of brittle bone disease, has raised more than £4,100 in just five days for the charity that supports him.

Cameron Allen targeted just £100 for his sponsored silence on May 8 but the Rangers Football Club fan has been inundated with donations, many of which are from supporters clubs on his JustGiving website.

His sponsored silence will come two days after Wishbone Day, which is held to support the work of the Brittle Bone Society. Realising he will have to go through with his promise, the cheery youngster quips: 'Three hours is a long time to stay quiet, especially during playtime.'

Cameron's condition makes him vulnerable to fractured bones but he has learned how to cope

with the pain. A particularly bad incident two years ago saw him fracture both wrists, his elbow, a leg and lose some of his teeth after a fall in his wheelchair. The brave primary six pupil was back at school a day after the subsequent operation.

Doctors failed to spot Cameron was suffering from Osteogenesis Imperfecta (brittle bone disease) until he was six weeks old when he broke his femur and it was discovered he had sustained fractures while in the womb.

As a result, he was one of the youngest babies to receive IV Infusion Treatment, which has, over time, prevented deformities and reduced the rate of fractures. Cameron, who has ambitions to be a Paralympian and an architect, will also be selling cakes outside the Appin Village Shop to support his charity.

No police cuts on Mull says force chief

More officers during peak times

STRATHCLYDE Police this week insisted claims that police strength on Mull was to be cut by 30 per cent were wrong.

In an exclusive interview with *The Oban Times*, Chief Superintendent Russell Dunn, Divisional Commander for Argyll, Bute and West Dunbartonshire rubbished press reports earlier this week that officer numbers on the island were to fall from five to three-and-a-half.

CS Dunn is adamant the claim is untrue - and told this newspaper that far from cutting police numbers, plans were in hand to boost them.

He said: 'The bottom line is we are not reducing police on Mull. It is simply not the case and I will be writing to [the newspaper] to express my disappointment.'

'I went across to Mull with Inspector Julie McLeish and spoke to the officers on the island. They told me about the

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by
FAITH ORR
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'finite number of supervisors'. Allegations that Mull would be left with reduced police cover left residents shocked and surprised earlier this week.

Steve Willis, acting chairman of Mull Community Council said: 'It is completely unacceptable. We know we don't have a lot of crime but we still need cover in case there is an accident.'

'If there was a crash on the Ross of Mull and the officer on duty was in Tobermory it would take them an hour and a half to reach the scene. It cannot be allowed to happen.'

Local MSP Michael Russell also joined residents in their condemnation of suggested cuts. He said: 'I have written to the chief constable to reflect the very considerable anger on Mull regarding these proposals.'

'Put simply, everyone thinks they are the wrong thing, as do I, and I hope the chief constable will ensure they are never implemented.'

Achaleven Primary School to re-open a year after being mothballed

ACHALEVEN Primary School in Connel will re-open in August - just one year after the council mothballed the school because of a lack of pupils.

Argyll and Bute Council has confirmed the initial enrolment of four is enough to re-open the school, as was revealed at March's meeting of Connel Community Council.

The re-opening was announced by Cleland Sneddon, executive director of community services, at a meeting of the council's executive committee last week.

Addressing concerns raised by North Lorn councillors about the future of the school, Mr Sneddon said: 'I had a meeting with four

sets of parents at Achaleven and we had a long discussion around the enrolment of pupils in the new school year.

'After that very positive discussion, parents have said that they want their children educated there and want to enrol their children.'

Explaining parents had a statutory right to have the school re-opened, Mr Sneddon added: 'We will make arrangements for the school to open at the beginning of August.'

The four pupils will begin primary one in August, with a further five pupils registered to join the school in the next few years. Stephanie Irwin, whose

daughter will be attending Achaleven in the new year, said locals were pleased with the decision.

'We are delighted the school is re-opening and we want to work with the council to make the school one of the best in the district,' she said. 'We have the support of the whole village and we want to restore the reputation of the school.'

The council has confirmed money is available within the revenue maintenance budget to get the school back up and running. It is understood very minor works are needed to prepare the building for the new school year.

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Teenager dies in A85 crash

A 19-YEAR-old man has died in a road crash between a Ford Fiesta and a Fiat camper van on the A85 between Killin and Crianlarich.

William Rennie, from Aberdeen, was driving the Fiesta at around 10.55am on Sunday when it collided with the camper van.

The driver of the other vehicle was uninjured.

Road closed

The road was closed near Leskine Farm, west of Lix Toll, for six-and-a-half hours.

Police are keen to hear from anyone who may have seen the old-style Fiesta prior to the collision. It was silver in colour with a blue bumper.

Anyone with any information should contact Central Police on 01786 456000.

Argyll and Bute Council staff claim they 'live in fear for jobs'

STAFF at Argyll and Bute Council's headquarters say they are 'living in fear for their jobs' after two council press officers were suspended - then resigned - for sharing jokes.

Sources within the Kilmory offices say they are afraid even to make casual conversation in the corridors following the departure of Dinah Mackay and Janet West. The pair quit after independent investigator John Clayton intercepted two instant messages between them on the council's Microsoft Lync system.

As exclusively revealed by *The Oban Times* online, the women subsequently tendered their resignations.

But now council staff say Mr Clayton's continuing investigations into allegations that communications head, Jo Smith, created 'spy' accounts on Facebook and Twitter has created an 'atmosphere of intimidation'.

It is understood staff questioned by Mr Clayton - the former Audit Scotland head who earned the nickname

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No fuel on island for a week

Colonsay pump fault prompts shortage fears

ISLANDERS on Colonsay were without fuel for more than a week after an electrical fault occurred in the pumps. Engineers managed to fix the problem at the filling station, which is run by the Colonsay Community Trading Company, last Thursday morning. But from the previous Wednesday residents of the small island feared essential vehicles, such as the island's fire engine and carers' transport, would run out of fuel. Colonsay residents already have to pay among the highest prices in Scotland for petrol (163.5p) and diesel (171.1p), despite the five pence Island Fuel Duty Rebate. Andrew MacGregor, a director of Colonsay Community Development Trust, said: 'We did everything we could to get the problem fixed as quickly as possible. An engineer from the company that maintains the forecourt came over the following Monday but soon realised the problem was more serious than he first thought. 'He came back on the Thursday morning and had the new parts fitted in an hour.' The filling station at Scalasaig is the only one on the island and drivers, including the island postman, were raising serious concerns about the low levels of fuel in their vehicles' tanks. It is believed the electrical fault occurred following a power cut and the resulting power surge. 'Incidents like this do highlight how far removed we are on Colonsay,' said Mr MacGregor. 'This incident caused some real disruption but it could have been worse.' Colonsay's independent community-owned filling station struggles to maintain pump prices. As an isolated location, there is a high initial cost of delivery and its orders are too infrequent to qualify for discounts.



Caitlin Macleod, Sian Mackay, Ruth Williams and Katie Morrison head out of Miavaig, Uig during 5 Latha with Kenny the skipper who works with Seatrek.

Fèis youngsters enjoy taste of Highland life at Garenin

A NEW event at Garenin on the Isle of Lewis' west coast has given 16 youngsters from across the Highlands and Islands the chance to learn about traditional activities through the medium of Gaelic. Organised by Fèisean nan Gàidheal, 5 Latha (5 Days), saw the children visit local families to get hands on experience of working with the sheep and cattle, peat cutting and fishing and weaving. The young people also learned songs and music during the week from well-known musicians Iain MacFarlane and Norrie MacIver. Fèisean nan Gàidheal development manager Calum Alex MacMillan said: 'Our idea was to give young people the chance to get involved with a Gaelic-speaking community and to learn about the activities which were, and still are, important in Highland life, using Gaelic all the time.' Local MSP Alasdair Allan, minister for learning, science, and Scotland's languages, also attended the event. He said: 'Where better to learn these new skills than in a Gaelic speaking community where such traditions are still so prevalent today?'

Mull Lines

A NEW market, helping locals to showcase their work, is to be held in Bunnassan over the next few months. The first of the events will be tomorrow, Friday April 27, where artists, craftspeople and food producers will meet to sell their wares in Bunnassan Hall from 11am to 5pm. Refreshments will be provided throughout the day and a range of carpentry, baking, photographs and candles will be on offer. Other summer dates for the market are May 28, June 22, July 26 and August 31. For more details or to book a place call John Clare on 01681 700022 or e-mail jnc.greenwood@virgin.net.

PUPILS from Bunnassan Primary School will be mixing up some powerful concoctions in the lab today as part of Generation Science. Fizz, Boom, Bang is a chemistry workshop where pupils explore the mysteries of mixtures and learn how chemicals react by fizzing, changing colour and sometimes even going bang. Joan Davidson, Generation Science Manager said: 'This year, Generation Science celebrates its 21st year of, successfully touring science shows all over Scotland, engaging more than a million pupils through bringing science to life, and educating and exciting pupils by the true wonder and meaning of science.'

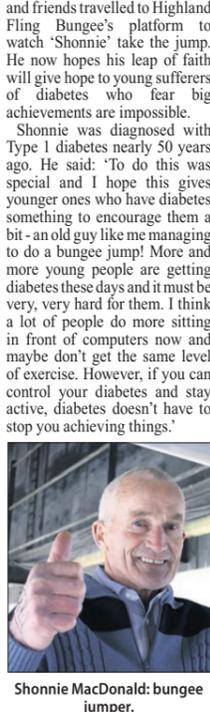


A TOBERMORY plumber will be making house calls with a difference this summer - visiting all 200 RNLI stations in Great Britain and Northern Island in his trusty van. Tom Marsland, a volunteer crew member with Tobermory RNLI, will be hitting the road in his Tom Plumb van alongside friend and firefighter Dave Tattersfield. Tom said: 'I joined the Tobermory crew just over a year ago so I know at first hand how important training is to enable volunteers like me with no previous maritime experience to help save lives at sea. However, training is expensive and it costs more than £1200 each year to train a lifeboat crew member. The Tom Plumb Station Run is my way of raising money to help support our crews around the coast.' Tom and Dave will cover more than 5,300 miles to raise money for the RNLI and the Fire Fighters' Charity. They will begin in Tobermory in late July and take in all of the UK coastline, including the Orkneys, Shetland and the Scillies. The pair will get support from fire stations around the UK, including accommodation and fuel for

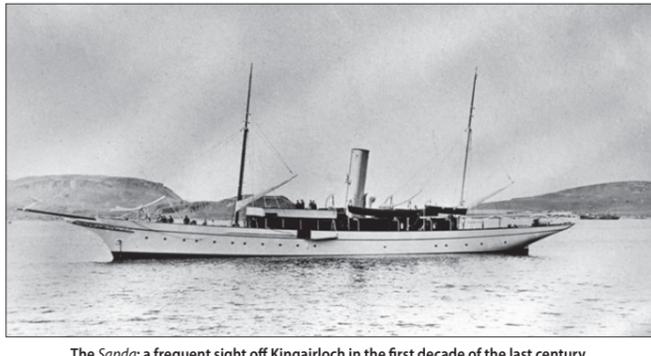
A SICK crewman had to be airlifted to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow from a fishing vessel north of Iona. Clyde Coastguard received a call from the vessel *Harvest Moon* last Wednesday, reporting they had a sick crewman onboard. Royal Navy Helicopter 177 was tasked from Prestwick to uplift the crewman. A BOSS at VisitScotland faced an embarrassing wait in Tobermory recently when a local picked up the tourist information phone and was kept on hold for over ten minutes before giving up. The organisation is now looking at the prospect of a manned office in the village.

Shonnie's big leap

A WESTERN Isles pensioner celebrated his 80th birthday at the weekend - by becoming Scotland's oldest bungee jumper. Former navy man John Macdonald, from Eriskay, plummeted 40 metres from Garry Bridge in Killiecrankie, Perthshire. Twelve of his closest family and friends travelled to Highland Fling Bungee's platform to watch 'Shonnie' take the jump. He now hopes his leap of faith will give hope to young sufferers of diabetes who fear big achievements are impossible. Shonnie was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes nearly 50 years ago. He said: 'To do this was special and I hope this gives younger ones who have diabetes something to encourage them a bit - an old guy like me managing to do a bungee jump! More and more young people are getting diabetes these days and it must be very, very hard for them. I think a lot of people do more sitting in front of computers now and maybe don't get the same level of exercise. However, if you can control your diabetes and stay active, diabetes doesn't have to stop you achieving things.'



Shonnie MacDonald: bungee jumper.



The Sanda: a frequent sight off Kingairloch in the first decade of the last century.

Magnificent yachts and a Cathedral of Trees

THEY were called in Gaelic 'coinn alainn nan sgiath geal' - the beautiful birds of the white wings. The 'beautiful birds' were in fact the magnificent yachts of the west coast, which plied the waters between Wigtown Bay and the Butt of Lewis. For almost a century before the Great War anyone who owned a coastal estate kept a boat for pleasure and non-commercial purposes. The luxury vessels were commissioned by some of the country's richest men and their yachts were symbols of wealth and power and provided much local employment both at sea and ashore. Most yacht owners north of the Clyde belonged to the prestigious Royal Highland Yacht Club, which was established in Oban in 1881. As a result, Oban was a magnet for these steam yachts as up to 100 gathered in the bay to party during the annual regatta and the Argyllshire Gathering. Morvern historian Iain Thornber, who is writing a book on the subject, has penned an article on the yachts and their owners for the current issue of Scots Heritage Magazine. Among the vessels listed is the *Sanda*, a small steam cutter owned by George Herbert Strutt of Makeney, Derbyshire, whose family founded the cotton manufacturing industry in Great Britain. Strutt bought Kingairloch Estate near Ardour in 1902 - and inherited the cutter as part of the deal. With wonderful photographs the article makes appealing reading. Scots Heritage Magazine also tells the story of the famous Cathedral of Trees at Glencruitten, near Oban, in an article written by another local historian Mary McGrigor. Florida A native of Dundee, Alexander MacKay was one of the earliest 20th century settlers in Lake Alfred in Florida. However, he still hankered after a property in his native land and Glencruitten was to answer that need. Today, the Cathedral of Trees at Glencruitten remains a private burial ground for the family. To obtain copies of Scots Heritage Magazine visit www.scotsheritagemagazine.com or telephone 01631 568000.

Improve your Gaelic speaking over a coffee

LOCHABER residents keen to improve their spoken Gaelic are being invited for a cofaidh agus còmhraidh (coffee and a blether) at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, on Monday from 1.30 to 2.30pm. Participants will be helped and encouraged to use Gaelic for the session, the latest in a series of informal fortnightly get-togethers. More information from Maria MacInnes on 01397 704132 or at maria@feisean.org.

Call for fairer power transmission pricing

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSPs have called for a fairer transmission charging regime so renewables projects in the Western Isles can plug into the National Grid at the same cost as mainland schemes. Speaking in a debate in the Scottish Parliament last week, Mike MacKenzie said it was unfair that islands renewable energy schemes faced higher tariffs to send power south to where it was needed, compared with similar renewable projects in the south of England. And Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan said after the discussion: 'There is no good reason for Scotland's islands to be penalised in this way and I hope the UK Government will now heed the view of the Scottish Government on this matter.'

COMPETITIONS

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Police files

AN UNUSUAL roadside theft has shocked police and the local authority, who are making inquiries into the disappearance of 100 snow poles along the A819.

The aluminium poles, which had been erected between Cladich and Ladyfield on the Dalmailly to Inveraray road, were taken sometime between Tuesday and Thursday last week.

The theft was reported to Oban Police by a council employee who was driving on the road.

Oban Police Inspector Julie McLeish said inquiries were ongoing, adding: 'This is a safety concern, as snow poles are essential in poor weather and poor visibility.'

A 21-YEAR-old man who allegedly pulled down his pants to reveal his bare backside to passers by in Oban's George Street has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

The incident occurred at 10.10pm on Sunday.

A POLICE officer is alleged to have been assaulted after attending a noisy household in Dunbeg last Friday.

Police officers went to the house where they heard singing but no music.

After speaking with occupants, the homeowner is alleged to have assaulted a female police officer and resisted arrest. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

POLICE are looking for the driver of a grey Citroen C5, following a complaint from another driver.

The Citroen driver is accused of tailgating and flashing their lights at a blue Peugeot on the A85 at around 2.30pm between the Halfway Filling Station and Dunollie Road in Oban.

As the two cars came into Oban, the Citroen turned off out of view. Anyone who can help police with their enquiries is urged to contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500.

Man denies harassing ex-partner

AN OBAN man appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday accused of harassing his ex-partner over the past four months.

Angus MacFadyen, of 3 Combie Court, Oban, appeared from custody and pled not guilty to repeatedly sending his ex letters.

The 54-year-old also denied shouting at her and throwing a bag and card at her in Co-operative Stores, Soroba Road.

Connel Bridge light problems resolved

LIGHTING problems that have dogged the Connel Bridge for two months should be a thing of the past.

Engineers from Scotland Transerv had feared a partial closure would be required to fix the lights on the A828, but overhead repairs seem to have resolved the problem.



Retiring retained firefighters, from left, Freddy Lockhart, James Maitland, Duncan Cruickshank and James Anderson with their mounted hand axes. 15.177fre01

Firefighters' long service marked at presentation

AN 'EMOTIONAL' evening at Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls marked the retirement of four retained firefighters who clocked up 126 years of service in the town between them.

James Maitland, 35 years of

service; Duncan Cruickshank, 32 years; James Anderson 31 years; and Freddy Lockhart 28 years, were presented with mounted hand axes for their service to the community.

Retiring watch commander

James Maitland said it was an emotional evening for all four of them, as they had been at the Oban station for a long time, during which they made friends for life.

Dougie MacLean, who takes

over as watch commander from James said: 'They were all characters around the place and very popular guys too.'

'When you take all of that experience out of the unit it is going to be a big miss.'

Oban High School hosts Laurinburg exchange auction

UPWARDS of 50 items have been pledged to an auction being held at Oban High School in raise funds for the 20th Laurinburg exchange.

A buffet for 10 people, a full size pool table and a bird house are up for grabs.

The auction will take place next Thursday, May 3, at 7pm in the school's assembly hall.

Invite to apply for community trust grants

SCOTTISH Sea Farms is inviting charities and groups to make a last minute bid for the latest round of its Heart of the Community Trust awards.

John Barrington of Scottish Sea Farms said: 'We have substantial funds available to donate to deserving projects and we are really hopeful that we will receive more applications from the people of Argyll and the Highlands.'

The trust aims to support community schemes in areas where the company operates. Applications can be made on Scottish Sea Farms website.

The closing date is Monday April 30.



X-ray department staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital, with locality manager Veronica Kennedy, third from left, at the new scanner. 15.177ray01

Oban gets new x-ray machine

A STATE-of-the-art x-ray machine has been installed at Lorn and Islands Hospital, representing a £450,000 investment by NHS Highland.

The multi-purpose scanner is one of the first to be installed at any hospital in the country and will help to ensure the long-term future of diagnostic services

at Lorn and Islands Hospital. It also comes as a necessary replacement for the 18-year-old screening room, which holds the same x-ray equipment that was installed when the hospital was built.

The new unit allows for a wide range of examinations, including interventional radiology

procedures and image-guided surgery and negates the need for patients to go to Glasgow for such treatments.

It also operates entirely by digital technology, giving hospital staff an instant x-ray scan, which can be immediately put onto a DVD for other health professionals to see.

Teacher buys island to be his final resting place

A TEACHER has bought an uninhabited island off Portnahaven on the Isle of Islay for £55,000, so he and his wife can be buried there.

Piers Casimir-Mrowczynski snapped up the tiny Mackenzie Island to be his final resting place.

Mr Casimir-Mrowczynski, 50, from Hertfordshire, said he came up with the idea when he was diagnosed

with cancer of the appendix three years ago. Now he plans to be buried on Mackenzie Island with his wife Pauline, 50, when they die.

The 42.7-acre rock is a site of special scientific interest and a special protection area. It also lacks mains services, such as electricity, water and drainage services.

Mr Casimir-Mrowczynski, a computer expert and

Soroba Lane crossing to be transformed

Dangerous Oban bottleneck to be replaced with two bridges

A NEW £400,000 bridge and separate footbridge is to be built over an Oban burn to replace the existing decaying structure.

Argyll and Bute Council hope work at Soroba Lane will start early next year.

The existing bridge over the Black Lynn has been the source of much criticism in recent years on safety grounds.

Last May local resident Luigi Lopez tripped and fell through temporary barriers into the Black Lynn, injuring his head.

Mr Lopez was knocked unconscious and said the only reason he didn't drown was because the cold water woke him up. The council subsequently erected scaffolding to make the bridge safer.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Argyll and Bute Council said 'the preferred solution' was a prefabricated steel deck on the existing abutments and a separate footbridge.

A spokesperson said: 'Although the road bridge will remain single lane, the carriageway width will be increased to minimise potential collisions with the parapets.'

'The separate footbridge will keep people safe from the traffic and allow better alignment with the existing Soroba Lane footway.'

'We still intend to issue tenders for construction in the autumn, with a view to construction starting in early 2013.'

Oban Community Council chairwoman Marri Molloy, described the news as 'absolutely wonderful'.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'The community council has been going on about this for ages so I'm absolutely delighted to hear there will be two new bridges.'

'A lot of schoolkids use it every day and I used to take the kids there to feed the ducks. However, you are constantly competing with buses and taxis. A lot of people don't use that route purely because of that. So two new bridges will be a massive improvement.'

Wrong information sees woman detained by police for five days

A WOMAN was detained for five days on 'erroneous' information received by the police, Oban Sheriff Court has heard.

Julie Ann Taylor, aged 42 of 107F McKelvie Road, Oban, appeared in court last Wednesday after admitting at an earlier date to obstructing police and failing to comply with the terms of a search warrant by refusing a medical examination on April 7 this year.

On receiving information Taylor had controlled drugs for distribution, her car was stopped on April 6 in the Tainmull area.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said police officers noted Taylor looked anxious but a search for drugs on her possession or in her car proved negative.

She was then taken to Oban Police Station for a further

negative search by female officers but Taylor then refused to have an x-ray, or to be examined by a doctor at Lorn and Islands Hospital and was held in custody.

She was observed throughout that period but no drugs were ever recovered.

Defence solicitor Mark Lovie said: 'It was erroneous information that police received; there were no drugs.'

'Since August 10 Miss Taylor has been stopped and searched by the police on several occasions, all with negative results. She said to me she is 'fed up' with it.'

'However, if she had cooperated with police she would not have found herself in custody.'

Taylor was admonished by Sheriff Douglas Small.

Butcher knocked woman out cold

A BUTCHERY manager from Oban has been found guilty of hitting a woman so hard she was knocked unconscious and into the next room.

Michael Buchanan, 43, whose address was given as 3 Branksome Park, had initially lodged a defence of self defence at the Oban Sheriff Court trial, but this was later withdrawn as it was shown in court he was not being attacked at the time of the assault.

Defending agent Laura Russell claimed the blow was an 'accident' which came about during a row where he was slapped twice. However, Sheriff Douglas Small said he was satisfied Buchanan deliberately assaulted the woman and was not being attacked when he hit her.

The court further heard Buchanan had one previous conviction for a similar incident against the same woman, for which he was admonished.

Sentence has been deferred until May 17 for reports.

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Council axes four jobs

FOUR jobs are to be shed from the department that keeps Argyll's streets clean as the local authority looks for more than £100,000 of savings.

The Oban Times understands the restructure will see four area management roles reduced to two. The restructure will cut 20 per cent from Streetscene's budget, a total of £106,870.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council is working to ensure the opportunity to redeploy staff into other posts as an alternative to redundancy is explored.'

'All staff facing redundancy have been offered alternative posts though not necessarily on the same grade.'

Emergency beacon activated accidentally

AN EMERGENCY beacon that had been sent for a service sparked an emergency response from the coastguard after it was activated accidentally.

Clyde Coastguard received a call from Falmouth Coastguard last Wednesday reporting a 406 Emergency Position Beacon Alert from the fishing vessel *Aubretia* in West Loch Tarbert, Kintyre. After investigation it was established that the vessel was safe and well and that the beacon had been sent for service and had arrived with the beacon flashing.

Temporary procurator fiscal appointed

EÓIN McGINTY has been appointed as temporary procurator fiscal for Oban following the secondment of David Glancy to a major enquiry team.

The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service has confirmed that Eoin, 41, has been appointed for an initial six months to cover cases heard at Oban Sheriff Court.

Originally from Northern Ireland, he qualified in law at Queen's University, Belfast, and practised criminal law in London for 11 years prior to moving to Scotland to take up a procurator fiscal post in 2009.

Rothsay Pavilion cash boost

AN A-listed Argyll building is to receive £500,000 from Historic Scotland's Building Repair Grants.

Rothsay Pavilion is one of 16 buildings across Scotland, which will receive a total of £4,061,535. Sandy MacTaggart, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure at Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'Historic Scotland's support is a vital first step towards the regeneration of Rothsay Pavilion. It is one of the most important and iconic post-war buildings in Scotland and this funding will greatly support our efforts in preventing further deterioration.'



West Coast Motors' Oban depot manager Russell Dods, centre, hands out the cheques to Amanda MacPhail from the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund and John Peden, chairman of Oban Mountain Rescue Team. 15_117cheque01

Bus firm dance just the ticket for charities

AN ANNUAL bus company dinner dance has raised £3,000 for two Oban-based charities.

West Coast Motors has since given £1,500 each to the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trust and Oban Mountain Rescue Team.

At the recent staff dinner dance in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls, which was attended by 110 people, the company auctioned

and raffled off various prizes donated by businesses in the Argyll area.

Russel Dods, West Coast Motors' Oban depot manager, said: 'Both Oban Mountain Rescue Team and the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund are very worthwhile causes and we know the money will stay locally.'

'This would not have been possible, however, without the kind donations by businesses and I want to thank them for that.'

Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund supports young people in education and in sport but also assists them with medical treatment. The West Coast Motors donation will go towards

assisting funding applications from the community.

Oban Mountain Rescue Team provides rescue cover for a large area incorporating much of Argyll and the islands. Its operating costs are in excess of £30,000 per year but the West Coast Motors donation will likely go towards new GPS units for the team.

CalMac no plans for 'super terminal'

THE IDEA of a 'super terminal' for Oban's rail and ferry service has been played down by Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) after claims they were intent on 'taking over' the railway station car park.

It had been suggested to *The Oban Times* that the ferry operators were trying to create congestion on the pier to prove they needed more space.

But a CalMac spokesman said: 'We share the view of many people that it would be desirable to find a way of linking the rail station with the ferry terminal and it has been investigated in the past.'

'However these investigations highlighted it is not as easy to achieve as we would all like.'

'Should it be felt to be something worth pursuing again responsibility for finding a way to achieve it lies with pier owners CMAL and Network Rail.'

Oban Common Good Fund presented a commemorative quach to pipe major Euan Dewar to mark what has been a remarkable year of achievement for the group - what could be its biggest ever trophy haul in one year.



Oban Pipe Band's oldest member, Jackie Penrose, centre left, is pictured with fellow band veteran drummer, Joey Simpson, in presenting pipe major Euan Dewar with a commemorative quach from Oban Common Good Fund in recognition of one of the band's most successful years of competition. 15_117pipeband1

Fund marks band's remarkable success

OBAN Pipe Band, the reigning world champions and winners of no fewer than 15 trophies in its first year back in competitive piping, has picked up yet another accolade.

This coming season will see the pipe band step up a level, competing in Grade 2 well ahead of the intended schedule.

A spokesperson for the Common Good Fund said: 'This is one of the most appropriate uses for the Oban Common Good Fund - for the community to recognise and acknowledge the significant contribution the pipe band makes to Oban itself and the whole area.'

Speaking afterwards, Euan said: 'I've got to say thanks to Oban Common Good Fund for recognising our efforts - it's been a remarkable year for the band.'

'We think 15 trophies may be a record. The quach was presented to pipe major Euan Dewar by two of the pipe band's most loyal former drummers, Joey Simpson and oldest member Jackie Penrose.'

'We certainly exceeded what was expected, especially given it was our first year back in a few years.'

'This coming year will be more about finding our feet. Grade 2 is much more difficult and it's a big step for us.'

'Our aim is to have one year holding our own and then we'll go from there.'

'But if we can go and be happy with what we've done, that's the main thing.'

Newsdesk
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Farm boss admits having illegal pesticide

A FARM manager has admitted possession of an illegal and highly toxic pesticide that kills animals by disrupting the nervous system.

Tom McKellar, aged 50, of Fir Park Cottage, Auch Estate, Bridge of Orchy, pled guilty last Wednesday at Oban Sheriff Court to possessing Carbofuran on July 17 2009.

The search for traces of the pesticide began when a golden eagle was found dead on the north facing slopes of Glen Uldaidh and tests showed Carbofuran to be present.

A search covering Ben Uldaidh and the nearby Auch Estate hills and Glen Orchy Farm was convened and a fox and a sheep carcass were found to have

traces of Carbofuran. Although there was no direct link between McKellar and the poisonings, he was visited by police in the course of their enquiries.

Procurator fiscal Kate Fleming explained McKellar admitted he had placed poison in a piece of meat with the intention of killing foxes but he had no idea if it would work.

Killing of wildlife
Ms Fleming added: 'If used in that way, the use of poison such as Carbofuran could lead to indiscriminate killing of wildlife.'

Following a search of Auch Estate quantities of Carbofuran were recovered by Strathclyde Police, working in partnership with the National Wildlife Crime Unit, RSPB, Scottish SPCA,

Forestry Commission Scotland and Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture.

Ms Fleming added when McKellar was later interviewed by police he stated he did not know what Carbofuran was, or how to identify it.

Carbofuran is a highly toxic poison which has been banned since 2001.

Carbofuran is one of the most toxic pesticides. In the granular form a single grain the size of a poppy seed can kill a bird. A quarter teaspoon can be fatal to humans.

Sentencing
Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing until May 29 to establish the quantities of the poison found.

Mull company backs young carers with £200 donation

MULL business, Highland Services Building Materials (Hi Serv), has made The Roses Charitable Trust its chosen cause as a direct result of an article in *The Oban Times*.

The trust is currently raising money to enable a group of North Argyll Young Carers to attend a respite week at Tavool House on Mull.

Staff and directors of the Tobermory company felt it was a worthy cause having read about the trust's efforts in the West Highlands' best-selling weekly paper.

Highland Services' Wilf Loynd said: 'We think these kids are more than worthy of our support and to help them towards the cost of this 'week break' we are giving a donation of £200.'

'We will be asking all our account customers to enclose a cheque for at least five pounds with their statement payment at the end of this month. We will also be taking donations at the counter. These kids do valuable, unpaid work, which is

challenging, tiring at times and at a very considerable cost to the enjoyment of their young lives when the opposite should be the case.'

'Dig deep please, it's not a lot of money and yet worth so much.'

The Roses Charitable Trust says it is 'absolutely delighted' to receive local support for their work.

RCT's Jane Sayer said: 'This, together with money from the government's ShortBreaks Fund, North Argyll Carers Network and a successful fundraising run at the Lochaber Marathon by trust directors, Andy and Gill Spink, means the young carers are well on their way to a week of fresh air, exercise, fun and relaxation.'

Anyone wishing to support the young carers' break or other respite breaks and development courses run all year by the Roses Trust 20 can phone 01631 720 002 or visit The Roses Charitable Trust Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/hebpursuit.

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Groups join forces for one-hour Ganavan clean up

BID4Oban and The GRAB Trust will be joining forces to do a tidy at Ganavan on Sunday April 29 at 10am for one hour.

The Sunday Blast, which takes place every second Sunday at a different location in the town, is open to any litter pickers.

The group has so far tidied up areas around The Witches, Corran Halls and Jacob's Ladder

as well as giving out information on stopping dog fouling and campaigning for better bins in the town's beauty spots.

With a small group of people, the group has managed to remove a huge amount of rubbish from some of Oban's beauty spots.

They have found a few strange items such as a smashed up iPhone, children's slides, a suitcase,

part of a caravan and a fence still attached to its cement. The volunteers work for one hour at a time and are welcoming more willing helpers at Ganavan to make a difference to rubbish washed up on the shore line and blown in rubbish at the start of the cycle track. The aim will be to finish in time to allow people to get to Mass and the Parish Church.

Driving ban confusion leads to £300 fine

CONFUSION over a driving ban period has cost a Sudanese national £300 after he was fined at Oban Sheriff Court.

Ibrahim Ashman, aged 35, of 15 Sedan Close, Salford, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday to driving while disqualified and with no insurance on December 22 after being stopped by police during road checks on the A85 in Connel.

Ashman's defence solicitor Stephen Macleod explained Ashman spoke English but he misunderstood a letter he received stating he could apply for the reinstatement of his licence. Mr Macleod explained his client believed this meant he could drive again and although he had arranged insurance cover, it was not valid.

Ashman has previously been arrested in London's Heathrow Airport for failing to appear in Oban Sheriff Court last month, because he had been visiting family in Sudan after his father died.

Ashman said there was one primary road to the airport in Sudan, which had deteriorated with rebel fighting in the country and had become impassable, meaning he was unable to travel safely.

Disqualified driver admits driving wife's car to work

A DISQUALIFIED driver has admitted taking his pregnant wife's car to work in case she went into labour.

Donnie Lopez, aged 24, of 3A Croft Avenue, Oban, pled guilty last Wednesday at Oban Sheriff Court to driving on the A85 through Connel on March 7 this year, despite his licence having been revoked. He also admitted driving without insurance.

Police officers saw Lopez, a ground worker at a windfarm development, driving the car while carrying out road checks in Connel and knew he had been disqualified from driving.

Defence agent Mark Lovie said: 'His wife was pregnant and two weeks overdue and, in case he needed to be at the hospital, stupidly took the car to work.'

In sentencing Lopez, Sheriff Douglas Small pointed out this was the third time he had appeared in front of a court on charges of driving without insurance.

Lopez was fined a total of £430 and disqualified from driving for 12 months.

MP appeals to scrap fuel duty increase

ARGYLL and Bute MP Alan Reid has urged the government not to go ahead with the three pence a litre fuel duty increase planned for August.

Speaking during Scottish Questions in the House of Commons, Mr Reid said: 'In Argyll and Bute the high price of fuel is doing damage to businesses and people's incomes, because of the long distances people by necessity have to travel.'

Scottish Secretary Michael Moore described Mr Reid as a 'consistent campaigner on this issue', pointing out the government had provided a cut of 10p on fuel relative to what the previous Labour government was proposing.

Connel path plan

CONNEL could have a new path along its foreshore as part of plans to spruce up the village.

Community councillors are in talks with potential donors to have build a granite walkway.

Meanwhile, several benches having been temporarily removed for painting by the those on the council-administered Community Payback Scheme.

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Council election reminder

VOTERS taking part in the forthcoming council elections next Thursday are reminded to fill in their ballot papers using numbers against the name of candidates in order of choice – not a cross.

Electors can vote for as many or as few candidates as they wish – as long as they rank them in order of preference.

Voters can make as many or as few choices as they wish, putting the number 1 in the voting box next to their first choice, a 2 beside their second choice a 3 next their third choice, and so on.

As long as voters number at least one candidate, their vote will be counted. Anyone making a mistake on their ballot paper can ask for a new one.

Polling stations are open between 7am and 10 pm. Postal votes should be returned in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope by May 3. They can also be handed in to any polling station up until 10pm on May 3.

The count of votes cast in Highland will take place at Inverness Leisure, Bught Lane, Inverness, on Friday May 4.

In Argyll and Bute, the count will take place at Lochgilphead Joint Campus on the same day.

Legion supports young and old veterans

A YEAR since it was reformed, the Oban branch of Royal British Legion Scotland has become an active fundraising and support group within the community.

But chairwoman Lesley Blair-Simmonds says there is still a general misconception among people the group is only for World War II veterans.

‘We have younger members who have served in Northern Ireland, Kosovo and Iraq, as well as veterans of World War II,’ she said.

Representatives from Combat Stress Scotland are coming to meet legion branch members on May 17.

The branch meets in the Royal Hotel on the second Monday of each month, with the next meeting scheduled for May 14. Anyone who has served with the British Armed Forces is welcome to attend. For more information contact Ms Blair-Simmonds on 01631 570 421.

Seabed pressure builds on Moore



The Skye ferry prepares to depart Glenelg: MCT's turbine scheme will be sited in the narrows behind, right centre of picture.

SECRETARY of State for Scotland Michael Moore has sidestepped questions on whether the UK Government will hand Scotland control over its seabed and coastline as pressure for the move grows.

Last month, a Scottish Affairs Committee report recommended ending the Crown Estate Commissioner's responsibilities in Scotland, which include managing and collecting revenue from piers, harbours, the seabed and assets such as fish farms.

The report proposed the Scottish Government take overall control over coastal assets – then hand over management of them to local councils and communities. Both Highland Council and Western Isles Council have long advocated such a move.

Last week, Holyrood saw a rare outbreak of harmony as all parties backed Highlands and Islands MSP David Stewart's

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

call that parliament add its voice to demands for change.

Mr Stewart won overwhelming support for his motion that power over Crown Estate interests must come under Scottish control.

Despite growing pressure, Mr Moore has been cautious on embracing radical change for the Crown Estate.

However, he is enthusiastic about the Scotland Bill, passed unanimously by MSPs last week.

He described the Bill, which will transfer more powers from Westminster to Edinburgh, as ‘the most significant transfer of financial powers from London to Edinburgh since 1707’.

Following last week's debate in Parliament, *The Oban Times* asked the Scottish Secretary:

□ How he would respond to growing expectations in West Highlands and islands communities that control over their own seabed would soon become reality?

□ Is he minded to support the Scottish Affairs Committee's recommendations, and if so, within what timescale is devolution of the Crown Estate likely to take place?

□ How would he answer the charge of inconsistency – namely, that he is enthusiastic about more devolution to Holyrood, yet hesitant on an arguably equally important devolution of powers to local people – a principle his own party holds high?

Mr Moore declined to comment personally. A Scotland Office spokesman said: ‘The UK Government is due to give its formal response to the Scottish Affairs Committee within the next few weeks.’

‘The Coastal Communities Fund already represents a major step forward in putting Crown Estate revenues into the hands of local people in Scotland.’

The Secretary of State also gave evidence to the Scottish Affairs Committee in December last year which provided a full and detailed exposition of the UK Government's position on the Crown Estate. ‘The Scotland Bill was unanimously given consent by the Scottish Parliament yesterday and does not include the devolution of the Crown Estate. It represents a significant transfer of powers to the Scottish Parliament, particularly in terms of financial powers. It also contains a provision for Scottish Ministers to have a role in the appointments process for the Crown Estate Commissioner with special responsibility for Scotland.’

WHAT Highlands and Islands MSPs said during the debate on David Stewart's motion on the Crown Estate in the Scottish Parliament:

Regional MSP David Stewart: ‘The Crown Estate Commission is a public body first set up in 1956 and governed by the Crown Estate Act 1961. They operate commercially and all surplus revenues are transferred to the UK Treasury. In 2009/10 the UK figure is £210m. Crown Estate in Scotland accounts for less than five per cent of the Crown Estate Commission's annual revenue and capital value. The range of the Crown Estates responsibilities and powers are simply breath taking from seabed ownership to 12 mile limit, except hydrocarbons, rights over the continental shelf to 200 nautical miles, rights to gold and silver mining, to making modern acquisitions, West Princes Street Gardens and King's Park Stirling.’

‘In my region of the Highlands and Islands many community owners [Community Land Scotland members] now manage considerable land assets and do so professionally and responsibly, and there is no reason why they, as democratic and accountable owners should not manage the waters that adjoin their land.’

‘Devolution of Crown Estates powers, marine and coastal assets is an idea whose time has come – devolution of some strategic responsibilities to this Parliament yes, but devolution beyond Edinburgh to local council and community level too. All we need now, to paraphrase Sir Walter Scott, is the will to do and soul to dare.’

Supporting Mr Stewart's motion, Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson: ‘As a constituent said to me, ‘We've had the clearances, the sheep, the



David Stewart.

forestry and the hydro, and the money that was promised to communities has gone absent without leave every time. Will it be the same with tidal projects?’

‘My constituency ... also has huge potential for tidal energy. Nowhere is that more clear than at the proposed site for an 8MW, £40 million tidal power development in the Kyle Rhea narrows between Skye and the mainland, which could generate annual revenues of between £5.5 million and £135 million over its 25-year lifespan... The Glenelg and Arnisdale Development Trust's plans will enable communities to take a stake in the ... scheme. The plans have secured the First Minister's approval and Highlands and Islands Enterprise's assistance and have been welcomed by the developer, Marine Current Turbines. It is hoped the Glenelg and Arnisdale project will be a pilot for a community ownership scheme, which can then be used by communities up and down the country. Glenelg and Arnisdale Development Trust envisages revenues that are generated by its stakeholding will be ploughed back into a community renewable development fund, which will fund community investment in local green energy projects. It will also provide capital for other communities who want to develop renewable energy schemes. As surpluses build up, the cash will be used for regeneration projects. That is exactly the sort of approach we must develop, so that local communities can benefit from marine development that affects them. After this debate, I will attend a meeting with HIE on renewables, just round the corner from the Parliament. I will press the agency on where it has got to with the project.’

Work starts on £3.8m Raasay House restoration

WORK has started on a £3.8million project to reconstruct a 260-year mansion on Raasay.

The grade A listed Raasay House was badly damaged in a fire three years ago, and construction company Mansell has been contracted by Highlands and Islands Enterprise to carry out the rebuild.

The project includes the complete restoration of the public rooms to as close to their original condition as possible. Bedrooms with en-suite facilities and an internal fire escape are also part of the contract. New environmental features will also be incorporated to reduce running costs.

Project manager Alistair Pirie chaired a recent meeting in Raasay Village Hall, with around 60 local people attending. Mr Pirie said: ‘All the feedback we heard from local residents was very positive. Raasay House is an important feature of the local community and we are delighted to be delivering this project to ensure that the site can once again be used by the local residents.’

Oban club members hit the road in classic cars

MEMBERS of Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club have attended Britain's biggest classic car driving event of the year.

Drive-it-Day took place on Sunday, when classic car owners from all over Britain took to the roads to show their classic cars in support of the classic car movement, and to meet other enthusiasts. Members of the Oban and District club showed their support with a run to Killin, where they met up with members of other car clubs from the Central Belt and enjoyed viewing a large varied selection of classic cars from the 1960s through to the 1980s.

The next meeting of the Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club will be held on May 24 at 7.30pm in the Lochnell Arms Hotel, North Connell.



Dave Thompson.



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For Sale - Ayres Guest House
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As recommended by Delia Smith and Rick Stein. Ample scope to expand the business and increase turnover and profitability.

Offers over £40,000 + SAV



To Let - Units 1 & 2, MacGregor Court
Airds Place, Oban, Argyll

Prominent corner shop unit in excellent location in Oban town centre, suitable for a variety of uses (subject to planning consent).

Extending to some 106.4m² (1,145 sqft). Will sub-divide. Available on attractive, flexible lease terms.

Rental offers in excess of £24,000pa



To Let/May Sell - 45 Stevenson Street
Oban, Argyll

Modern, lock-up shop unit in good, secondary location in Oban town centre, suitable for a variety of uses (subject to planning consent).

Extending to some 40.0m² (430 sqft). Available on attractive, flexible lease terms.

Rental offers in excess of £9,000pa
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For Sale - Don Muir Guest House
Pulpit Hill, Oban, Argyll

Well presented guest house in peaceful location, close to the town centre offering excellent lifestyle business with comfortable family accommodation.

3 en-suite double/twin letting bedrooms. 1 double/twin and 1 single letting bedroom with shared facilities. Attractive residents' lounge & breakfast/dining room. Established business with potential to grow turnover and profit.

Offers in the region of £249,000

Bell Ingram Appoint Commercial Property Consultant in Oban

Bell Ingram, the multi-disciplined firm of Chartered Surveyors, has added another string to its bow at its busy Oban office, by appointing a Commercial Property Consultant to oversee its growing list of business sales and retail and commercial property instructions.

Gregor King, a Chartered Surveyor with over twenty-five years' experience in UK commercial property, including several years in the Central London market, has joined the company to offer clients commercial property advice in Argyll, the Isles and Lochaber.

The range of commercial property services offered will include sales and lettings agency, advice on capital and rental values, development consultancy and investment disposals. In addition, Gregor will be seeking to expand the business sales department, with particular emphasis on the licensed, leisure and hotels market and retail business transfers.

Included among an extensive list of current instructions on which Gregor is working, is 1 & 2 MacGregor Court, a prime shop available to let in the centre of Oban, the sale of ‘Cocksles Fine Foods’, a thriving retail business in Lochgilphead and a number of excellent hotel and guest house businesses for sale in Oban and on the ever popular Isle of Mull. He will also soon be offering for pre-let a new development of small business units to be developed by M & K Macleod Ltd. at Glenshellach Court, Glenshellach Business Park, Oban.

He said: ‘Bell Ingram already provides commercial property and business sales advice to a range of existing clients. My new role means I can develop this consultancy business to cover all aspects of commercial property, something that no-one else is offering in the Argyll area.’

‘Initially I plan to make local businesses aware of the service, and to show that by offering sound, professional advice we can make, or save, them money.’

‘I have a clear understanding of how commercial property works and how both owners and occupiers can maximise returns from their property holdings, often by fairly simple and inexpensive means.’

‘I will also be contacting all of the major surveying firms in Scotland advising them that Bell Ingram now has a commercial department and offering assistance on any instructions they have in the Argyll and Lochaber areas.’

‘Logistically, it is difficult for a Glasgow or Edinburgh firm to justify sending staff to Oban or Fort William to survey, say, a small shop, but we can do that for a fee, or a joint agency instruction.’

‘I am hopeful that through my extensive network of contacts throughout the UK property industry I can build up relationships with other agency firms and work with them on commercial properties in the local area.’

Gregor believes his advice could be vital to any business that occupies property under a lease, particularly if they have an impending rent review, lease renewal or dilapidations claim, or want to dispose of their interest.

Likewise property owners should be taking advice when it comes to offering property for lease or sale to get the best terms available in the market.

Paul Nicoll, Director of the Oban office of Bell Ingram said: ‘We are delighted to have such an experienced property professional joining our team in Oban. We aim to provide clients with the best possible advice, and I am confident that Gregor will considerably enhance our quality and range of services.’

Established in 1899, Bell Ingram is a multi-disciplined firm of chartered surveyors, forestry managers, estate agents, architects, building surveyors and energy specialists. With more than 130 professional staff across 11 UK offices they provide local knowledge with national coverage.

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Kilchoan ferry whisky hopes

ARDNAMURCHAN residents are hoping Highland councillors' decision to back ambitious plans for a new whisky distillery will boost their campaign to save a lifeline ferry service to Mull.

The Scottish Government's draft ferry review proposal to reduce the current vehicle and passenger service between Kilchoan and Tobermory to passenger-only sailings has prompted a furious reaction - not least from West Ardnarmurchan Community Council.

According to chairwoman Rosie Curtis, losing the vehicle provision would have 'a devastating affect' not only on crofters but everyone - locals and visitors.

However, hopes have been raised following the planning committee's unanimous backing for Adelphi Distillery Ltd's plan to create a fine malt plant and visitor centre at Glenbeg.

Ms Curtis told *The Oban Times*: 'Everybody in the community has been really positive about the decision.'

By RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

'I think it's the right decision - it's going to bring local jobs here and hopefully some young families to the area which is what we need.'

'And it can only help us to keep the ferry. Hopefully the distillery can join up with the west coast distillery tour and people will come to Mull then come up here. But even without the distillery I think we have a good case for keeping the ferry.'

She added: 'The ferry is a lifeline for the area - if we lose it then they might as well shut us down.'

'The abattoir is across there [in Tobermory].'

'A lot of people go over to the shops, which is only about 35 minutes, the guy who comes to fix problems with Sky TV, the local electrician comes over from Mull - there are so many little bits and pieces that join us up. It will cripple the area if we lose that ferry.'

Gaelic open day success

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig (SMO) held its first Gaelic open day on Saturday to great acclaim from all concerned.

Dozens of local families attended to enjoy a variety of activities including a music session, art and drama workshops and Gaelic tastings for beginners. An exhibition of local artist Cailean Maclean's pictures also featured, while a buffet and ceilidh rounded off

the successful day. Groups with Gaelic links also set up information stalls.

Janni Diez of SMO said: 'It is so important to create opportunities like this where people can get together and speak Gaelic.'

Sleat resident Una MacLeod from Teangue said: 'There was a very nice atmosphere and the whole day was well thought out. I hope it will be repeated again next year.'



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Isla Hyslop, Freya MacNeil and Grace Campbell from Sleat enjoyed the Gaelic open day at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.



Lochaber no more? Traveller William Burke says his family's 60-year association with the area will be broken if he is told to move on. 20. f17willie02

Glenelg-Skye ferry ready to set sail again following repairs

A TINY community-run ferry should be back running between Skye and the mainland by this weekend following essential repairs.

As reported exclusively in *The Oban Times* two weeks ago, the Skye Ferry was gearing up to open for Easter between Glenelg and Kyleheha.

But directors had to postpone sailings after a Maritime and Coastguard Agency inspection ruled internal bulkheads needed welding.

The community interest company was told its boat, the

MV Glenachulish, could not ply the route until repairs were carried out.

The Skye Ferry lost about a month's income due to the repairs - an estimated £15,000.

Company director Clive Pearson told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday: 'We're hoping to go back into service on Saturday.'

The ferry is still at Kishorn finishing off the repairs and, weather permitting, we'll be back here on Friday and ready to go on Saturday.

'Although local people do use it, most of our customers are

tourists and there would have been a few people disappointed not to see it running over Easter. But everyone will be pleased to see her back again.'

The six-car capacity 41-year-old turntable ferry - the oldest of its kind still operating anywhere - had already been granted a five-year operating licence the previous winter.

Before the welding jobs were carried out at Kishorn in Wester Ross the boat had been providing a lifeline service across Loch Carron for six weeks until March 23 while the A890 was closed.

Lochaber no more for Willie?

Traveller fears one man's vendetta could force him out after 23 years

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by

STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

THE YELLOW may be on the broom again - but this spring could be the last for one of Lochaber's best known members of the travelling community.

Willie Burke has brought his caravan to the same pitch next to the Camusnagaul ferry slipway for 23 years, arriving and leaving - give or take a few days - with the swallows.

His mother and father before him pitched tent along the same Loch Linnhe shoreline, taking the family's association with the area back over six decades.

But now Mr Burke fears one man's vendetta against him could mean his summer days in Lochaber could be over.

The 61-year-old grandfather does gardening and minor landscaping work for around 25 regular customers, mostly in Fort William across the loch.

He prides himself on keeping his pitch scrupulously tidy - a fact verified by *The Oban Times* by local residents.

Mr Burke, from Kilbirnie in Ayrshire, enjoyed a trouble-free time until three years ago.

Then one household began making regular complaints to the landowner, Conaglen Estate, suggesting Mr Burke and his

family were making a mess. According to Mr Burke - and local sources - the allegations were without foundation. But this newspaper understands the ongoing acrimony has prompted the estate to consider asking Mr Burke to leave for good.

Conaglen has given Mr Burke permission to park up his van on the foreshore site on a grace and favour basis for almost a quarter of a century.

No money has been exchanged. On the occasions when Mr Burke has offered to pay a rent for the summer months, he says it has been refused.

Mr Burke says he has met the complainer only once. He repeatedly asked *The Oban Times* not to name the individual because he did not want any trouble.

Sitting in his caravan, a visibly distressed Mr Burke said all he wanted was to stay in Lochaber in peace every summer.

He has already told his daughters and grandchildren they can't come to visit for

holidays, as he fears their arrival would immediately be reported to the estate.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* over an Old Holborn roll up and a cup of black tea, Mr Burke said: 'I have been coming here for 23 years, everybody here are my friends. I feel I am part of the local community. Even if the tide washes rubbish up here, I clean it up. If I move, that's Fort William over for me - I have nowhere else to go.'

Local community representatives expressed their support for Mr Burke and his desire to stay in Lochaber.

Ardgour Community Council secretary Nigel Colbourn said 'it would be a shame' if the area lost one of its best-known characters.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I have had dealings with Willie - he is a nice guy and I for one am quite happy for him to stay.'

'An awful lot of people round here feel the same way. The vast majority of people that know Willie would want him to remain, definitely.'

At the time of going to press, Conaglen Estate factor David Mosgrove had not responded to requests for a comment.

Urgent call to get behind sports plans

THE CHAIRWOMAN of Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) has called on all Highland Council candidates in Lochaber to back the on-going sports facilities projects in the area.

LSA is currently waiting to hear if it has received funding from Highland LEADER to move plans for an indoor training facility forward, while Highland Council wants to create an artificial 3G pitch in the town.

Jane Blanchard said carrying out two separate feasibility studies would be 'crazy, costly and potentially destructive' and called for the projects to

work more closely with help from councillors. Ms Blanchard said: 'It is clear that these projects are not only inextricably linked, but that a successful outcome for either, or both, will be dependent on working on that premise.'

'We would be very grateful if we could meet with the newly elected members as a matter of extreme urgency.'

She added: 'We will achieve nothing unless we pull together, without further delay, in the best interests of the physical and mental wellbeing of our whole community.'

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Police files

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a man attempted to break into the Hawco car garage on Ardgour Road, Caol, at around 8am on Saturday.

Northern Constabulary want to hear from anyone who was in the vicinity of the Volkswagen dealership at the time. The suspect is thought to be approximately 5 feet 10 inches, slim build and was wearing dark clothing at the time.

The garage was also broken into in February.

DAMAGE was caused to a vehicle parked in the rear of Torlundy Road, Fort William, sometime between 6pm on Tuesday April 17 and 6am on Wednesday April 18.

A CAR parked in Macmillan Place, Caol, was damaged at around 12.50am on Thursday April 19.

Anyone with knowledge of these incidents should contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000. Members of the public may also report any crime, offence or anything suspicious by phoning Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Corpach in Colour to run competition

THE RUNNING of the Kilmallie garden competition has been taken over by local group Corpach in Colour for this year.

Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) had previously run the contest, which was last held in 2008. KCC member Kshama Wilmington will be one of the judges for the competition.

Election count

IONAD Spòrs Leòdhais (Lewis Sports Centre) will be closed until 2pm on Friday May 4 in order to hold the count for elections to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.



Firemen's lift: Clint MacLeod and Pat McElhinney holding Lina Herrington, with artist Nick Simpson.

Calendar sales boost children's charity

A CALENDAR featuring topless firemen from across Lochaber has raised more than £11,500 over the past 12 months for a children's charity.

The money from the Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service campaign is being donated to Scottish Burned Children's Club, which helps children who have been scarred, physically and psychologically, by fire or scalding.

Around 1,800 copies of the calendar have been sold so far, with a few copies remaining

for sale on Facebook and Ebay to anyone wanting to get their hands on one.

It was launched at an auction night at the Ben Nevis Hotel in October, where each month's model posed on stage before pictures of them were auctioned off.

Auction

In the run up to the night, Glasgow woman Lina Herrington won an online auction for a large canvas print of the firemen, made by Spean Bridge man Nick Simpson, for £85.

Ms Herrington decided to return the artwork to allow it to be auctioned in an effort to raise even more money.

The picture was bought by the Fort William Fire Station for £280. Mr Simpson made a smaller version of the canvas and presented Ms Herrington with it at the hotel last Thursday night after she travelled up from Glasgow.

Ms Herrington told The Oban Times: 'The auction didn't raise as much as I thought it could, so I gave it back to them to sell

on the night and they managed to get lots of money, which was great. I'm friends of some of the guys. It's such a good cause and I just wanted to do something to raise awareness.'

HIFRS group manager Pat McElhinney said: 'We want to say thanks to everyone who came along, donated money and helped out, especially Nick and Brian Hume [hotel manager], who gave us the room and food for free. We raised a lot of money on the night, and through the calendar and donations.'

Canal land talks labelled 'damp squib'

THE LATEST round of public talks about the possible development of land next to the Caledonian Canal between Corpach and Gairloch has been labelled a damp squib by local residents.

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

British Waterways Scotland, recently renamed Scottish Canals, met with members of the public at the Moorings Hotel last Thursday to discuss the results of its public consultation held in September.

After being forced to withdraw proposals for two homes next to Neptune's Staircase at Banavie due to public pressure in 2010, Scottish Canals decided to develop a strategy for the entire lower section of the canal.

But Banavie resident Jan McLugash, a member of local pressure group Friends of the Caledonian Canal Lochaber, told The Oban Times the consultation had been 'a bit of a non-event'.

'There was a very good turnout and interest is still high

in the area, but it's just a shame we didn't know in advance there wasn't going to be any updates.'

'They said there will be a two-day event later this year where they will properly discuss their plans and tell us what they got from the last consultation.'

Scottish Canals strategic planning manager Mark Smith told The Oban Times the next talks would either be held in June or September.

He said: 'It was just a feedback session. We are following all the steps of the consultation process, and it's a process which unfortunately has some fairly uninspiring moments as well as the more inspiring ones.'

Meanwhile, there have been calls for the A830 swing bridge over the canal at Banavie to stick to a timetable so residents would know when it would be closed for road traffic.

The bridge, which swings back to allow boats through the waterway, currently does not open for boats between 8.30am-9am and 1.30pm-2pm, but can be operated to close the road at all other times.

Kilmallie Community Council member and local resident Jillian Clark told last Wednesday's KCC meeting the issue was 'a big problem'. She said: 'In this day and age we should know when it will be shut. I can't understand why British Waterways can't just produce a timetable. It seems mad a main road like that can be closed for one week.'

Scottish Canals' John Stafford said: 'The boat movements vary so much, and we're only closed on average three or four times a day for about 10 minutes.'

'There's lots of informal things set up at the moment, and if we were to formalise them it might have some knock-on effects. We try to keep any disruptions down as much as possible.'

Celebrations set to mark Mallaig marina opening

MALLAIG will become a 'must visit' destination for west coast yachts when its new marina is officially launched tomorrow.

The opening ceremony at noon will take place on the recently established yachting shorebase - a land reclamation scheme that formed part of the new £950,000 development at the Lochaber port.

Officials from Donegal County Council (DCC) are set to attend the celebrations along with Mallaig Harbour Authority personnel and local primary school children - who helped design the marina logo.

The Irish representatives are the driving force behind the EU-funded Sail West project, which

links Scotland and Ireland under one marine tourism banner. Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Highland Council delegates will also attend.

The marina, completed in September 2011, comprises berthing for up to 48 yachts with water and electricity available at each.

Harbour authority chairman Michael Currie said: 'We are delighted with the facility and indebted to all agencies who contributed to its creation. We are looking forward to our inaugural 2012 summer season - it's set to be an exciting time at the port.'

Gary Martin from DCC, chairman of the Sail West project steering committee, who will be

at the launch event, said: 'The investment in Mallaig is one of the larger capital schemes approved under Sail West and I congratulate the Mallaig partners as the result is very impressive.'

'Sail West is a very ambitious marine tourism project currently consisting of twenty mostly public sector partners from across Ireland, Northern Ireland and the West of Scotland.'

'The benefit of joint partner collaboration is evident in the schemes being implemented in likes of Mallaig, Ballycastle in Northern Ireland and at Culdaff in County Donegal.'

'That will make sailing more appealing, and likewise the introduction of the new marine tourism brand MalinWaters and the MalinWaters.com website can prove to be a key marine tourism driver for the partner region.'

A new website has been created. Although www.mallaig-yachting-marina.com is still a work in progress, it can now be accessed.

The new facility was part funded under the Sail West project and co-financed by Mallaig Harbour Authority, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and by The Highland Council. Sail West is funded through the EU's INTERREG IVA programme.

Friends of Nevis Spring Litter Blitz

LOCAL charity Friends of Nevis (FoN) is aiming to get Ben and Glen Nevis into shape for the summer season with its annual Spring Litter Blitz on Sunday.

The popular event gives families, individuals and groups the chance to take care of one of Scotland's most beautiful glens.

Helpers are asked to meet up for tea and coffee/collection of equipment at 10.45 in the Ben Nevis Highland Centre at Nevis Bridge. FoN co-ordinator Liz Wilshaw said: 'Litter picking continues to be one of our core activities. It's an enjoyable and rewarding day out for anyone who wants to put something back into this fantastic area.'

The event usually lasts till round 4pm - with lunch served in Braveheart car park at 1.15pm.

Volunteers are asked to register in advance by emailing info@friendsofnevis.co.uk or calling 01397 701088.



Walter Cameron Way's oldest resident Phyl Tebbet, 94, cuts the cake held by long time resident Sally Johnstone, who has lived there for 20 years.

Residents and staff gather as housing complex reaches 30-year milestone

RESIDENTS and staff of a Corpach sheltered housing complex celebrated 30 years since it opened with food, drink and music last week.

The milestone was marked at Walter Cameron Way, Drumfada Terrace, where family members and supporters also joined in the afternoon celebrations.

The complex's oldest resident, 94-year-old Phyl Tebbet, and long time resident, Sally Johnstone, who has lived at the Hanover Housing Association-run development for 20 years, jointly cut the specially-designed cake.

After the food, around 40 partygoers were entertained by singer Larry Burns and several presents were gifted to residents and staff to mark the special anniversary.

Sheltered housing manager Maureen Fair said: 'We were delighted that friends, family members and supporters could come along and share in our celebration with us. We had a lovely afternoon and the residents really enjoyed the event.'

She added: 'Hanover has always strived to provide a quality, independent standard of living for our residents and one that is affordable.'

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Down Your Way

Taynuilt



Willie is congratulated by Taynuilt Primary School children in 2006 after being named Lollipop Person of the Year.

AN AWARD-winning lollipop man is settling into retired life – for the second time. Willie Campbell was 17 years as a janitor at Taynuilt Primary School, working in both the old and new schools. But on retirement as a janitor he was convinced by village policeman Davy Paterson to take on the road crossing patrol post after Rhoda MacGregor stepped down. Willie, who is fighting fit at 78 years of age, said he was overwhelmed by the number of gifts and cards he received on his retirement. 'I want to thank everyone who has been so generous, the children and the parents,' he added. In 2006 Willie was rewarded for his service after being named Lollipop Person of the Year for his region and the award sits proudly in his living room. 'It is always a memory of the job,' he says. 'I think of the people I put across the road. I did it for so long that some of these children are now married with children of their own. 'I'm getting on a bit and I think I have done my bit for the school and the children. 'I wanted to retire while I am fairly fit and while I can still get around the garden and the golf course.'



Work is well underway to erect a polytunnel at Taynuilt Primary School, which will allow the primary and nursery children to grow their own vegetables. An extension to the building is also under construction, allowing for more classroom space as the school reaches capacity. 15.177school01

WEEDS that have become an eyesore on undeveloped ground in the centre of Taynuilt village are causing concern ahead of the summer season.

But the landowner says he is trying to manage the wild plants while he waits to hear back from council planners. Gary MacPherson plans to develop the land, where the former Seonaid's sweet shop used to stand, and has approached Argyll and Bute Council planners as to what type of development would be suitable. He said: 'We are waiting on the planners coming back to say what we can do with it. In the meantime we are trying to maintain the land.' Mr MacPherson said having been made aware of the community's concern, he would arrange for the area to be tidied up.



Overgrown weeds have become a concern in Taynuilt.

CHILDREN at Taynuilt Primary School have been getting more active recently.

The school ran a three-week course in Zumba, the dance fitness craze sweeping the country. Meanwhile, plans are afoot to restart clan football matches.



Sitting in pride of place at the first tee at Taynuilt Golf Club is the new clubhouse. The building is open to visitors and has a function room and changing rooms for members. 15.117clubhouse01

Next week, Down Your Way visits Brae Lochaber.

MALLAIG

MALLAIG fishermen's wives are among those being invited to join a choir to raise funds for The Fishermen's Mission. Essex woman Jane Dolby is putting together a singing group called 'The Fishwives', which will be made up of womenfolk connected to fishermen from all around the UK. Her plan is to record a single and have all profits go to The Fishermen's Mission charity. Three years ago, Jane lost her trawlerman husband Colin when he died at sea after his fishing vessel was caught in a freak storm just off the Essex coast. She has four children and at the time, the youngest child was just three years old. Any women from Mallaig or elsewhere who have fishing connections and would like to help can email The Fishwives at contact@deliciouspr.com or visit www.facebook.com/theFishwives.

ARDGOUR

ARDGOUR Community Council is considering creating a website to keep local people updated with events, news and ACC decisions. ACC representatives have spoken with Kilmallie Community Council following their successful website launch last year.

CONNEL

YACHTS stranded on the shore next to the Falls of Lora car park in Connel should be back in the water in the coming weeks. Connel Community Council had expressed concern that the yachts could become an eyesore and had considered contacting the MCA's receiver for wrecks to have the boats removed under the abandoned vehicles act. However the owners have returned to repair their vessels and hope to refloat them at the next high tide. Community councillor, Les Stewart, said: 'I think having the story in *The Oban Times* made the difference as they soon came forward.'

DUNBEG

THE SCOTTISH Association for Marine Science, (SAMS), has been named April's Life Sciences Scotland's organisation of the month. Life Sciences Scotland is the gateway to Scotland's life sciences community, and the feature focuses on the facility's expertise in algal biofuels, harmful algae and shellfish toxins. It also highlights SAMS' success business incubator facility, the European Centre for Marine Biotechnology and the construction of the European Marine Science Park on the institute's doorstep.

GAIRLOCH

Rare photo of soldier turns up in attic

A RARE photograph of an Indian soldier will go on display during research for the WWII and Arctic Convoy Week in Wester Ross – after it turned up in an attic in Gairloch. Loch Ewe was the assembly point for the Arctic convoys to the Soviet Union from 1941-45 and a local group, the Russian Arctic Convoy Museum Project, wants to build the museum so their heroic story can be told. The team has been interviewing local people who lived through the war with the aim of documenting their memories to build a picture of what life was like around Loch Ewe in wartime. The findings are proving very valuable, not just for the convoy week exhibitions – but to leading experts on Indian Military history. Museum project vice chairman Jacky Brookes said: 'One of our team interviewed a local lady who lived in Inverdale during WWII and she said she remembered the Indians coming into Poolewe shop. In fact, she said she thought she had a picture of one of the officers. A few minutes later she came back with this picture.'



Librarian Yasmeen Hollenstein, who is helping to organise the Indian Army exhibition, with the rare photograph of the Indian soldier.

ARDNAMURCHAN



Richard Lochhead, the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, dropped in to the Nàdurra Visitor Centre at Glenmore on the Ardnamurchan peninsula on April 12. On a short visit to the area with his family, Mr Lochhead had a tour of the centre's facilities, which include an interactive exhibition describing local flora and fauna of the area and a live camera link to a nearby tree-top colony of herons. Mr Lochhead, centre, is pictured with John and Andrea Polak of the Nàdurra Visitor Centre.

BARCALDINE



Barcaldine Primary School pupils won the Cup for Endeavour at the recent North Lorn Drama Festival. This is the first time in a number of years that the children from Barcaldine have taken part and they were delighted to win their award.

CRANLARICH

CRANLARICH into Action (CIA) will this week approach Stirling Council in a bid to formally lease Lower Station Yard. Having recently organised a community clean of the area, the group hopes that by taking out a 10 year lease, it can be further improved for the benefit of the community. CIA is also investigating whether kerbs can be lowered there for better access. MOVES are afoot to build a new cycle path between Cranlarich and Tyndrum. Strathfillan Community Council and the Strathfillan Development Trust met with Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Board to discuss the plans, which is anticipated will take between three to five years. Cranlarich into Action (CIA) will work in partnership with the national park's John Forth on the project.

SKYE

THE FIRST in a series of talks by British artists to be held on the Isle of Skye will be held on Saturday May 5. ATLAS Arts' Talking Art series will give people on the island to hear and speak directly to artists, such as Harris sculptor Steve Dilworth. The first presentation, at Tigh na Sgìre will be given by Edinburgh-based artist Craig Coulthard, whose latest work is 'Forest Pitch' – a full sized football pitch hidden within a forest in the Borders. ATLAS director Emma Nicolson said: 'This is great opportunity to engage with some of the most exciting visual artists working in Scotland today.'

OBAN

TO A full house at the Undercroft, Glenclrudden, Dr Clare Ellis of Argyll Archaeology gave an illustrated account of her recent excavations around Oban at Glenshellach and the Dunbeg area. Dr Ellis went on to tell members of Lorn Archaeological and History large number of visitors and the proceeds have financially helped Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ile, The Ella Edgar Dancers and the local pipe band. These are all organisations which greatly nurture and encourage youngsters to celebrate their musical and cultural roots. The club has re-appointed Andrew McCowan as its chairman, Margaret Aitchison still holds the purse strings and Catriona Bell continues to wield the secretaries pen. Others in the production line-up are Sheena Campbell, Libby Morris, Linda Currie and John MacGillivray. This year's summer programme kicks off in Ballygrant village hall on May 15. BIRTHDAY boy HEARTY congratulations to Lagavulin painting contractor Peter MacNiven who has now reached his three score years and ten. Friends and family wish 'Peter the painter' many happy returns and further days of paste and varnish. Slàinte mhath. Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658.

ISLAY LETTER

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GLENCOE

GLENCOE Heritage Trust reports progress on compiling a collection of old photographs for an exhibition on images of local life it is planning in early summer. Secretary Ros MacDonald says one picture submitted depicts men in bowler hats, raincoats and black funeral attire in a big rowing boat, on their way out to a funeral on the ancient burial islet of the MacDonalds in Loch Leven, Eilean Munde. 'There's stories that they had to take soil across as well, because there was not enough for the burials,' Ros said. The trust welcomes any old photographs depicting local people at work, school days, weddings or any theme likely to be of interest. All photos will be scanned and handed back to their owners.

KINLOCHLEVEN

KINLOCHLEVEN Angling Club, Kinlochleven Community Council and Kinlochleven Community Trust (KCT) have teamed up to organise a community litter pick on Saturday. Volunteers will meet at 10am in front of the former public toilets and the three organisations are looking for as many people as possible to help clean up the village ahead of the tourist season. Anyone who can give some time should contact Moira at the KCT office on 01855 831779 or get in touch with any member of the angling club or community council. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided at the trust office. Moira said: 'Please come along and help tidy our village. Everyone is welcome.'

STROMEFERRY

HIGHLAND Council reopened the A890 between Lochcarron and Kyle/Plockton on Monday after four months of repairs to an unstable rock face at Stromeferry. Only minor delays are now likely to allow the removal of vegetation to be completed and all traffic restrictions removed, hopefully by May 4. This is the first time the road has been able to fully re-open since a rock fall on December 22. Neil Gillies, director of transport, environmental and community services said: 'My thanks again go to local communities for their patience and understanding during the period of closure.'

STRATHFILLAN

STRATHFILLAN Community Council has received a grant for £760 from Stirling Council's community pride fund for new flower tubs in Cranlarich and Tyndrum. The application also included money for materials, compost and seeds/plants for three vegetable boxes to be placed in and around Cranlarich for residents to use over the growing season. Which vegetables will be decided later.

ARISAIG

ARISAIG Community Trust has taken over running of the Land, Sean and Island Centre in the village. The Trust has installed a phone line and broadband to allow members of the public to use to the internet via the wi-fi connection. The community run project in the centre of the village opened in 1999 and displays photographs and artefacts which tell the social and natural history of the area.

OBAN

Two ladies from Dalmlally Institute kindly counted the votes submitted by members to elect a committee for the 2012-13 session. Miss T MacKay has agreed to continue as president for another year. All other positions will be decided at a committee meeting in May. An excellent tea was provided by Vita Williams and Christine Milne. A very happy evening was enjoyed by everyone present. The first meeting of the 2012-13 session will take place on October 3 2012. Visitors welcome.

Around the Rurals

Kilbrandon

PRESIDENT Linda Brown welcomed members and visitors to the April meeting of Kilbrandon SWRI, held recently in Seil Island Hall. Linda welcomed Dr Sharon Webb, Director and Curator of Kilmartin House Museum who gave a most interesting and informative talk on the archaeology and history of Argyll.

With illustrations of artefacts such as jewellery and cooking utensils, and of poignant sites such as the carefully-arranged grave of a young woman and baby, Dr Webb really brought history to life, giving a fascinating glimpse into the lives of those occupying the landscape of Argyll thousands of years before us. Betty Clark gave the vote of thanks for a talk, which reminded everyone how lucky we are to live in an area so rich in prehistoric remains.

Lochawe

THE BUSINESS meeting of Lochawe Institute was held in Lochawe Village Hall on April 4. Two ladies from Dalmlally Institute kindly counted the votes submitted by members to elect a committee for the 2012-13 session. Miss T MacKay has agreed to continue as president for another year. All other positions will be decided at a committee meeting in May. An excellent tea was provided by Vita Williams and Christine Milne. A very happy evening was enjoyed by everyone present. The first meeting of the 2012-13 session will take place on October 3 2012. Visitors welcome.



Hopes are high that the corncrake will again return in numbers this spring. Photograph by Bill Bouton.

TIREE

The island's RSPB officer, John Bowler, said: 'These are fairly typical arrival dates for the very first birds – most will arrive towards the end of the month and into May. 'Fingers crossed for another good year for them on the Argyll islands.'

New chairman

KEILLS resident Hamish Campbell is the new chairman of the local Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) branch management group committee.

He takes over from Captain Malcolm T Anderson who has been at the helm of the group for close on 12 years.

Paying tribute to his predecessor, the new chairman described Captain Anderson's contribution to the branch as outstanding and referred to him as being a 'worthy and dedicated ambassador' for the island lifeboat both locally and much further afield.

Captain Anderson, who lives in Port Wemyss and is better known to everyone as Calum, will continue to serve on the management committee.

Members of the branch's fundraising committee, under the leadership of Margaret Hastie, have also been busy over the past year with a distinct presence at many of the major events in the local social calendar. As a result, they have raised

£2,007.40 for the lifesaving charity.

This outstanding total reflects the sterling efforts of Margaret and her committee and highlights the continuing generosity of both local and visiting supporters.

The Port Askaig-based lifeboat station has also appointed Graham Paterson as one of its launching authority personnel.

Coffee mornings

THE FIRST of the new series of Round Church coffee mornings takes place in Bowmore Buffet Hall on Saturday April 28 at 10.30am.

Admission is £3 and money raised will be used to maintain the hall.

These coffee, cake and chat get together will continue until the end of November.

Gardening cadets

A GROUP of 21 naval cadets from the Manchester and Salford University's Royal Navy Unit showed their green fingered skills when they carried out improvements at the island's community garden at Bridgend during the Easter break. The cadets' assistance greatly forwarded the cultivation progress and also resulted in the planting of a number of fruit trees in the orchard area.

The gardening detachment was led by Lieutenant Commander Louis Gardiner from the patrol and training vessel HMS Biter which was moored at Bruichladdich pier at Lochindaal. Lieutenant Commander Gardiner is no stranger to these airts as he previously commanded the nuclear submarine HMS Vanguard which is strongly affiliated to Islay and Jura.

The horticultural efforts of the cadets, and those of many other volunteers, will be in evidence when the community garden hosts a family open day on May 26.

Kilmény ceilidh

MONTHLY ceilidhs organised by Kilmény Ceilidh Club were among the most successful of the island's Highland entertainment projects during 2011.

The four weekly events attracted both locals and a

Renewed call for one-way Pulpit Hill traffic

Narrow twisting road 'an accident waiting to happen', claims resident

A TWISTING road to an Oban housing development has been branded an 'accident waiting to happen' amid calls for a one-way system to be put in place.

Pulpit Drive resident Sandra McCall claims the only reason cars have not collided is because motorists 'have good brakes'.

Locals regularly have to reverse into driveways to allow other vehicles to pass - leading Mrs McCall to call for a one-way system.

Minor accidents have already occurred - Mrs McCall herself hit crash barriers while reversing uphill round blind bends because the barriers were too low for her car's sensors.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'This estate went up 30 years ago. The roads were not designed for all

the lorries we have now with deliveries, and cars are much bigger than they were then.

'There is much more traffic than there used to be. I've had to reverse uphill round blind bends, you don't know what's coming behind you. It's terrifying.'

Sandra put a questionnaire through letterboxes to see if her neighbours agreed - and was so encouraged by the response she contacted Argyll and Bute Council.

She said: 'I've had 35 households saying they think one-way is a good idea. Only two are against it.'

'I think it is only because everyone here drives so well and we all have good brakes that there are no more accidents.'

A council spokeswoman told

The Oban Times: 'The proposal to have one-way traffic on Cranraig a Mhinister and Glenmore Road was considered 20 years ago and was again considered about 10 years ago.'

'It was rejected on both occasions because it was considered the anticipated benefits would be outweighed by the drawbacks including long diversions for those living at either end resulting in increased traffic and increased traffic speeds.'

'The council will review this in the coming months looking at accident statistics, other issues and possible solutions.'

Mrs McCall has invited network and environment manager Neil Brown to see the problem for himself, but has to date received no reply.



Sandra at one of the blind bends. 'There is just not room for two cars,' she says. 16_117pulpit01



Short Sighted Kids

If you have children, particularly teenagers, who are myopic (short sighted) you will be familiar with the ritual of visiting your optician or optometrist every year. Each year you will be told that their myopia has increased and they need stronger glasses. For ninety nine per cent of my profession and the medical profession this annual ritual is written in stone. I am delighted to inform you this need not be true anymore.

I have just spent an absolutely fascinating five days in Arizona with two hundred of the world's leading experts in myopia control. As someone who is moderately myopic I have always been envious of people with "perfect" eye sight. The problem with modern lifestyles is we are making our children myopic at an incredible rate. When I was a youngster (pre computer and almost pre television) myopia was relatively rare. Around 6% of children suffered. Today that figure in many western communities is 40% and in urban Chinese it is 90%. The situation is so bad the World Health Organisation has officially designated myopia as an epidemic.

In Phoenix I learned, as an optometrist, I have the potential to dramatically reduce the rate of increase in myopia our children are suffering. The causes of myopia are many. Perhaps the most obvious cause is excessive close work. As a society we no longer permit our children to play outdoors. Letting our children out to play and limiting time spent on computers and reading can have significant benefits for their eyesight.

If your child is already myopic I learnt it is possible to dramatically reduce how fast the eye grows and, therefore, reduce the rate of increase in myopia by up to 75%. Our children's future need not be blurred.

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



Sheila MacInnes prepares to walk down to the Isles of Glencoe Hotel with friend Yvonne Wilson, mum Rose McLafferty and Crossroads care attendant Christina MacLeod from Kentallen, one of Sheila's team. 20_177shiea01

Crossroads cash boost

A CHARITY fundraiser for Crossroads in Scotland Lochaber, at Ballachulish Community Hall on Saturday, has raised around £2,000.

Events on the day included a sponsored cycle round Loch Leven, while local woman Sheila MacInnes raised £500 on a charity walk from her home in the village to the Isles of Glencoe Hotel.

Crossroads' Lochaber staff have greatly assisted Sheila in her recovery from a life-threatening stroke. Sheila's husband, a worker on a North

Sea rig, collected £100 from workmates for the event, which was organised by local women Carrine Moffat and Jo Watt.

A bouncy castle, lucky dip, tombola, teas, and a grand raffle at the hall all helped to boost the total.

Crossroads in Scotland Lochaber service manager Elspeth Napier told *The Oban Times*: 'We are delighted with the tremendous total. It is essential for people to support us - everything we raise here is spent in Lochaber on local families.'

New lifeboat officially named

A NEW lifeboat was officially named on Friday in front of nearly 100 guests at the RNLI's inshore lifeboat station at Kyle of Lochalsh.

And the ceremony to christen *The Spirit of Fred Olsen* struck a musical note with performances from Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band and students at the National Centre for Excellence in Traditional Music at Ploekton.

Sir Andrew Cubie, joint deputy chairman of the RNLI, and Ross McKerlich, lifeboat operations manager at Kyle both made speeches and Rev Roddie Rankin led the service of dedication.

The 45-minute ceremony also included a presentation of gifts and cutting of a cake. The walls of the lifeboat station were adorned with more than 100 pictures drawn by children from seven schools.

Guests on board four Fred Olsen cruise ships raised £91,000 towards the £180,000 cost of the Atlantic 85 class boat - and the company paid the rest.

The boat is the fourth in the RNLI to be bought by Fred Olsen guests.

Faster

Paul Jennings, RNLI divisional inspector in Scotland, said: 'The Atlantic 85 class boat is faster, by several knots, it is longer and

heavier and it can take a crew of four which is one more than the Atlantic 75 class.

Kyle's new boat is fitted with radar and VHF direction finding equipment and can be operated safely in daylight in a force 6/7 and at night in a force 5/6. It also has more space for people who we have rescued.'

The new boat, which arrived at Kyle in December, had its first service on March 27 when local RNLI volunteers evacuated an injured Dutch female walker from a rocky coastline near Broadford after she fell and dislocated her shoulder.

Grateful

Jeremy Hatton, Fred Olsen sales services manager, who attended the naming ceremony, said: 'We are enormously grateful to all our guests, whose generosity has made this lifeboat possible.'

'Our association with the RNLI has been going strong since the 1960's and will no doubt continue for many years.'



It's all smiles at Kyle: Sir Andrew Cubie, centre, deputy chairman of the RNLI, with RNLI crew and Fred Olsen representatives at the *The Spirit of Fred Olsen* naming ceremony.

Catalogue of errors led to grounding of sub

A REPORT into the grounding of the nuclear submarine HMS Astute on a sandbank near Skye has found a catalogue of errors led to its stranding.

The Royal Navy submarine came into difficulty on the evening of October 22, 2010 during a boat-to-boat transfer exercise.

In its report, the Royal Navy says a series of procedural and technical difficulties specific to the submarine were at fault for the incident, which caused significant damage to the vessel.

There was no dedicated plan, no electronic navigation aids - meaning crew were operating from charts. However, a chart was not on the bridge at the time.

Radar was not available until too late, despite it being dark.

Ramsay Hall repair nearing completion

PORT Ellen's Ramsay Hall is a step closer to reopening as Argyll and Bute Council begins negotiating prices for remaining minor repairs.

The public hall on the Isle of Islay had its roof blown off in storms at the beginning of January and a roof repair has since been completed.

A council spokeswoman said: 'Now that the building has had an opportunity to dry out, we are in the process of negotiating prices with an Islay based contractor to complete minor repairs, plasterwork and re-decoration.'

Argyll Voluntary Action
 NHS Highland
Argyll Community Health Partnership
 Celebrating Voluntary Action in Argyll and Bute

Annual Volunteer Awards 2012 nominations are now open - this is your opportunity to reward an individual or group you value for their voluntary work.

- Categories for nomination
- Individual Volunteer of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Voluntary organisation of the year
- Local Timebank Heroes
- This year 2 new categories!

Social Enterprise of the Year sponsored by Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network
 Health Volunteer of the Year sponsored by NHS Highland and Argyll Community Health Partnership

AWARDS TAKING PLACE 8TH JUNE AT KILMORY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCHGILPHEAD
 For nominations, please visit your local AVA office, call 01631 564839, email Antonia@argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk, or download at www.argyllcommunities.org. Nominations close 4th May

Supported by:

Got a story?
 Call our newsdesks on 01631 568000 or 01397 703003

A82 road improvements a step closer

THE A82 Pulpit Rock improvement scheme has taken a step forward after the notice for the main contract was announced.

Signalling the start of the procurement process, Transport Scotland has published the Europe-wide contract notice for the works that are expected to start in spring next year. The improvements will involve the provision of a new 0.4km single two-lane carriageway.

Included are a new viaduct structure running parallel to the loch shoreline for 180 metres and online widening of the existing carriageway north of the viaduct.

The works will result in traffic signals being removed from the location after 30 years and the road upgraded to enable the free flow of traffic.

Cost

Construction is expected to last for around one year and the anticipated cost for the scheme is £11 million.

Longer than average life expectancy in Argyll

PEOPLE in Argyll and Bute are living longer than elsewhere in Scotland, according to a new study.

The research, conducted by the local Community Health Partnership, found that the average life expectancy for a man here is 75.8 years and for a woman it is 80.4 years. This compares to 74.5 and 79.5 respectively for Scotland as a whole.

FREE FUEL UP FOR GRABS!

Petrol and diesel prices are soaring these days, particularly in the West Highlands and Islands. So, The Oban Times has decided to help and give one lucky reader a free tank of fuel to the value of £100!

To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer this question and enter by phone or text:
Of the following options, which is the most common type of fuel used in vehicles?
 a) Petrol b) Whisky c) Water

call 0901 293 0450
 and follow instructions
or text FUEL

followed by a space, your answer (a, b or c), name and town to 88010. Calls cost £1.02 from a BT landline. Other networks will vary and calls from mobiles will cost considerably more. Text messages cost £1.02 plus one message at standard network rate. Calls and texts from UK and Northern Ireland only. Lines open Wednesday, April 25 at 6pm and close midnight, Wednesday, May 2, 2012.

Calls cost £1.02 from a BT landline. Other networks will vary and calls from mobiles will cost considerably more. Text messages cost £1.02 plus one message at standard network rate. Entries made after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged. Entrants must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. The £100 will be paid to the winner in the form of a cheque. The winner will be contacted via telephone. The prize is as stated. The Editor's decision is final. Winners with the correct answer will be chosen at random. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and their name may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk.

1st meeting of the Argyll Woodfuel Forum

Tue 8th May 11am - 3pm, Portavadie Marina and **the WoodCHIP shop**

This event is free to all with an interest in biomass heating, local woodfuel supply, RHI and financing, CHP, boiler and stove installation

To book a place please contact:
caroline@thewoodchipshop.co.uk
 07824998400,
 by Thursday 3rd May

Logos: Argyll and Bute, green heat, Forrestry Commission Scotland, ALIENERGY

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Local Government Elections 2012

QUESTIONS about rural schools, jobs, housing and care for the elderly all need answered – by the people who aim to represent you for the next five years.

Many big issues are being raised by candidates and voters in the run up to the local government elections taking place across the country and here we give the candidates – your potential councillors – the opportunity to tell you exactly what their intentions are.

The Oban Times contacted all of those standing in wards 1 and 2 in the Western Isles and wards 11, 12 and 22 in the Highlands.

However, Peter Carlin, standing as an independent in Ward 1 – Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas, Allan Macleod, standing as an independent in Ward 1 – Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas, Eric Wallis, standing as an independent in Ward 1 – Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh,

Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas, Michael Maclean, standing as an independent in Ward 2 – Beinn na Foghla agus Uibhist a Tuath and Uisdean Robertson, standing as an independent in Ward 2 – Beinn na Foghla agus Uibhist a Tuath either chose not to submit a profile or did not respond to our request for candidate profiles.

This also applies to Andrew Mackintosh, standing for Scottish Labour in Ward 11 Eilean a' Cheò and Elizabeth Siggers, standing for the Scottish Conservatives in Ward 12 – Caol and Mallaig.

The polls will open at 7am and close at 10pm on Thursday May 3. You can find your nearest polling station on council websites.

Results are expected the following day with four councillors elected for ward 1 and three for ward 2.

There will also be four councillors elected for both wards 11 and 22 and three for ward 12.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar - Candidates

Gerry Macleod

SNP

Ward 1 – Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas



I have been a councillor in this ward since 2007 and have worked with many groups during that time to bring improvements to local infrastructure.

When dealing with major capital projects the council should word tenders so that there is more local benefit from large capital contracts.

More needs to be done to protect services delivered by the council under its statutory duties and I, with the help of the SNP group on Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, would seek to protect these services from cuts imposed by Westminster.

WARD 1

Calum MacMillan

Independent

Ward 1 – Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas



The current planning restrictions imposed by SNH and other organisations into the planning process is causing a logjam in the local economy.

The proposals by SNH for marine SACs will exacerbate the economic stranglehold that these government bodies are trying to impose on islands in an attempt to encourage depopulation and turn these islands into a nature reserve. St Kilda and the other empty islands are an example of what happens when the SNH policies to reduce the economic viability of the islands are successful. We must work towards reducing negative effects that these organisations have on the islands' economy.

WARD 1

Donald Manford

SNP

Ward 1 – Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas



My main interest lies in serving my constituents and enhancing the welfare of our islands. Improved infrastructure for transport, mobile phone and broadband services and the economy are essential as is equality of services throughout the islands.

I support the Parent Councils of Eriskay and Eoligarry schools to retain their schools. I will continue to campaign for fair fuel prices to allow us to continue to live in the communities we care about.

Serving has been a privilege, and if re-elected I pledge myself to work for everyone in this ward and in our endeavours to improve our everyday lives.

WARD 1

Donnie Steele

Independent

Ward 1 – Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas



I am standing because I really believe I have something to offer the people and communities of Barra, Watersay, Eriskay & South Uist.

I am young, enthusiastic, passionate about and committed to the islands.

There are plenty issues at present, and budgets are tight but we can prosper. Proper discussions, sensible decisions, and common sense are the way forward (something that has been lacking in the past).

However I am not the messiah, I recognise that I will not be able to resolve all the problems but I will try and I will listen.

WARD 1



Highland Council - Candidates

John Crews

Scottish Conservatives

Ward 11 – Eilean a' Cheò



I believe that people in the Highlands and Islands are fundamentally 'conservative' – with a small 'c' – not the conservatism reflected in the Posh Tories of London.

Communications are key to prosperity and we must offer a properly co-ordinated transport

system and ensure that all homes and businesses have access to high speed broadband.

Committing to renewable energy doesn't mean riding roughshod over local communities whose input and support is essential. I support a United Kingdom because I firmly believe that we will all be better off in every way, if we work together in pursuit of common aims.

WARD 11

Moira Scobbie

Independent

Ward 11 – Eilean a' Cheò



The fundamental elements of our community – education, health, transport, planning – are designed in cities, for cities and are failing our remote and rural population. Eilean a' Cheò deserves better than hand-me-down schemes that fail older people, that fail young families and that fail crofting townships across the area.

I have eighteen years experience of working in local and Scottish government, so I have seen at first hand how local councillors can make a difference for their community. It takes energy, tenacity and commitment – all qualities that I will bring to getting a better deal for Skye and Raasay.

WARD 11

Bill Clark

Independent

Ward 12 – Caol and Mallaig



Taxpayers and their families are the most important people in Lochaber. Whatever administration is in place, whatever its priorities or whatever levels of finance it sees fit to set, councillors must do their utmost to ensure that the delivery of services to people improves.

Councillors must scrutinise the delivery of all services and be the first point of contact when residents cannot access services they require. If we are willing to put our names forward for election, we should accept that we have a duty of care and make ourselves available at all times during our term in office.

WARD 12

Allan Henderson

Independent

Ward 12 – Caol and Mallaig



Thank you for trusting me with your vote for the past five years. I hope I have not disappointed you as councillor and Lochaber Provost.

On balance I believe that I have been part of a good team that has delivered and commenced many excellent projects in Lochaber, during challenging financial times.

These range from the Blar Mor development, community schools, Mallaig Marina, school hostel and the A830 Arisaig Gardens upgrade. I will strive to lobby for a new hospital, care facilities for the elderly, upgraded roads, rail and ferries as well as demanding clearance of scrub to enhance sightlines.

WARD 12

Eddie Hunter

Independent

Ward 12 – Caol and Mallaig



My name is Eddie Hunter and I am asking for your support at the council elections on May 3.

As an independent candidate I can represent all the people in our area without the pressure of toeing any party line.

I have lived and worked in our area for most of my life, as a teacher, depute head teacher and head teacher. For the past five years it has been my privilege to have represented you on the Highland Council. I firmly believe that working together, harnessing the energy, ideas and commitment of our communities we can achieve much more.

WARD 12

Andrew Baxter

Independent

Ward 22 – Fort William and Ardnamurchan



We need councillors who will stand up for our area. Someone to shine a spotlight on council secrecy and the decisions made behind closed doors.

Someone working with others to revitalise Fort William High Street instead of shrugging their shoulders and saying it's not down

to them. Someone fighting for frontline services instead of quietly watching our public toilets close, streetlights switched off or skip collections axed. Someone standing up to Transport Scotland instead of meekly allowing them to close down our road network with badly planned road works. Lochaber needs a strong voice again: find out more at www.lochabervoice.com.

WARD 22

David Corrigan

Independent

Ward 22 – Fort William and Ardnamurchan



I spent the first 25 years of my life in Fort William and, since then, 26 years on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula.

I consider some of the issues to be prioritised in this Ward to be security of health cover in rural communities, working closely with Community Councils, improving communications (broadband, mobile phones), local transport aspects (roads, trains, ferries, buses), support of the elderly, youth and the vulnerable, regeneration of Fort William High Street and encouraging future development at Blar Mhor.

As one of your elected representatives, I would seek to ensure that we all listen to you - the people.

WARD 22

Alexander Gillespie

Scottish Conservatives

Ward 22 – Fort William and Ardnamurchan



Alex has lived in the Fort William area for the past 19 years and is heavily involved in the local community. He served in the Territorial Army with the Royal Highland Fusiliers.

Scottish Conservatives are opposed to the idea that local decisions should be overturned to stay in line with central government priorities, especially in the case of wind farms.

Scottish Conservatives want councils to work with all levels of government as well as the private sector to ensure improved access to high-speed broadband.

WARD 22

Bren Gormley

SNP

Ward 22 – Fort William and Ardnamurchan



I have been privileged to represent the Fort William and Ardnamurchan Ward for the past five years, and would deem it a similar privilege to serve the community for another period, much remains to be done.

Over many years the Highlands has suffered from an Inverness-centric and politically disorganised council. The Highland SNP Group offer a way forward, we will provide strategic leadership and a consistent direction of travel, we will decentralise decision making for services that matter to individuals and communities. SNP's strategic focus will drive economic development and growth, generating jobs and improving infrastructure to benefit all Highlanders.

WARD 22

David Blaney
Independent
Ward 1 - Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas



I am keen to continue helping individuals reach positive solutions. Many problems result in a person being financially better off, and that in turn leads to a wee growth in the local economy. I would like to see more housing built for rent, support the Barra Children's Centre and look forward to the opening of Daliburgh School.

It has been a tough time as Government cuts take effect and more tough decisions will be needed over the next council term and I would appreciate your vote so that my experience can be put to good use.

Calum Macaulay
Independent
Ward 1 - Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas



I have decided to stand as an independent as I do not believe that party politics should be involved in decision making processes from a local council. We need to protect frontline services provided by the council.

Priorities are job creation within our islands, an upgraded infrastructure will follow on naturally within the financial constraints. We have to tackle SNH and their intent on closing down our islands with their ever increasing conservation area that they intend to impose on us.

The Maillaig/Lochboisdale ferry, RET for hauliers and fairer fuel costs are amongst the issues we have to fight for.

Angus MacDonald
Independent
Ward 1 - Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas



I am an independent candidate, I will serve and work for you, devoting all my time to your interests and that of the ward, making myself available and accessible.

Having previously served as a councillor for four years and a community councillor for over 40 years along with being a member of many other local committees, I will give you and the ward total commitment.

I will give my full support to fight for a Mallaig - Lochboisdale ferry service, upgrading of our roads, care for the elderly and infirm, RET on all commercials and the retention of rural schools.

Ronnie Mackinnon
Scottish Labour
Ward 1 - Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas



I have been a councillor for two terms up until 2007. I am well aware that this is not going to be an easy term, but with my previous experience and the interests of the community at heart I would give it my all so that this community would not lose out.

I am currently a director at Am Paipear, Storas Uibhist and Third Sector Hebrides. I am also actively involved with the community as a chairman at Lochboisdale Community Council, South Uist Livestock Mart, Southend Community Hall, Western Isles Licensing Forum and Bornish War Memorial.

Neil Beaton
Independent
Ward 2 - Beinn na Foghla agus Uibhist a Tuath



With hard times upon us I see the duty of the new Comhairle nan Eilean Siar councillors as primarily focusing on protecting essential services to the most vulnerable in our community.

The threat of a serious decline in the population highlights the need for new thinking on the creation of jobs, the development of new skills, super fast broadband and innovations in renewable energy to which our islands are ideally suited.

So important also is the enhancement of our local industries. As an independent candidate I will cooperate with all councillors to ensure the islands and its children prosper in the future.

Archie Campbell
Scottish Labour
Ward 2 - Beinn na Foghla agus Uibhist a Tuath



The Comhairle will face pressures on budgets, and will have to be innovative in delivering solutions. Seeking a resolution to the Scottish Government's unwelcome interventions in RET and the Air Discount Scheme is a priority.

We must continue to support and use the skills of the Third Sector in delivering services.

Fuel poverty remains a threat to many in the islands and we must continue to strive for long term solutions. With a declining and ageing population we need to ensure that we can continue to deliver care at home. Work for our young people is a major priority.

Martin Taylor
Independent
Ward 2 - Beinn na Foghla agus Uibhist a Tuath



I've been a councillor for ten years, representing Benbecula and also North Uist for the last five. In that time there have been many improvements and all to the good.

Critics of the Comhairle are extremely negative and blind to successes we have been able to achieve with cuts totaling nine million approximately.

I'm proud to have been involved in the regeneration of Balivanich, the harbour extension on Grimsay, our New Gym (village hall), the escape road at Muir of Aird and the new school. I would like regeneration of the Bayhead area followed by Lochmaddy, starting with the school.

Andrew Walker
SNP
Ward 2 - Beinn na Foghla agus Uibhist a Tuath



I have over 40 years experience as a social worker. I am standing for the first time as an SNP candidate. I believe I can make a difference. I will commit myself to protect the most vulnerable, in conjunction with other SNP councillors, MP and MSP.

I will address deficits in the present Comhairle identified by Audit Scotland. Anticipated demographic changes in the older-aged population will necessitate fundamental changes to present management culture and leadership. I will monitor the significant transition to a National Police and Fire Service at locality level. It will be an honour and privilege to serve.

Hamish Fraser
Independent
Ward 11 - Eilean a' Cheò



The next five years will be difficult and I make no bones about that. If I am re-elected I will continue to do my best to protect the front line services that are important to the people of Skye and Raasay.

I have a proven track record and the experience to ensure that important issues such as care for the elderly and our young people, support for carers and those less able in our community, health care, continued investment in housing and affordable homes for young people, investment in our roads, schools, community, language, culture and business are safeguarded.

John Gordon
Independent
Ward 11 - Eilean a' Cheò



I was born and brought up on Skye and worked in the hospitality trade and know the importance of the tourist industry to our area.

I have also worked in the public and voluntary sector, and know how important front-line services are to individuals and families. Having strong local knowledge and strong local commitment, I will strive to strengthen and empower communities, and ensure residents, services, community groups and businesses are represented well.

Vote for me and I assure you I will serve with honesty, accountability, integrity and transparency. Ag obair airson na daoine!

Drew Millar
Scottish Lib Dems
Ward 11 - Eilean a' Cheò



Experience gained over 20 years as your councillor will be crucial in this next council to ensure that our ward receives proper budget allocations to maintain the services we are entitled to.

With police and fire moving to a national organisation, I will be arguing to retain our police officer numbers on Skye, and campaigning for a modern fire station for Portree while retaining a safe level of cover throughout the island.

Even education will have to look at efficiencies but I will argue local schools and nursery provision be retained to a level that is beneficial to children's learning.

Ian Renwick
SNP
Ward 11 - Eilean a' Cheò



Ian has been a councillor representing Eilean a' Cheò ward since May 2007. Ian has held surgeries in all parts of Skye and Raasay during this time and will continue to work for all the people of the ward and undertake to solve local problems effectively.

As part of an SNP led Council Administration, Ian will continue to freeze the council tax, saving the average household £300 per year. He will reverse centralisation of decision-making by introducing area committees with real power. An SNP led council will avoid compulsory redundancies and give all council workers at least minimum living wage.

George Kerr
Independent
Ward 12 - Caol and Mallaig



My name is George Kerr and I am standing as an independent candidate in the local elections for the Caol and Mallaig ward on May 3.

What can I offer the constituents of ward 12 in return for their vote is a hard working individual who will raise the profile of this ward, get all age groups round the local political table and take control of their local community.

I have always believed in leading from the front and by example, if you believe, as I do, that the time for proactive decision making has come, then vote for change.

Niall Rowantree
SNP
Ward 12 - Caol and Mallaig



I believe our communities need a greater opportunity to have their say about how the area is developed and utilised.

Your council requires to be open and efficient on delivery, ensuring that we support those who care for others and provide essential services in these tight financial times.

Education and opportunity for our young people is essential to our future success. If elected, I will work closely with you to achieve these and other important issues. We are tired of directionless local authority and an SNP highland council will provide you and your family new opportunities and a local voice.

Sally Semple
Scottish Labour
Ward 12 - Caol and Mallaig



Sally has lived and worked across the west coast and is now training as an architect based in Morvern.

She is actively involved in the development of new housing in Lochaber and combines work with the construction industry alongside the family smallholding.

She says: 'I am concerned about the effects of budget cuts on transport, housing and care services across the Highlands. I feel that the Scottish Labour Party will provide the strong voice that Lochaber needs to protect and develop our communities.'

Susan Wallace
Scottish Christian Party
Ward 12 - Caol and Mallaig



I have been a Christian and communicant church member for 23 years. I was a candidate for the Scottish Christian Party on the Highlands and Islands Scotland Regional list for the Scottish Parliamentary Election in May 2007.

There will be no election leaflet from me dropping through your door (for economic and environmental reasons - as befits the current climate), so you may like to keep this for reference. Christian or non-Christian, I pray you will be able to place your 1st choice vote with me in confidence on May 3. Contact me: susanwallace54@yahoo.co.uk. Manifesto and profile: <http://www.scottishchristianparty.org.uk>. Thank you.

William MacDonald
SNP
Ward 22 - Fort William and Ardnarmurchan



I am a 56 year old local who retired from the BA factory after 33 years to concentrate on establishing a successful guest house.

I am familiar with issues relating to small businesses. The SNP manifesto which will make people proud includes bringing back local decision making back to Lochaber.

My highest priority will be in helping the people of Lochaber. So if you are looking for someone who loves Lochaber and cares for the folk who live here and will represent you with honesty, commitment and accountability, please vote Willie Keelie MacDonald, on May 3.

Thomas MacLennan
Independent
Ward 22 - Fort William and Ardnarmurchan



I have the time, the new ideas and the experience to be your local councillor I served on Highland Council as a councillor from 2003 to 2007.

I understand how local government works, these are difficult times, where experience really counts and cuts in service are becoming common place. If you want to elect someone who has a track record of holding Highland Council to account and can be trusted to preserve and defend your services give Thomas MacLennan your number 1 vote.

For more information and reasons to vote for Thomas MacLennan and contact details visit www.midgebite.com.

Jamie Mackie
Scottish Lib Dems
Ward 22 - Fort William and Ardnarmurchan



I have lived in Lochaber most of my life.

I'm very proud of our area and welcome this opportunity to stand as part of a strong Highland Liberal Democrat team to represent Fort William and Ardnarmurchan.

For many years I was the friendly face on board the Seal Island cruise boat, in Fort William. If elected, I will fight to improve our area for local people; work for jobs and homes; and give support when and where it's needed.

Brian Murphy
Scottish Labour
Ward 22 - Fort William and Ardnarmurchan



Over the last five years Highland Council Labour Group worked constructively with other groups on the council to provide stable and effective local government for the Highlands.

In spite of having to deal with the worst cuts in public spending since the 1930's the Independent/Lib Dem/Labour Administration delivered the funding for phases two and three of the Lochaber High School refurbishment, new primary schools in Lochaline and Acharacle, and £2 million for the refurbishment of Invernevis House.

The Lochaber Independent Alliance Group was not a part of that Administration and therefore had very little influence over these decisions.



CD review
Ian Hardie
A Breath Of Fresh Air
 This was the first album released by Green-trax in 1986 and has been re-released as part of the Green-trax 25th anniversary celebrations.
 An excellent and very special CD from this outstanding fiddle player and multi-instrumentalist. Ian has played in many fine bands including Chorda and Jock Tamson's Bairns and has played a significant role in Highland Connection, The Gillies and The Occasionals. Ian is also a prolific composer, writing nearly two hundred tunes for fiddle and bagpipe in a nine month period in 1984/85. Thirty two of these tunes appear on this CD.



India Alba
Reels And Ragas
 Two Indian classical musicians and two Scottish traditional musicians play music demonstrating the common ground between their traditions.
 Many raga gats (themes), particularly those from the borders of the Himalayas, have close relatives in the melodies of the Scottish highlands and islands and for both of them the drone sounds of the bagpipes or the tampura play an important part in the music.



Jenna Reid
Morning Moon
 A collection of traditional and contemporary tunes, stunning slow airs to fiery fiddling, from this talented, award winning, Shetland lass.



Jenna has played with Blazin' Fiddles, Filiska, Dochas, Deaf Shepherd and has featured on Transatlantic Sessions.

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Fiddlers raise the roof at Corran Halls rally

Mod gold medallist Mary Catherine MacNeil was the headline guest artist at the 68th annual Fiddlers' Rally Concert at the Corran Halls on Saturday. Chaired by Peter MacLeod, the Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society event also welcomed young pipers James MacPherson and Aaron Hossain and Oban fiddle player Maurice Duncan. The fiddlers played under the baton of Helen Jordan.

Children's favourite wins top TV award

BBC ALBA's 'De a-nis?: What Now?' has won a Bronze Torc for Excellence award for best children's programme the 2012 Celtic Media Festival in Derry.
 The festival, the 33rd, sees the Celtic broadcasting and media world come together to celebrate the very best of film, television, radio and digital media to emerge from the last year.
 'De a-nis?: What Now?', a mix of music, fun and competitions, is produced by Donnie MacLeod of BBC Scotland.

The Celtic Media Festival's Bronze Torc Awards saw 98 productions, companies and personalities shortlisted across the 19 award categories - including factual, arts, drama, entertainment, sport, current affairs, young people's programmes, radio station of the year and radio presenter.
 A total of 450 entries were submitted from across Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany, the Isle of Man and Ireland. Ten BBC ALBA productions were shortlisted across several different award categories.
Achievement award
 The festival also paid tribute to John Smith, Gaelic-speaking BBC producer and director, who received a lifetime achievement award for his immense contribution to broadcasting and to the Celtic Media Festival.
 Donald Campbell, chief Executive of MG

ALBA and festival chairman was 'delighted' with the accolade and congratulated Donnie MacLeod and his De a-nis? team.
 He added: 'We are proud to be supporting the Gaelic broadcasting industry throughout Scotland sourcing the very best productions from within the independent production sector and we congratulate all those who were shortlisted.
 'It is testament to the hard work and the uncompromising commitment to quality of the production community whose programmes underpin the success and popularity of BBC ALBA achieved over the past four years since coming on air.'

Win a pair of tickets to ROCKNESS

THE OBAN Times is giving readers the chance to see acts such as Mumford and Sons, Deadmau5, Biffy Clyro, and Noah and The Whale at the Highlands' premier music festival - Rockness.
 We have teamed up with the organisers for a special competition to give away two pairs of general weekend tickets to the award-winning festival, including camping passes, worth £159 each.
 Details of how to enter the competition will be published across Wyvex Media's titles over the coming two weeks.



You could win tickets to see Mumford and Sons at Rockness this June by entering our competition. Details to be published next week.



Ceilidh night fun
 Iain Hurst, former pipe major of Oban Pipe Band, was guest piper at a ceilidh on Saturday in the Masonic Lodge, Oban. The ceilidh was organised by An Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain. 07_17Ihurst01

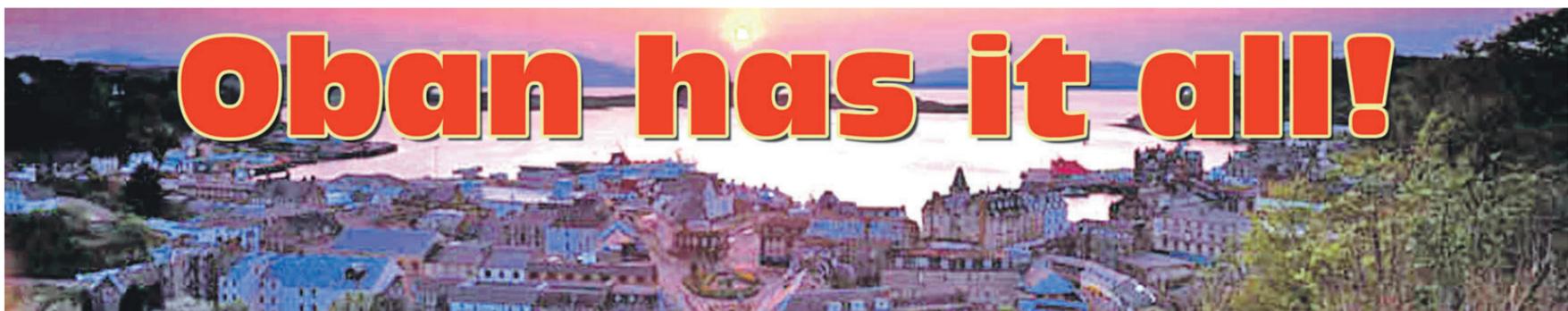
Oban High School hostel girls gather 50 years on

FORMER Oban High School pupils who stayed at Craigard Hostel in the town have come together to meet - nearly 50 years after leaving school.
 The girls' hostel reunion at the Royal Hotel on Saturday brought together women who stayed there between 1960 and 1965 and many had not seen one another since leaving Oban.
 Organiser Eleanor Nicolson (nee Kerr) is originally from Ford and now lives in Tilllicoultry. She said: 'We had spoken about a reunion for years and when we retired we had more time to organise it. Some of the ladies were easy to track down but others were more difficult and there are some we just couldn't get a hold

of. We have used word-of-mouth, phone calls, emails and Friends Reunited to get in touch with people since the turn of the year.'
 Joining the former pupils at the reunion was Katie MacGregor, Lismore, the former assistant matron and cook at the hostel.
 One of the furthest travelled was college counsellor Joan Macphail-Rizoudis, who now lives in Greece but is originally from Kilberry.
 Asked why she travelled such a long distance to make the reunion, Ms Macphail-Rizoudis replied: 'I wouldn't miss it for anything. This is the first chance we've had to meet in nearly 50 years. I come back to Argyll when I can, to get my spiritual batteries recharged.'



The former residents of Craigard Hostel in Oban. 15_17Reunion01



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Alison Robertson, Ailsa Jane MacLachlan and Amanda MacLachlan arrive at the awards ceremony.

Luining rolls out red carpet for 'LAFTAS'

LUINING staged its own BAFTAs at the weekend - the LAFTA awards - held in true red carpet fashion in Cullipool Hall.

The award ceremony followed on from the successful Pantomime 'Jack in the Beanstalk', which the Luining Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS) performed in February.

Audiences had voted and the cast awaited the results - announced at a black tie event on Saturday night - with trepidation. Presenting the awards were former thespians Julia and Richard Shuff and Pam Baker who treated the audience to a self penned poem, written to celebrate the evening.

Ailsa Jane MacLachlan also made a guest appearance for the evening to hand out an award.

Host Alison Robertson praised the back stage crew, without whom the whole pantomime would not happen. She was also presented with a surprise best director award, against very stiff competition, to well deserved thanks from all the LADS cast.

The winners were: Favourite wig - Dame Trott's green wig, worn by Stephen Glen Lee and created by Linda McGregor. Favourite costume - Daisy the cow, worn by John Morgan and created by Hugh Gray. Favourite scene - The Wizard's Lab, Eoghann MacLachlan, Souvy Page and Innes MacQueen. Favourite character - Simon, Paula Roberts.



Paula Roberts with husband Pete and her award for the portrayal of Simon.



The MacFunk Dance participants, with choreographers Larni Wright and Adele Gillies, seated front.

Dancers step in with park donation

A UNIQUE dance event at Oban's Atlantis Leisure has added more than £400 to a fund to refurbish Oban Community Playpark, sited next to the leisure centre.

The MacFunk Dance Party was attended by more than 100 adults and children, who danced to a two-hour routine choreographed by modern dance teacher Larni Wright and Highland dancer Adele Gillies.

The event was organised by Oban Community Playpark Committee, which is hoping to raise between £120,000 and £150,000 to overhaul and extend the existing playpark.

Committee member Lyndsay Elliott said: 'We want to extend the existing playpark to incorporate a picnic area and bring in specialised

play equipment to make it more accessible. Our group is serious about doing this because we know our children would benefit from a new playpark and it is a chance for mothers to come together.

'Taynuilt and Easdale have built new playparks, so it can be done. Just because our plan is bigger, doesn't necessarily mean it has to be much more difficult.'

Open meeting

An open meeting will be held today (Thursday) at Atlantis Leisure from 7pm to 8pm in the function room. A crèche will be set up in the soft play area to allow parents to attend.

The Oban Community Playpark Committee is: Lyndsay Elliott, Moira Newiss, Kathleen Lafferty, Moira Logan and Katy Docherty.

Scottish Enlightenment in society spotlight

LORN Archaeological and Historical Society's final winter meeting was declared a resounding success when the accomplished speaker Professor David Purdie talked on 'The Scottish Enlightenment' to a large audience at Glencairn Church Hall.

Professor Purdie, who is now retired from the medical world, is a well-recognised and authoritative commentator on the Enlightenment period and currently chairman of the Sir Walter Scott Society.

Many will know that The Scottish Enlightenment was the third such event in Europe's history, firstly with the Greeks in Athens, then

in 15th century Florence and lastly in the city of Edinburgh. In Scotland, after the turbulence of numerous previous centuries, the Enlightenment came in a period of relative calm. As was the case in the other enlightenments these peaceful periods encouraged new and radical thinking.

Society secretary Joan Kemp thanked the professor for his illustrated talk covering many Scots thinkers such as Burns, Ferguson, Smith, Hutton, Boswell and others in a period tracing its roots to 1603 with the Union of the Crowns and that had ended by 1832. Summer events are in the process of being organised with information on the society's website.

Seil islander shares love of birdwatching with wildlife trust

THE LORN and Mid Argyll Members' Centre of the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) concluded its winter meetings at Dunstaffnage recently with the AGM, followed by an excellent presentation by Seil resident Terry Robilliard, entitled 'A Birdwatcher Through the Lens'.

Terry talked about his love of birdwatching and showed some close-ups of a large range of garden birds and many more, beautifully photographed in

natural surroundings. The evening continued with much good conversation and the usual refreshments and home-baking. Anyone with a love of Scotland's wildlife and mouth-watering cakes is encouraged to join the SWT and will be made very welcome.

The next event will be the annual fund-raising day at Achnacloch Garden at the end of May or beginning of June.

Lorn Garden Club winds up session with busy meeting

MEMBERS of Lorn Garden Club met recently for the last meeting of the session and their AGM.

In addition to club business, members enjoyed a plant quiz and seed and plant sales for club funds. David

Croucher was complimented on his presentation of pictures of gardens visited over the past year, which highlighted some of the interesting plants seen and included some attractive close-ups of flowers.

As always, tea, coffee and home baking finished off the evening. There will be a number of garden visits over the summer and the next session of talks will begin in September. It's a small and friendly club and new members are always welcome.

Mull Music Festival

THIS weekend sees the Mull Music Festival taking place with acts - both traditional and contemporary - from around the country.

Performances will be staged in a variety of venues from Friday to Sunday.

Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes

Duo hit the high notes at festival

TWO LOCHABER musicians have returned home from an international Celtic gathering in Ireland with an armful of trophies.

Banavie Primary School teacher Dierdra MacDonald and Lochaber High School pupil Hannah MacRae won their haul of silverware at the 41st International Pan-Celtic Festival in Carlow.

The girls were among a strong Scottish contingent at the event, which drew thousands of visitors to the Irish provincial town from the six Celtic nations - Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Brittany, Cornwall and the Isle of Man.

Dierdra returned from the six-day jamboree just in time to start back in the classroom last week.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'The whole event was huge. It was a terrific week weather, craic and competition wise. There must have been thousands of people that descended on the place and hundreds of competitors. It was fantastic - a great atmosphere, very friendly and everybody from the six nations mixing together.'

Dierdra added: 'I went to a Cornish language class, which was really interesting. Once you start hearing some of the words, you can tell they come from a similar root.'

Scotland was well represented in both solo and group competitions. Dierdra and Hannah joined members of the Gaelic group, MacAnta, to take part in the traditional group competition - and won first place against the other Celtic nations.

The girls also joined the group for the International New Song competition the next day. Scotland's entry was written by Dòl Eòin MacKinnon



Hannah MacRae and Dierdra MacDonald: winners.

from Scalpay, the lead singer, and the group were delighted with their second place result.

Scotland also enjoyed success in the clarsach, piping and fiddle competitions, with Hannah taking first place in the junior section and Dierdra second in the seniors.

The girls were also successful in the fiddle duo competition, in which they also lifted the cup for Scotland.

The organising committee - drawn from enthusiasts in music, song, dance and tourism - includes Fort William's Allan MacColl, who leads Scotland's national committee.

Robert Nairn's Ceilidh Band from Kentra, near Acharacle, entertained at the event, while Mull duo Alasdair Whyte and Ross Wilson joined Raymond Bremner from Caithness to compete in the traditional band competition. Gaelic singer Margaret MacLeod of famed 1970s folk group Na h-Oganaich sang beautifully at the event - her first since 1972.



Dierdra and Hannah joined Dòl Eòin MacKinnon from Scalpay and Terry Balfour from Shetland in MacAnta.

what's on oban

Thursday 26th April >	Ceilidh Night
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	9pm-till late
Thursday 26th April >	Disco
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	11pm-2am
Saturday 28th April >	Nightclub with DJs
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	11pm-2am, £5 entry
Friday 27th April >	Tim O' Connor, Markie Dans
	9.30pm
Saturday 28th April >	Disco with DJ Darren Markie Dans
	9.30pm
Saturday 28th April >	K.I.L. showcase for local bands
Upstairs in the Balmoral	9pm till late, Free entry
Saturday 28th April >	Antique and Jewellery Roadshow
Regent Hotel	4pm

what's on lochaber

Sunday 29th April > Antique and Jewellery Roadshow
Alexandra Hotel 3pm

Friday 20th April > Nightclub with DJ Irish Al.
Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House Beat the Clock

Saturday 21st April > Nightclub 10pm till 2am
Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House Beat the Beats

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Two family tickets to The Singing Kettle up for grabs!

The Singing Kettle is returning to Corran Halls, Oban on May 16 and to celebrate, The Oban Times has two family tickets plus Singing Kettle goodies to giveaway!

This year's show, 'Shake, Rattle & Roll', is set to be an unforgettable musical experience. Children are invited to make their own shaker or bring a musical instrument to play along with The Singing Kettle's brand new sing-along extravaganza. Bursting at the seams with energy, you will Shake, Rattle and Roll out the rhythm of this non-stop, all action show.

Visit www.singingkettle.com for more details.

For your chance to win a family ticket plus a fun pack and DVD, simply answer this easy question, complete the entry form below and post it to The Oban Times, Singing Kettle comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by Monday, May 7, 2012.

Which of the following is a popular baby toy?
a) Shake b) Rattle c) Roll

Answer

Name

Address

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Please tick if you do not wish to receive further information about Wyvex Media promotions.

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Entrants under 16 must get permission from an adult before entering. Winners will be chosen at random. The winner must be willing to take part in publicity and their name may appear in the newspaper.

The Singing Kettle SHAKE RATTLE & ROLL

Corran Halls - Oban
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Scottish Choreography Challenge (5 & 6 May)
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Cardiovascular Disease Annual 10k race and Fun Run
Sunday 20th May at 1.00pm
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All ages and abilities welcome.
Application forms from the Hospital Front Desk, selected shops in Oban and on our web site: www.abcd.btck.co.uk

Charity Car Boot Sale
Co op Car Park
Sunday 29th April 2012
Last Sunday of every month till September

Soroba Young Family Group Project
Table Top Sale
Sunday 29th April
Fire Service, Refreshments, Raffle, Bouncy Castle, Police, Face Painting
At the Argyllshire Gathering halls
12 noon till 4pm

Oban U3A
Tuesday 1st May, 2012
at 10.30am,
Soroba House Hotel,
Soroba Road, Oban
A warm welcome to members new and old for our Monthly coffee and chat meeting.

To advertise in the **WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD**
Telephone: **01631 568000**

Lochaber Rural Education Trust OPEN
Gardener's Question Time
Rural Education Centre, Torlundy
Monday April 30th at 7 p.m.
Hostess: Catina MacDonald, BBC ALBA
Adm. £10 incl. supper
All welcome.
Tel. 01397 703819

OBAN AND DISTRICT DARTS LEAGUE
S D MACDOUGALL OPEN
SINGLES COMPETITION
Sat April 28
Glencairn Golf Club 12 noon.
£250 First prize £100 Second Prize
£50 each for losing Semi-Finalists and a £50 prize for the best female player.
£5 Entry Fee
Entries Telephone Kenny Carmichael 07934 026127

Inner Wheel Club of Oban
Fashion Show
In aid of Ronald McDonald House At Yorkhill Hospital for Sick Kids
M & Co Station Square, Oban
Friday 27th April
6.30pm
Tickets: Adults £5
Children £2.50

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £14.95 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.
All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page
Please ask for details

KEVIN BRIDGES
+ Support (TBC)
Corran Halls, Saturday 14th July

Tickets will be £23 + £2 booking fee
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14yrs and over

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Only 4 x tickets per person
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Website: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Two tickets for Kevin Bridges show can be won at The Oban Comedy Club's next night with Glen Maney this Saturday, 28 April 2012 8.30 The Brewery Room, Cuan Mor, Oban

Park Lodge Hotel MULL MUSIC FESTIVAL
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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Flying too close to the sun

FIGURES released this week indicate that skin cancer rates have risen by more than 50 per cent in the last 10 years, with reported cases in men showing a larger increase than women.

Skin cancer among men in Scotland is reported to have increased 66 per cent between 2001 and 2010, while in women it rose 60 per cent.

Our love affair with the sun, saw many fair-skinned Scots, particularly women, look to artificial tanning via the ultraviolet rays from sunbeds for their all-year-round bronzing during the 1980's and 90's, while a massive growth in foreign travel and cheap summer package holidays encouraged a generation of Scots to embark on previously unheard of trips to sunnier climes.

This also coincided with a peak in the incidents of potentially deadly skin cancers such as malignant melanomas although it was several years before the majority of the public reluctantly accepted the medical link between their annual pilgrimage to the sun and the potentially life threatening disease.

However, cancer incident statistics published this week by ISD Scotland also reveal there is light at the end of the tunnel with a downward trend beginning to emerge among women.

It has also been revealed this week that women may now become somewhat blasé when it comes to breast cancer, with many electing not to attend breast cancer screening appointments.

Statistics for last year show that uptake of appointments for breast screening programmes fell short of the 80 per cent targeted figure. Women in Scotland, aged between 50 to 64, are invited every three years.

However, the health statistics show that all NHS boards exceeded the minimum level required for screenings, which is set at 70 per cent.

GLASGOW LETTER

Star piper at Clydebank charity ceilidh

HOW OLD must you be to be a star stage performer playing the bagpipes?

Only five years old if your name is Lewis and your uncles are accordionist Billy and piper Iain MacPhee. Okay, he was playing his toy pipes but he had all the actions and delighted the crowd at the Erskine Charity Ceilidh hosted by Clydebank Highlanders' Association in Napier Hall in Old Kilpatrick.

This was a most enjoyable concert for the capacity audience with more than 100 in the hall. Billy and Iain MacPhee are stalwart supporters of this concert with Billy being joined by 14-year-old accordionist Shonnie MacLeod, from Benbecula, making his stage debut and showing that he has the ability to be one of our leading exponents of that instrument.

There was plenty variety and quality in the programme. James Graham travelled down from Inverness to enthral the audience with his ever casual appearing style which makes him one of today's best male Gaelic singers. He was more than ably supported by Linda MacLeod from North Uist who is currently employed in the Celtic Department in Glasgow University and by Catriona Fair from Lochgilphead.

Also on the programme were Rock Salt, originally based in Arrochar but now Cardross, and they contributed great variety with their folk songs and instrumental items.

Accompanist for the evening was Kirsteen Grant and I had the pleasure of chairing proceedings.

During the ceilidh flowers were presented to Kay and Charlie Wragg, from Helensburgh, who had recently celebrated their golden wedding and flowers were also delivered earlier in the day to secretary Mairi Howieson who was unable to be present at the concert.

Best wishes were sent to Mairi and husband John.

Na Cambeulaich

THE CAMPBELLS of Greepe, with several of their tour gigs already completed, will be in the Glasgow area this weekend, Friday in the

Gaelic School and Saturday in Paisley Arts Centre. Both concerts start at 7.30pm.

Ceol's Craic

THE APRIL meeting of Ceol's Craic, the usual music and banter, will take place in the CCA this coming Saturday with events starting at 6pm with the Conversation Cafe.

The first 20 who register for this will receive free entry for the whole evening.

During this part of the evening there will be the chance to learn some Welsh with Meirir Gwilym.

The main participants for the rest of the evening will be Mary Smith, Julie Murphy and Ceri Rhys Matthews, Richard James and Meirir Gwilym.

Diary dates

Thursday April 26: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Andy Irvine.

Friday April 27: Na Cambeulaich, Sgoil Ghaidhlig Glaschu - see above. Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, 9pm to 1am. Glasgow Phoenix Choir Concert, Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

Saturday April 28: Na Cambeulaich, Paisley Arts Centre - see above. Ceol's Craic, CCA, Sauchiehall Street, from 6pm - see above. Acoustic Affair, Kris Drever, City Halls, 8pm.

Monday May 30: Closing date for entries to East Kilbride Provincial Mod

Wednesday May 2: New Works in Old Tradition, Royal Conservatoire, 8pm.

Thursday May 3: An Evening of Scottish Music, Royal Conservatoire, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Al Parrish.

Pub scene

COUNTRY Folk will be playing in the Islay Inn on Friday with the Keelies on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Calum Iain MacCorquodale/Malcolm Jones on Friday with Nicky McMichan on Saturday.

The Park also has a Thursday night session while in the Islay Inn there is 'open mic' on Sunday with jam/traditional sessions on Thursdays and Mondays.

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



Oban High School third year commercial class 1952/1953

R Carswell of Taynuilt submitted this week's flashback photograph which features pupils in Oban High School's third year commercial class in 1952/1953. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
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Elderly care reason islanders backed new centre

Sir, How dare Jim Robb, head of adult care for Argyll and Bute, tell us that our new Progressive Care Centre on Mull will not have residential facilities or care staff.

The whole reason people on the island gave their hard-earned cash to the project was so our elderly residents could retain the same level of care they currently get at Dunaros care home and hospital.

I also wonder why one of our councillors made his apologies for not attending the meeting. Could this be because it would have been a conflict of his interests given that he proudly tells us in his campaign leaflets that he is a board member of West Highland Housing Association (WHHA)? This is someone who was elected to represent us, the islanders.

Is it not strange that no-one from the outset bothered to tell us that our new PCC would not deliver what we were all led to believe it would?

Some residents at Dunaros suffer from dementia and therefore cannot be left to their own devices without constant care they get at the moment.

This means some of our most vulnerable people will still be sent off the island away from family and friends, which was, we believed, the whole point of having the new PCC built. It was not so WHHA could get the authority to build flats to rent out. We are also told they cannot guarantee that the flats will only go to people from the island.

But election time is coming soon. Maybe it's time people here thought about who they want to represent us in the future.

Disgusted Mull resident, name and address supplied.

Cemetery concerns

Sir, On one of my many visits to Ardchattan Church and Cemetery, having a walk about, I came across a piece of ground, fenced in to include an extension to existing burial ground.

As a grave digger myself for a number of years, I noticed there was something wrong on walking slowly the length of the area. It came to my notice that the underlying ground was not prepared properly. It was uneven and had stones not lifted resulting in the areas of turf not being laid flat. The ends of turf were curling up like a dried sandwich.

The boys who carried out the work were only doing what they were told to. It is a shame that the boss who had life long practical experience of cemetery work had to retire.

Iain S Darling, Dunollie.

Legendary commando

Sir, In Trevor Royle's interesting article about his meeting with Sir Fitzroy Maclean of Dunconnel in the late 1980s - *The Oban Times* April 19 - I think that in one respect Sir Fitzroy may have been confused with the legendary commando Lord 'Shimi' Lovat.

In his introduction to Lovat's memoir 'March Past', Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that ilk says that, when sending Lovat as an emissary to the USSR in early 1945, Churchill wrote to Stalin that he was 'the mildest-mannered man that ever scuttled ship or cut a throat'. I have seen the quotation elsewhere as 'the handsomest man', but not I'm afraid concerning Sir Fitzroy, despite his fine features and physique!

Maclean and Lovat, who were brothers-in-law, are both possible role models for James Bond, along with another Scot - Sir

David Stirling, Lovat's first cousin, who conceived, founded and led the Special Air Service - a remarkable family trio, particularly as all three were only in their late 20s or early 30s throughout WW2.

Lord Montgomery described Stirling as 'quite, quite mad - but in war there is often a place for mad people'.

Lovat led a commando group in the successful Lofoten raid - when insulting telegrams were sent from the telephone exchange directly to Hitler's, Goebbels' and Goering's offices - and brilliantly in the 1944 D-Day landings.

A senior Canadian officer said that, for his rank and role, Lovat probably had the best military brain on either side in the Second World War. The mayor of the first village he liberated in Normandy laid a plaque at his funeral in Beaulieu in 1995 inscribed 'A Notre Libérateur'. As extensive landowners, the Lovat Frasers were rightly renowned for refusing to take part in the Highland Clearances.

There are, of course, other Bond contenders - like the spy Sydney Cotton from New South Wales, who had flown in night-bombing sorties in WW1, was a friend of both Churchill and Ian Fleming and a brilliant pioneer of aerial reconnaissance, even photographing German airfields on the eve of WW2 having hitched a joy-ride with Kesselring; and Wilfred 'Biffy' Dunderrdale, an Englishman brought up in Odessa, an MI6 spy and also a friend of Fleming's.

John Birkett, 12 Horseleys Park, St Andrews.

Seeking relatives

Sir, My family research has led me to the Isle of Mull.

I am seeking any living descendants of the following families who may still be living in Argyll.

Margaret nee McDougall and Charles McLean lived in Kinlochspelve on Mull. Their family born between 1873 and 1887 were as follows:

Donald - children Charlie, Willie and Mary connected with breeding and showing of Highland cattle.

Hugh - policeman at Morvern and Motherwell.

Ann(ie) - married Andrew Harris, engine driver of Motherwell, had a son and daughter.

Alan - married Catherine MacKinnon. Died while living at Balure Cottage, Lochnell. Daughter Mary/Margaret.

(Isa)Bella - married Sandy May, Luining.

John Malec - postmaster at Oban for many years. Daughter Margaret, son Ian.

If you are, or know someone who is, a descendant of any of these people, please contact me by email. I am a distant relative from New Zealand who will be visiting Scotland in May and would love to meet up.

Many thanks in advance. We are so looking forward to our Scottish holiday, and especially visiting Oban and Mull.

Shirlee Black, Hari Hari, New Zealand, black-mac@xtra.co.nz.

Duncan MacKenzie

Sir, Compliments to Stirling Gaelic Choir for calling its annual concert the Duncan MacKenzie Memorial concert.

I lived next door to Duncan for many years and a better neighbour would be hard to find.

I can remember when Duncan told me he was going to join Stirling Gaelic Choir and he was so excited about it. He became very keen on the songs, the music and the company of the choir. I had the pleasure of accompanying him to a couple of practises and being near the Mod, it was an uplifting experience.

He would sometimes hum a new song they would be learning and shout over the fence: 'Have you heard this song?' He was a lovely man who will be sorely missed.

Tom Handy.

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.

Clarification

WITH regards to last week's article 'Robbery victim offers £500 reward', the crime was a sneak-in theft, not a robbery as stated in the article.



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

Cuin idir a Dh'Ionnsaicheas Sinn?

Loidhne làidir anns an òran *Càite an deach na blàthan uile?* Thàinig faclan an òrain a sgrìobh Pete Seeger anns na 1960an na mo cheann is mi aig Seirbheis Cuimhneachaidh Chùil Lodair aig Comunn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis bho chionn ghoirid. Chuala an slugh mòr a bha an làthair far feadh an t-saoghail òraid chumhachdach bho Cheannard na bhàdhna seo aig a' Chomunn, an t-Ollamh Urramach Dòmhnall MacLòid. Am measg nam puingeann a thog e, bha an fhaoineas a tha fhathast 'leantainn air feadh an t-saoghail far am bheil e cleachdadh cogadh mar mheadhan air sith a bhùinn.

Tha mi cinnteach gum bi cuimhne aig an fheadhainn as sine aig a' mar a ghlaic an t-òran seo a' ògirdh an ama, gu sònraichte le uimhir an aghaidh Ameireaga a bhith an sàs ann an cogadh Vietnam. Tha cuimhne agam drobh againn còmhla ann an Ostail Eilginn ann am Port

Rìgh ag eisteachd ris a' bhan-sheinneadair shònraichte Joan Baez ga ghabhail agus tha i fhathast na bana-ghaisgeach dhomh! Tha mi cuideachd taiceil dhan teach-daireachd chruaidh a bh' aice fhèin agus aig grunn luchd-ciùil eile aig an am an aghaidh cogaidh, ach ged a bha an t-òran *Bheir sinn buaidh* cho taitneach agus gar togail cho mòr aig an am, chan eil cus coltas gun do shòrbh leis an iomairt.

Chaidh dà mhìle a mharbhadh aig Blàr Chùil Lodair agus mìlean eile anns an sgrìobh dioghaltais aig Cumberland an dèidh làimhe. A rèir aithris, fhuair fear de mo shinnsearan às le bheatha ach chuir e seachad an còrr de shaoghal na fhogarrach bho a dhachaigh fhèin agus sin a dh'fhàg Iain Dubh nam Beann air.

Tha clachan-mìle fuilteach air cuid eachraidh nan dearbhadh nach do dh'ionnsaich sinn dad! Agus tha, mar eisimpleir, cogaidhean Napoleon, an Crimea, Afraga a deas, an Cogadh Mòr, an Dàrna Cogadh agus Cogadh nan Eileanan Falkland nan dearbhadh cuideachd nach do sheas fois eadar dùthchannan an t-saoghail a bharrachd. Bha Gàidheil anns

na cogaidhean sin uile agus anns a' mhòr-chuid de shabaid sam bith a bha a' dol air feadh an t-saoghail. Saighdearan trèuna, calma agus dh'ìobair an t-uabhas dhiubh am beatha ann am blàran gun fheum!

Càite an deach na blàthan uile? Tha freagairt na ceiste sin air clachan-uaghach ann an clachan air feadh an t-saoghail!

AS THIS year's Chief of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, one of Professor Donald MacLeod's duties was to deliver an address at the society's annual memorial service at Culloiden.

This was a predictably powerful and inspiring oration which commented on the futility of using war to achieve peace and the responsibilities we have to support our armed forces when they are engaged in action and also when they return and seek normal life again. Older listeners might have recalled Pete Seeger's 1960s song *Where Have All the Flowers Gone?* They might particularly have recalled the words 'when will we ever learn?'

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

Times Diary

AN OBAN resident contacted *The Diary* this week to update our 'cuckoo watch'.

Mrs Wade claims to have heard the first cuckoo of spring on April 7 - a full nine days before our Benderloch resident.

She said: 'I heard it all day long from my garden. I wrote it on my calendar. I thought it was really early. I was amazed.'

Meanwhile Appin's Michael King reckons he has heard the first cuckoo on record this spring, having noted hearing a call at 8.10am on April 7 while out feeding his cattle.

Michael pointed out this was 10 days earlier than the first cuckoo he heard in 2011.

Another reader, from Kilmore, contacted *The Oban Times* to say she had heard her first cuckoo on April 11. Last year it was April 20.

She saw her first swallow on April 18, exactly the same date as last year.

Is there anyone else out there who thinks they heard the first cuckoo of spring?

CHANGING your password to access your phone or computers regularly is advised by IT professionals, warning hackers might break in and steal your data.

Diary has always doubted the validity of that statement though, seeing far too much potential for hassle.

So this week we're sparing a thought for the poor Oban reader who decided to change the password on her phone, falling asleep seconds later.

Needless to say, the new password is forgotten and the offending phone will only allow attempts to get the right code three times every three hours.

Diary hopes the phone is unlocked by Christmas.

SCIENCE has this week (National Stop Snoring Week) claimed victory over Old Wives' Tales when it comes to solving the problem of snoring.

Boffins at the British Snoring Sleep Apnoea Association (BSSAA) put many of the old remedies to the test, including a tennis ball sewn into the back of pyjamas, drinking milk and sleeping without pillows.

But a press release by the BSSAA proudly states these 'cures' simply do not work and in some cases caused more problems, such as back ache.

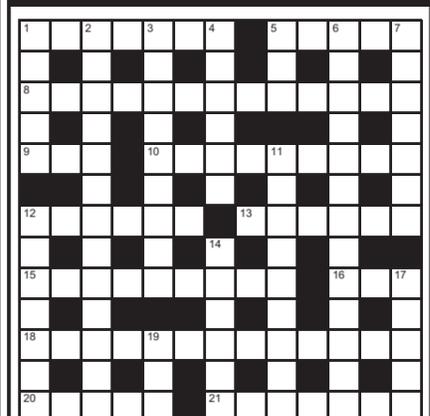
Instead, the association encourages snorers - or the victims of it - to complete the 'revolutionary online tests' on their website to help 'scientifically' find a solution.

The tests can be found at www.britishsnoring.co.uk/itests.

DIARY was heartened to hear one reader took the decision to look on the bright side after an unfortunate mishap last week. The unfortunate soul's car developed a problem requiring a lengthy repair, so dropped the car into the garage - only to promptly reverse the courtesy car straight into their own. Whoops.

Share your humorous gems, comments on life or amusing tales with the *Diary*. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to *Diary*, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Announce (7)
 - 5 Arab leader (5)
 - 8 Spaceships? (6,7)
 - 9 That (3)
 - 10 Not kin nor to do with (9)
 - 12 English exam (1,5)
 - 13 Levy (6)
 - 15 Surpass (9)
 - 16 Short summer month (3)
 - 18 Lockings up (13)
 - 20 Sheik's bevy (5)
 - 21 Main page on a computer (7)
- Down**
- 1 Silly duck! (5)
 - 2 Hot shaken condiment (7,6)
 - 3 To a sickening extent (2,7)
 - 4 Check (6)
 - 5 Australian runner (3)
 - 6 Attractor (13)
 - 7 What's left (7)
 - 11 Tumours (9)
 - 12 Annul (7)
 - 14 Margaret...a Canadian poet (8)
 - 17 Re-fill the Calor canister (3,2)
 - 19 Greek suffix as doctrine (3)

Last week's solution

P	U	C	K	B	O	N	A	F	I	D	E	
I	O	R	W	N	N	A						
A	N	Y	W	I	S	E	A	L	T	E	R	
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T	H	U	N	D	E	R	C	L	O	U	D	
T	I	E	O	A	S							
M	A	C	J	E	A	N	S	T	O			
E	A	A	C	M								
P	A	S	C	H	R	O	N	O	U	S		
P	A	C	E	S								
O	U	A	S	I	N	O	I	S	I	L	L	
U	R	R	O	S	E							
A	N	A	C	O	N	D	A		C	L	O	D

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OBAN will be buzzing with talent during the first weekend of May, when the town once again plays host to the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival. The annual festival runs from Thursday 3 May to Sunday 6 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 3 May 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 4 May. Prize-winning fiddle players and accordianists from the main competition

championships throughout the country are invited to take part in this unique competition. Six accordianists 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 busy day of competitions at venues throughout Oban on Saturday 5 May 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 4 May, 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 2011.

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 5 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 20th 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 6, 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 Lisbeg Pipe Band from Ireland and Mid Argyll Pipe Band will depart from Station Square at 5.30pm and parade through the town to the Corran Halls where they will give a performance. The Festival gratefully acknowledges the support it receives each year from a range of organisations and companies, without which it would not be possible to present the event. The Festival is a non-profit-making organisation with charitable status, and is organised by a volunteer committee. The Festival is self-funding through fundraising, grants, charitable donations, sponsorship, entry fees and box office income. **Confirmation of Tickets** Tickets for music competitions, Fiddle and Accordion Masters and highland dancing competitions at Atlantis Leisure are available at the door of the venues. Tickets for the Concert of Champions, Festival Fling dance, Scottish Area Finals and Scottish Choreography Challenge are available by phoning the Festival Office on 07510 841198. Please book early to avoid disappointment, as tickets for the Corran Halls dance events are in high demand. **Scottish Area Finals (SOLD OUT)** Festival programmes available from Oban Music and Corran Halls. Tickets for Concert of Champions and Festival Fling Dance available from Oban Music.



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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 3 May
Scottish Country Dancing - Guide Hall

Friday 4 May
Action Songs, Choirs, Groups, Ensembles, Recorder, Singing - Corran Halls
Accordion & Fiddle Masters - St. John's Cathedral
Scottish Area Finals Followed by Solo/Duet Choreography - Corran Halls

Saturday 5 May
Accordion - Scout Hall, St. Columba's Cathedral Hall
Clarsach - Congregational Church
Fiddle - Regent Hotel
Highland Dancing - Atlantis Leisure
Piano - St. John's Cathedral
Piping - Oban High School
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

Sunday 6 May
Scottish Choreography Challenge - Corran Halls

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

Programmes available from Oban Music & Corran Halls

Tickets for Concert, Festival Fling & Accordion & Fiddle masters available from Oban Music

All other tickets and enquiries Telephone 07510 841198
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Best wishes for a successful festival from everyone at

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Screening for BVD becomes compulsory

CROFTERS and farmers on the west coast are being reminded about a new mandatory screening project which was introduced at the start of February this year - and must be completed by February 2013.

All owners of breeding cattle must comply with the Bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) screening order and, if you are a keeper of a breeding cattle herd in Scotland, you are required to screen your herd each year for BVD.

Bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) is a widespread disease of cattle causing various symptoms including abortion, stillbirths, diarrhoea, pneumonia, poor condition and a lowering of resistance against other infections.

It is a serious infectious disease of cattle and can be fatal. BVD is caused by a virus (BVDV) which is spread by persistently infected cattle which constantly produce and shed the virus in saliva, nasal mucus, faeces and semen. Persistently infected cattle can only have acquired that infection in the first third of foetal life. Approximately one of every 100 young stock in Scotland is persistently infected. They are always virus positive and don't produce antibody against BVDV.

They can die of mucosal disease at any age. Some survive into adulthood and pose a real threat.

A persistently infected bull can wreak havoc if added to a susceptible herd, and if a persistently infected cow has a calf it will always be persistently infected. Most die as

calves but a few live much longer and many appear normal. Around two-fifths of all herds in Scotland have signs of exposure to BVD. Estimates are that there are between 2,000 and 4,000 persistently infected animals.

Therefore, if you get a 'not negative' result showing evidence of BVD within your herd you cannot just cull out any animals that look in poor condition and assume that will solve the problem.

A 2007 survey by the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) showed around 40 per cent of herds have signs of exposure to BVD.

Eradicating BVD would be worth up to £80 million over 10 years to the Scottish cattle industry with figures showing that an average dairy herd would be £16,000 better off every year, and an average beef unit around £2,000 better off each year.

Further advice There are six method options of how to screen your herd and the best source of further advice and information, in the first instance, is usually your vet.

Your vet will be able to provide advice about which method should be used and whether it is appropriate to test for antibodies to BVD or BVD antigen/virus in individual cases.

All samples must be sent to a laboratory approved by the Scottish Government. The testing period of screening runs from February 1 2012 to February 1 2013. However, any tests done from December 2011, before February 2012, which was the original start date will still count.



Eilidh Grieve arrives at Oban Auction Mart on her 1963 Super Dexter. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.

Coast to coast tractor challenge

ARRIVING in Oban from Campbelltown on a 250 mile trek to Fife, Eilidh Grieve was about half way to successfully fulfilling her mission.

Eilidh, development officer for farming charity RSABI, arrived in Oban around tea-time on April 12 on her 1963 Super Dexta New Performance Model tractor.

In tow on her Coast to Coast Challenge was her support vehicle - driven by her father Willie.

Eilidh met with Argyll FM's John Armour, who hosts a farming show every Thursday evening with John Galbraith.

On arrival at Oban, Eilidh, from Logierait near Pitlochry, met supporters for a tractor rendezvous, which provided another funding boost.

On Friday 13, the 24-year-old and her dad left Oban to head for Perth for another fundraiser, the final flog. On Saturday the duo left Moneydie early, to head through to Craik in Fife to complete her challenge.

Before starting her journey, Eilidh enjoyed dinner with members of Campbelltown Young Farmers, some of whom were at the start line in Campbelltown to present her with a cheque towards her fundraising and to wish her well.

Eilidh would like to thank everyone who supported the event through organising fundraising events, donations and sponsorship.

She also thanks patient drivers who encountered her and her tractor and also her dad Willie, for driving the support vehicle for 250 miles at 20 miles per hour.

Anyone wishing to Eilidh's tractor challenge can still do by visiting the RSABI website or texting TRACTOR to 70300 to donate £3 to RSABI. The fund is open until May 1.

Eilidh told The Oban Times on Friday around £1,500 has been raised so far.

Dog owners urged to take care with animals when out in the countryside

WITH springtime in full swing, people are taking the opportunity to head out and enjoy the countryside.

But this time of year sees ewes and lambs particularly sensitive to any disturbance and local farmers are asking people to take care when out and about in Argyll.

Neil Duncan, from Stonefield Farm, Tarbert, has suffered a spate of attacks on his sheep in the last few weeks, and with lambing season underway he faces a real threat to his livelihood.

The problem has become so bad he has contacted the police and taken out adverts in local publications warning dog owners of the consequences of letting their pets near his livestock.

He said: 'It has to be dogs, and local ones at that as visitors tend to only to stay around for a short time. It's more likely to be

someone nearby letting their dog out for a run.'

Attacks on Mr Duncan's sheep have already cost him five animals, many of which suffered severe injuries to the point where they had to be put down.

He added: 'Problems with domestic dogs tend to arise when they get a taste of blood, and from then on sole animals can become repeat offenders. We don't want any dogs shot so would urge owners to take care.'

The NFUS is also urging walkers to keep their dogs on leads and stay out of fields with young animals when enjoying the countryside.

A spokeswoman said: 'Everyone should be aware that it's a very busy time for farmers and a critical time for new-born animals, especially lambs.'

'The sight of young lambs in spring is a joy shared by everyone visiting or living in

the countryside, but to protect these animals, it is essential that people follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and heed local advice from farmers.'

'In particular, dogs should be kept well away from sheep because even if no lambs are present, pregnant ewes are extremely vulnerable to disturbance.'

Walkers should also remember that while walkers have the right of access through fields, farm animals can be aggressive, particularly with youngsters to protect, and alternative routes should be taken where possible.

Farmers also have the legal right to shoot dogs. The Countryside Code states that walkers must keep their dog on a short leash on most areas of open country between March 1 and July 31, and all year round near farm animals or else they are liable to be shot.

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£10 Option to purchase fee [^]	£8,847 Optional final payment	£22,729 Total amount payable by customer		£24,059⁶⁰ Total amount payable	4.9% Rate of interest (fixed)	4.9% APR Representative



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11 61 320 Diesel M Sport Coupe



- Black sapphire • 6,533 miles
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06 06 X3 2.0 Diesel SE



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09 59	116i Diesel Sport 5dr, Space grey, black cloth, 24,666 miles, 17" alloys, sport seats and steering wheel, air con.....	£12,495
07 07	116i ES 5dr, Montego blue, black cloth, 55,029 miles, 16" alloys, CD.....	£8,995
11 61	116i Sport 3dr, Jet black, black cloth, 4,359 miles, 17" alloys, sport seats & steering wheel, air con, front foglamps.....	£15,495
05 05	116i Sport 5dr, Titanium silver, grey cloth/black sensatec, 48,011 miles, 17" alloys, comfort pack, auto air con, front fogs.....	£7,495

3 Series

11 61	318i Diesel Exclusive Edition, Space grey, black leather, MOA, 17" alloys, bluetooth, PDC rear, servotronic steering.....	£21,995
09 59	318i Diesel M Sport Auto, Titanium silver, alcantara/cloth, 14,186 miles, 17" alloys, PDC, auto climate air con, MF controls.....	£17,495
10 59	318i Diesel SE Business Edition, Crimson red, black leather, 33,001 miles, 17" alloys, navigation, bluetooth, voice control, BMW assist, PDC rear, electric folding exterior mirrors, seat heating front, front foglamps, sun protection glass.....	£16,995
08 58	318i M Sport, Black sapphire, black leather, 44,467 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, cruise, auto air con.....	£14,995
09 09	318i SE, Titanium silver, black cloth, 43,576 miles, 17" alloys, bluetooth, rain sensor, auto headlight activation, PDC rear.....	£13,995
12 12	318i Sport Plus Edition Coupe, Black Sapphire, black leather, 10 miles, 19" alloys, navigation, bluetooth, PDC rear, rain sensor, auto headlight activation, seat heating front, auto air con, xenons.....	£26,495
11 61	320 Diesel M Sport Coupe, Black sapphire, black leather, 6,533 miles, 19" alloys, bluetooth, seat heating front, PDC rear.....	£27,995
11 61	320 Diesel SE Convertible Auto, Alpine white, coral red leather, 4,500, 18" alloys, bluetooth, PDC front & rear, seat heating front, servotronic steering, electric front seats & driver memory, cruise, xenons, headlight wash.....	£29,995
09 09	320 Diesel SE Coupe, Space grey, black cloth, 28,720 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, cruise, auto air con, MF controls.....	£18,495
12 12	320 Diesel Sport Plus Edition Coupe Auto, Silverstone, black leather, 10 miles, 19" alloys, navigation, bluetooth, PDC rear, electric fold exterior mirrors, seat heating front, USB, servotronic steering, sun protection glass, xenons.....	£30,995
09 09	320i SE Saloon Auto, Black sapphire, black cloth, 18,587 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, electric folding exterior mirrors.....	£16,995

5 Series

11 61	520 Diesel EfficientDynamics, Black sapphire, oyster/black leather, 8,453 miles, 17" alloys, media package BMW business advanced, PDC front & rear, cruise, seat heating front, front foglamps, auto air con.....	£27,995
11 61	520 Diesel M Sport, Titanium silver, oyster/black leather, MOA, 18" alloys, media package, BMW assist, DAB digital radio, seat heating front, PDC front & rear, cruise, USB audio interface, 5 year service inclusive.....	£29,995
12 12	520 Diesel M Sport, Space grey, black leather, 10 miles, 19" alloys, media package - BMW business advanced, PDC front & rear, cruise with brake function, electric fold exterior mirrors, sun protection glass, climate control.....	£32,995
09 09	520 Diesel SE, Titanium silver, black leather, 43,805 miles, 17" alloys, business media pack, PDC front & rear, cruise.....	£16,995
10 60	530 Diesel SE Auto, Black sapphire, black leather, 11,536 miles, 18" alloys, media package - BMW business advanced, PDC front & rear, electric fold exterior mirrors, sport steering wheel, auto air con.....	£28,995

X1

10 10	X1 sDrive18 Diesel SE, Alpine white, black cloth, 15,681 miles, 18" alloys, roof rails black, PDC, auto air con, MF controls.....	£18,995
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1 Series

06 06	X3 2.0 Diesel SE, Bluewater, black cloth, 56,042 miles, PDC, cruise, rain sensor, auto headlight activation, MF controls.....	£11,995
05 05	X3 2.0 Diesel Sport, Titanium silver, black leather, 53,507, 18" alloys, bluetooth, running boards, front foglamps.....	£11,995

X5

08 58	X5 xDrive 35 Diesel M Sport, Carbon black, black leather, 50,916 miles, 20" alloys, media package, TV function, BMW assist, USB audio interface, loudspeaker system, seat heating front, reversing assist camera, electric folding exterior mirrors, electric front seats & driver memory, diver lumbar support, detachable towbar, adaptive headlights, xenons, headlight wash, rain sensor, auto headlight activation, cruise, CD changer, PDC front & rear.....	£29,995
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Z4

06 56	Z4 M Roadster, Black sapphire, light bronze leather, 32,672 miles, 18" alloys, PDC rear, loudspeaker system BMW business, CD changer, seat heating front, electric front seats and driver memory, headlamp washer system, soft top dark beige, wind deflector, auto air con.....	£14,995
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12 12 320 Diesel Sport Plus Coupe



- Silverstone • Black leather • 19" Alloys
 - Navigation • Bluetooth • USB
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08 58 318i M Sport



- Black sapphire • Black leather • 17" Alloys
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 - Cruise • Auto air conditioning
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11 61 520 Diesel M Sport



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Offer available on selected BMW 1 Series 5-door, 1 Series Coupe and Z4 models ordered between 1 April and 30 June 2012 and registered by 31 July 2012, subject to availability. Representative finance example is based on a BMW Select agreement for the models pictured, a 116i Sport 5-door, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 5.7p per mile; a 118d Coupé Exclusive Edition, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 5.55p per mile; and a Z4 sDrive20i M Sport Roadster, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 7.3p per mile. *On the road cash prices are based on manufacturer's recommended retail price and includes 3 year BMW Dealer Warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months' road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. ^Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges may be payable if you return the vehicle. Prices are correct at time of publication and are subject to change without notice. Retail customers only. Finance is subject to credit acceptance and available to over 18s in the UK only (excluding the Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services (BMW FS). Whilst we have close links with BMW FS and commonly introduce customers to BMW FS, we do not work exclusively with BMW FS. BMW EfficientDynamics reduces BMW emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the new model range and available in some BMW Approved Used Cars registered after March 2007. Please contact us for an accurate mileage on advertised vehicles.

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES(SCOTLAND)ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT(CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES)(SCOTLAND)REGULATIONS 2011

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION ETIVE 6 (SAILEAN RUADH)

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with regulation 13 of the above Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency(SEPA) by Dawnfresh Farming Limited for authorisation to carry on a controlled activity in Loch Etive namely:

Etive 6, Sailean Ruadh marine cage fish farm, as follows:

Description of Controlled Activity	Waters Affected	National Grid reference
Discharge of waste effluent from marine cage farming of Atlantic Salmon with an increase to the maximum tonnage of 2500 tonnes.	Loch Etive	NM9830 3410

SEPA considers that the above controlled activity is likely to have an impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment. Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1042067

Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30a.m. and 4.30p.m. Monday to Friday(except local and national holidays) and by prior arrangement at SEPA's Lochgilphead Office, 2 Smithy Lane, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8TA, 01546 602876. Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/consultations.aspx

A statement of the reasons for SEPA's assessment that the above controlled activity or activities is likely to have an impact on the water environment will be made available by SEPA on request by contacting the above office.

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

When ready to determine the application, SEPA will serve notice on any person who has made a representation within 28 days of this advertisement, informing them of SEPA's proposed determination and giving them the opportunity to notify the Scottish Ministers in writing that they object to SEPA's proposed determination within 21 days of the notice being served.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- Assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- Assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- Consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- Consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- Assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- Assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- Apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant an authorisation to carry on the activity or each of the activities referred to above and will make its decision available to the public together with the main reasons for it, the matters considered in making it and, if granted, details of any measures that will be taken to mitigate the impact.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

FISH FARM INSTALLATION, SAILEAN RUADH, LOCH ETIVE

Notice is hereby given that DAWN FRESH FARMING LTD has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of fish farm installation at:

Description Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Sailean Ruadh, Loch Etive	56 27.44'N	05 16.76'W	56 27.24'N	05 16.52'W
	56 26.56'N	05 16.43'W	56 27.29'N	05 16.58'W
	56 27.47'N	05 16.31'W	56 27.26'N	05 16.67'N
	56 27.54'N	05 16.15'W	56 27.28'N	06 16.81'W
	56 27.46'N	05 16.15'W	56 27.34'N	05 16.65'W
	56 27.42'N	05 16.20'W		
	56 27.38'N	05 16.20'W		
	56 27.31'N	05 16.28'W		

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at: Oban Library, 77 Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AL, United Kingdom

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to: Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.Marine.Licensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: FKB/M55 Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, Bothwell Park Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS

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	Time period for comments
12/01172/FUL	Land at Allonbreck Lettermore Ballachulish	Erection of dwelling house (amended design to 09/00283/FULL)	(14 days)
12/01289/FUL	Land 30M North of Nevisport High Street Fort William	Installation of Telecommunications equipment	(14 days)
12/01418/FUL	Gordon Square Fort William PH33 6DX	To install new glazed folding doors to form opening shopfront, new ventilation grille positions to building elevations and new kitchen extract flue and fire flue to internal courtyard elevation	(14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled Association

AGM
May 25, 2012
Achnalarig, Oban
1pm

Industrial And Provident Societies Act 1965

Notice of Cancellation pursuant to section 16 of the Act

Notice is hereby given that the Authority has pursuant to the above mentioned section this day cancelled the registration of Wildwood Wisdom Co-operative Limited (Register No 2717 RS) the registered office of which is at The Old Byre, Port Charlotte, Islay PA48 7TX at its request.

The society ceases to enjoy 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: 26 March 2012

Financial Services Authority
25 The North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HS

Proposed Let of a Croft/Part of a Croft

Donald MacKinnon & Mrs Allison J. MacKinnon are applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at Baliscate in the parish of Baliscate, Kilninnin, Kilmore, to Grant Fraser MacKinnon of 1 Staffa Cottages, Tobermory, Isle of Mull. If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

CROFTERS COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECISION ON APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

Mr C Hodge of Achalic Farm, Lerags is applying to create a new croft. 5.01.37988

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Please specify your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

CROFTERS COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECISION ON APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

Application by Alistair Lindsay of Ardachearnmor Croft, Glendaruil, Kilmoran has been approved. Case no: 5.01.36316

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

CHARLES AND BARBARA TYRE TRUST SCHEME 1979

In implementation of the objects of the above Trust, the Governing Body may, in each financial year, award grants to assist applicants -

- (a) to obtain a qualification additional to a qualification of a University or other institute of higher education already obtained.
- (b) to train in a trade or profession other than in which they are at present trained.
- (c) to undertake a course provided by the Open University for which they have registered.
- (d) to undertake training in leadership and initiative.
- (e) to benefit from recreational holidays in cases of physical or mental disability.

In accordance with the wishes of the donors, the Governing Body shall:-

(a) satisfy themselves that the applicant is a Protestant, has completed school education, but is not, at the time of award, more than 25 years of age, and is ordinarily resident within the area of the former County of Argyll.

(b) Associate the names of Charles and Barbara Tyre with each award made under the scheme.

Further details and an application form may be obtained online at www.charlesandbarbaratyretrust.org.uk. Completed applications must be received no later than 31 May 2012, and applications received after the closing date will not normally be considered except in exceptional circumstances. Please note application forms will be accepted before examination results are received.

Clerk to the Governors, Charles and Barbara Tyre Trust, Loch Awe House, Barmore Road, Tarbert, PA29 6TW
Tel: 01880 820 277 Fax: 01880 820 722



Tobermory Harbour Association
Taigh Solais
Ledaig
Tobermory
Isle of Mull
PA75 6NR

Invitation to Quote

Tobermory Harbour Association (THA) is inviting graphic design, print and display companies to quote for design work to assist THA's Project Officer in the design of 31 separate display areas plus typesetting, printing and delivering the designed display content for THA's Marine Education Centre.

The work will be image, text and graphics based and will be full colour printed onto foam board display panels. There will be 45 curved panels at boards at approx 1m x 2.25m, and 10 flat panels at 0.25m x 2.25m. Applicants must also be able to print for light-box displays.

Applicants must have experience in designing graphics and text for print, be able to adapt at short notice to revisions in supplied media and have a portfolio of previous commercial work.

The company appointed will be required to start within one week of securing the contract and all work must be successfully completed within six weeks of securing the contract.

Notes of interest and quotes must be submitted to Don Mitchell at Tobermory Harbour Association no later than lunchtime Wednesday 2nd May 2012.

For further information and full display details contact Don Mitchell at the address below.

Don Mitchell
Tobermory Harbour Association
Tel: 01688 302876
Mobile 07591 530866
don.mitchell@tobermoryharbour.co.uk
www.tobermoryharbour.co.uk

THA is a community company working to provide excellent facilities for community growth. This project is part funded and supported by the Enterprise Growth Fund.



CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

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10. Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
11. Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
12. A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

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PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00553/PP	Construction of 2 clear water tanks, installation of 2 chemical storage containers and construction of tarmac parking area within an extended fenced compound	Tobermory Water Treatment Works Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6DF	Tobermory Area Office
12/00554/PP	Construction of a partially buried abstraction chamber and raised steel access platform	Land Adjacent to Loch Peallach Dam Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6DF	Tobermory Area Office
12/00834/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse (renewal of planning permission reference 07/00279/DET)	Land South of Heatherfield Albert Road Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
12/00855/PP	Erection of 19.2m high (to blade tip) wind turbine.	Ruag Farm Ruag Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6TR	Tiree Area Office
12/00879/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South Of Bramble Cottage Calgary Isle of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dervaig

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00615/PP	Erection of 4 dwellinghouses, 4 flats and formation of new vehicular access.	Vacant Land Between Leodamus Place and Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Islay	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/00601/LIB	Installation of replacement windows and door	4 Crown Street Portnahaven Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA47 7SW	Sub Post Office Portnahaven

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website.

Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

Invitation to meet your local candidate
Iain Angus MacDonald
INDEPENDENT
Ward 5 Oban North and Lorn

VOTE 1
IAIN ANGUS MACDONALD

Victory Hall, Benderloch
3pm - 9pm. Tuesday 1st May, 2012.
(tea and coffee provided)
Or phone me at 07766394079
E-mail inveresregan@lineone.net.

As an elected councillor he will work hard to bring back open and transparent decision making to a local level, creating the opportunity to find solutions to your council needs for the good of the whole community.

Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Mhuile Mull Community Council

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 8th MAY, 2012,
8pm, CRAIGNURE VILLAGE HALL.

Formal notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Mull Community Council will take place on 8th May, 2012, at 8pm in Craignure Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend and to stay for the general business meeting that will follow the AGM.

Susan Campbell
Secretary
Mull Community Council

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BABY EQUIPMENT

BABY BOUNCER elephant march blue baby bouncer with detachable toy bar(Argos), birth - 9kg, as new, £15 Telephone 01631 564688 after 6pm.

BABYDAN BABY DEN play pen in excellent condition, white, with grey washable play mattress. Width: Up to 3 metres 60 cm, Height: 70 cm, £49.99 Telephone 07990 616442.

BABY PLAY GYM unisex, bears bunnies etc, has a slight mark on it but nothing that effects its use (cost £50 new), £150. Telephone 01586 810457.

BABY SEAT suitable from 3 months, helps to build strength in back in preparation for sitting themselves, £10.00 Telephone 01586 810457.

BABYDAN COTTON PLAYTENT in excellent condition this turns the BabyDan Playpen into a fun play area, a colourful house with a door and windows, £15.00 Telephone 07990 616442.

HEDSTROM BABY SWING for indoor or outdoor use, suitable for 6 months +, vgc, £20 Telephone 01546 600097.

HOME SAFETY LOCKS brand new, Mothercare unopened baby locks, new £4.99. 5 packs available: 2 magnets for drawers, 3 multipurpose locks. Per pack, £2 Telephone 07990 616442.

BICYCLES

BIKE CARRIER for roof rack/bars, good condition, £15 Telephone 01631 710159.

BOYS BLUE 12" BIKE Blue Subaru bike with removable stabilisers, age 3-5 years, back pedal breaks, in really good condition, just been out grown, £25 Telephone 01631 720305.

CHILDS BICYCLE green Kawasaki bicycle suit approx 8 to 10 years. Good condition, £25 Telephone 07714 233006.

BUILDING / DIY

BRAND NEW ROOF Ridge Tiles Black Western Slate. Universal angle. Length 455mm, 54 tiles available (more can be purchased from Rembrand Oban), £15, Telephone 07872 986164.

POLISHED BLACK PORCELAIN Floor high gloss black granite effect. Large format 600mm x 600mm. 3 packs of 3 tiles each, total coverage 3.24m². Retail for £50, £20 Telephone 07972 986164.

STAINLESS STEEL TIES 40 timber frame kit holding down ties stainless steel 800 long, £40 Telephone 07775 665503.

UNDERGROUND DRAINAGE PIPES 6 lengths of 6metres x 4 inch new pipes, £49 Telephone 07775 665503.

UPC SINGLE GLAZED WINDOW 2' 3 1/2" wide, 4' high, £49.99 Telephone 01546 602259.

CAR ACCESSORIES

MOTORCYCLE PADDOCK STANDS red front and rear motorcycle paddock stands with bobbin fittings ha telephone 07775665503rdlyused, £40 Telephone 07775665503.

CARS AND CAR PARTS UNDER £250

RANGE ROVER ALLOYS set of 19inch genuine range rover alloys with 255x55x19 excellent tread Pirelli tyres, also 2 extra tyres included, £450 Telephone 07775 665503.

CATERING EQUIPMENT

CAKE STAND round 18", £10 Telephone 01546 602275.

CHAFING DISH large chafing dish, brand new still in box, £25 Telephone 07714 233006.

COMMERCIAL FRIDGE Vestfrost CFKS471 CommercialFridge with 2yr manufacturers' warranty! Dimensions (approx): H 1860x659x659, £375 Telephone 07939 668558.

FRIDGE 13 cu ft, £45 Telephone 01546 602275.

STEEL TABLES two stainless, 1200 X 600, £45 each Telephone 01546 602275.

CD'S, DVD'S AND VIDEOS

DVD'S VARIOUS £2.00 each, Gimme Gimme, Thin Blue Line, Entertaining Mr Sloane, Tai Chi DVD inc cards & booklet, Natural History of Britain. Telephone 01631 710487.

DVD'S VARIOUS all £2.00. Spaced 3 disc edition, Idiot Abroad 2, Bill Bailey Dandelion mind+guide Orchestra, Stephen Merchant Hello Ladies. Telephone 01631 710487.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

LADIES ALL IN ONE SKI SUIT Nevica FS17 Chinook Sport, size 40L colour mid blue, £15 Telephone 01631 710487.

PARTY DRESSES two gorgeous wee girly party dresses, one pink (baby boutique by Tesco), one red. Aged 6-9 months. Cost £10 each, will sell for £5 each or two for £8. Telephone 01586 810457.

RADLEY HANDBAG in excellent condition, £45 Telephone 07899 915430.

TROUSER PRESS Corby, good condition. Full working order, £30 Telephone 01631 710159.

TWOGIRLSNOSUITS age 6-9 months, one purple (furry) by Tesco and one pink with hearts by M&S, excellent condition, £4each Telephone 01586 810457.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

COMPUTER C2002, buyer collects, £45 Telephone 01880 820430.

COMPUTER FLATSCREEN with digital colour printer, good condition, £30 Telephone 01586 551741.

DELL COLOUR MONITOR 15", complete with power lead and vga cable, very good condition, £20 Telephone 07909 241011.

DELL COLOUR MONITOR 17", complete with power lead and vga cable, very good condition, £30 Telephone 07909 241011.

LAPTOP BAG Antler, quality make, black material, suitable for 17" laptop, plenty of storage, additional shoulder strap, used once, £20 Telephone 01631 710487.

NINTENDO N64 Nintendo 64 console, Mario 64 edition, boxed, mint condition, £30 Telephone 07826 302007.

NINTENDO SNES Starfox edition, boxed, with 3 games and extra controller. Vgc, £30 Telephone 07826 302007.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

TALL LARDER FRIDGE white, H1450, W600. Good condition, £45 Telephone 01631 720224.

DOMESTIC PETS

BICHON FRISE/PARSON RUSSELL Terriers beautiful natures, mostly white and fluffy; small fluffy dogs, to good homes only; ready end April, £275 Telephone 01586 551282.

CAIRN TERRIER DOG PUPS for sale, KC registered, ready early May. Telephone 01583 431235.

LHASA-APSO MALE DOG good home wanted, 2 years old, good natured, black and white, £200 Telephone 01586 820546.

FIREWOOD

BARK ECO LOGS 5 10kg packs compressed bark logs. 5 logs per pack. Ideal for stoves or ranges with back boilers. Can deliver Mid Argyll, £30 Telephone 07988 763254.

SAWDUST FIRE BRIQUETTES 10 15kg bags of compressed sawdust briquettes. Clean burning alternative to coal. Ideal for use in multi fuel stoves, £40 Telephone 07988 763254.

FURNITURE

BEDSIDE TABLES 2 dark wood, matching bedside tables, buyer collects in Oban, £45 Telephone 07919 031413.

BROWN LEATHER ARMCHAIR single seat leather armchair, in good condition. 100x100 cm, £25 Telephone 01586 554257.

DINING TABLE oak, good condition, 44" long x 28" extends to 54", £49 Telephone 01631 720452.

DINING TABLE solid oak, drop leaf sits 4 1920's(?), £350.00 Telephone 01631 710548.

DINING TABLE & FOUR CHAIRS white tiled top, modern, very good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01586 551741.

DRESSING TABLE classic 1970s wooden dressing table. 3 mirrors, felt lined drawers, very elegant, black legs good feet, can deliver in Oban, £30 Telephone 07919 031413.

DUCAL PINE FURNITURE vgc, corner cabinet £100, Hi-Fi cabinet £85, corner TV unit £95, bureau £100, two seater sofa & chair £200. Telephone 01631 563404.

IKEA GLASS DISPLAY CASE with lights. 6' tall, good condition, £40.00 Telephone 01546 603048.

OLD FASHIONED BUREAU /writing desk, good condition, £49 Telephone 07714 233006.

SMALL BUNK BED, £15 Telephone 01546 600097.

UPHOLSTERED CARNER SEATING unit, oak finish, suitable for dining, £49 Telephone 01631 720452.

WARDROBE 3 door wardrobe 1970s classic. 3 door, centre mirror on slider. black legs with brass feet, £45 Telephone 07919 031413.

FORK & RAKES strong fork £3, 3 rakes £1.50 each, half moon turf cutter £1.50. Telephone 01631 710487.

WHITE BELFAST SINK great for garden use. Buyer uplifts, £20 Telephone 01631 565733.

GARDEN MACHINERY

FLYMO MOW N VAC model: 632571, 9 months old, 2 years warranty left, £25 Telephone 01866 833342.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

PANEL HEATER Siemens Electric 2000W, 4'6" X 1'4", very good condition, £15 Telephone 01546 602715.

PANEL HEATERS Siemens Electric 3 X 800W, 2'2" X 1'4", very good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01546 602715.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

PEARLISED PAPER & CARD White, Baby Blue & Baby Pink colours available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

COLOUR TV 21 INCH silver, £49.50.00 Telephone 01855 821431 N Ballachulish.

HOME FURNISHINGS

7" SAMSUNG DIGITAL PHOTO FRAME brand new, still boxed, £15 Telephone 07909 241011.

HOME OFFICE

ALVE IKEA FLATPACK DESK tallboy and bookcase. Wood finish, very good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01852 500601.

COMPUTER DESK modern, very good condition, £25 Telephone 01586 551741.

COMPUTER DESK computer desk, £20 Telephone 01880 820430.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

14 KITCHEN UNITS white doors and brown trim, worktops, £49.99 Telephone 01631 563368.

CAST IRON BATH white enamel, chrome taps, plain feet, reasonable condition, buyer collects, 1660x710x580mm, £40 Telephone 01546 810279.

MORTAR & PESTLE granite, bowl shaped, 5" high, 7" diameter, as new, £15 Telephone 01631 710487.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

GLOBE TROTTER FLIGHT BAG quality make, smart looking, black material, nice lining, additional shoulder strap, could be used for the office, £15 Telephone 01631 710487.

PRO FITNESS MOTORIZED Treadmill v good condition, full instructions, need the space, £450.00 Telephone 01546 603986 after 6pm or weekends.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

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EVINRUDE 6HP OUTBOARD ENGINE two stroke, standard shaft, with fuel tank, £190.00 Telephone 01586 553804.

MISCELLANEOUS

FEED TROUGH BY J & M CRAIG, Kilmarnock, from byre built in 1910, conditions from good to worn, red clay glazed, size 80cmx42.5cmx18cm, weight 75kg, ideal as planters. For further information contact: iainmclark@hotmail.com or Telephone 01631 566722.

HARVEST BINS second Hand, 1,000 litre and 500 litre, suitable for water, animal feed and any storage, good condition, £49.99 Telephone 07748 377389.

GARDEN

HOUSE CLEARANCE/ OPEN HOUSE Larch House Inverfolla Appin PA38 4BA. Sat & Sun 28/29 April 10-4. Everything must go for further info Carolyn. Telephone 07989 650690.

LOCKERS tall, metal, used. Buyer uplifts, £10 Telephone 01586 830677.

WIRELESS COLOUR PINHOLE CCTV Camera, scart connection, ideal for farmers, brand new, still in box, £20 Telephone 07427 386955.

WANTED

MINI MOTO 50cc, 2 stroke if possible, good condition. Telephone 07798 578388.

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

PERSONALS

Happy 50th Birthday Christine Winnard Love 'n' Hugs Islay, Neill, Jen & Karen x

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

BEN SAYERS GOLF BAG good condition, with full set of golf clubs(gents). Wilson 1200 irons 3 - 5w and Daiwa metal woods 1 - 3, 5, £49. Telephone 01631 563982 or 07764 960640.

GENTS TAYLOR MADE RY driver, Superquad reg shaft 3 years old, £40 Telephone 01631 563982 or 07764 960640.

GOLF CLUBS Would suit junior or small adult. 7 graphite clubs with London Pride grips. 1,5,6,8,9,S,P, good condition, £40 Telephone 07799 806916.

GOLF TROLLEY Powakaddy Freeway with 2 batteries plus charger, 3years old, £150 Telephone 01631 563982 or 07764 960640.

KAYAK STACKER BARS 2 x Thule 520-1 Foldable Kayak Stacker bars, each set will hold 1 canoe, good condition. Straps not included, £30 Telephone 01631 710159.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

MOVED HOME? Sticky address labels to attach on all your correspondence. 500 labels from £20. Call Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

WRITING PAPER and matching envelopes, printed with your address. Sets from £33. From Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

TOYS AND GAMES

ELECTRIC TRAIN SET Hornby Virgin Trains 125. Only used twice, still in v good condition. also some spare track. Cost £120 new, £43 Telephone 07799 806916.

PINK WINNIE THE POOH DOLLS Pram vgc, £15 Telephone 01546 600097.

SCALEXTRIC Bash 'n crash. Scalextric sport, advanced track system. Only used a few times, in v good condition, £28 Telephone 07799 806916.

V-TECH CRAWL & LEARN BALL (bought for £15), £5.00 Telephone 01586 810457.

TRAILERS

BOAT TRAILER suit 12' - 14' boat, needs tlc, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720414 or 07775 501658.

REMOVALS & STORAGE

MACQUEEN BROS LTD Full range of packing materials Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG Tel: (01631) 564848 www.macqueenbros.com

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Chris Craft window blinds FREE MEASURING / FREE ESTIMATES FREE FITTING / MADE IN SCOTLAND ALL BLINDS MADE TO MEASURE FREEPHONE 0800 371250 Check out our Customer Views at www.customers.chriscraft.co.uk

window blinds

Chris Craft window blinds FREE MEASURING / FREE ESTIMATES FREE FITTING / MADE IN SCOTLAND ALL BLINDS MADE TO MEASURE FREEPHONE 0800 371250 Check out our Customer Views at www.customers.chriscraft.co.uk

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BIRTHS

JONES - HALFORD - Pat and Ken, Seil, are delighted to announce the birth of their first grandson Euan Rory, on April 5, 2012, Reading. Congratulations to proud parents Kirsty and Kevin.

RUSSELL - STRANG - William and Ashley are pleased to announce the birth of William Donald Strang Russell (Billy), on April 16, 2012, a little brother for Hayley, fourth grandson for Billy and Sandra, fifth grandchild for Mary and Allan. Thanks to all in attendance.

ENGAGEMENTS

WRIGHT - KAY - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Charlie, son of Charlie and the late Linda Wright to Michelle, eldest daughter of Roseleen Kay and of the late Michael Kay. We wish them both every happiness.

MARRIAGES



BECKETT - MACLEOD

Both families are delighted to announce the marriage of Kimberley Elizabeth Beckett to Donald MacLeod both of Tobermory on April 13, 2012 in Glasgow.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Neil Campbell, Ardtun, Isle of Mull (formerly of Tirahoi) died peacefully on April 21, 2012 in his 88th year with his family round him. A very special dad, father-in-law & Grampa. Funeral to be held on Thursday April 26, 12pm at Suidhe Cemetery and thereafter to Argyll Arms Hotel.

McPHERSON - Suddenly after a short illness on Saturday, April 21, 2012, Maimie (nee Dunn) formerly Bonawe, wife of the late Alistair. Funeral will take place on Friday, April 27, at Clydebank Crematorium. Sadly missed.

RAE - At home, surrounded by the love of his family, Bill, after a long and hard struggle, finally passed to his rest aged 95 years. Funeral service will be held at Duror Church of Scotland on Thursday, April 26 at 2pm, followed by interment at Duror Cemetery. Family flowers only.

WRIGHT - Suddenly at home after a long illness patiently borne on April 17, 2012, Robert Wright (Bob the Badge), aged 76 years, King Brude Gardens, Inverness, a dear brother and uncle. Enquiries to the funeral directors, John Fraser & Son, 17-29 Chapel Street, Inverness, tel: 01463 233366.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - The family of the late Robert would like to thank everyone for the kindness and support they have received since their sad loss. Grateful thanks to all who sent cards and floral tributes and all phone calls received and all who attended the funeral service and Pennyfuir Cemetery. Our gratitude to Fr MacNeil for his support and a comforting Mass. Thanks you to all emergency services, the helpful staff at Hoey's, Moreen Gracie and the Royal Hotel. The sum of £270.64 was donated to Oban Lifeboat Station.

CLARK - The family of the late Robert (Bobba) Clark wish to thank all relatives, neighbours and friends for the kind expressions of sympathy received. Special thanks to Helen and Willie Harrison, Sue and Norman Smith, Ambulance personnel and Oban Police for their help. Thanks to Rev James Beaton for his spiritual help and funeral service and to Hamish Hoey and Son, Funeral Director for efficient and dignified funeral arrangements. Thanks also to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and generously donated to Oban War and Peace Museum.

KENNEDY - Donald (Donnie). His Mum, sisters Ann and Margaret, daughter Louise and son Darren and families would like to thank local nurses, Macmillan Nurses, Dr Ian Gartshore, Fr Joe Calleja and Mike McFall for all their marvellous care and attention. Special thanks to Donnie's nieces and nephews for all their help and support, to all friends for their visits, phone calls, cards and letters and to all who came from near and far to pay their respects at church and graveside. It was a comfort to the

family to see so many there. Thanks also to Clachan Inn for providing excellent refreshments. £800 was raised at the church and divided between the Local Parish, Macmillan Nurses and the River Fund.

MACGREGOR - Duncan's family would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support during this sad time, Margaret Miller for a lovely service, Hamish Hoey especially Catriona for all their help and the nursing staff who helped look after Duncan, also everyone who attended the service and for the donations for Cancer Research.

MACKAY - The family of the late John MacKay would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their support and kind expressions of sympathy following their recent sad loss. Thanks to Ward 3A Raigmore and Ward 1 Belford for wonderful and compassionate care towards Dad. Sincere thanks to Rev Chris MacRae and Rev Alasdair MacLeod for their comforting service, to Mike McFall for his efficient and caring funeral arrangements, the Railway Club for looking after us so well. The sum of £700 was raised for Ward 1, Belford Hospital.

IN MEMORIAM

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of Angus D Campbell, a dear father and grandpa who died April 27, 1981.

Sadly missed. - All the family in Bunessan, Oban and away.

DEMPSTER - In everlasting memory of a much loved husband, father and pappy Donald John, who passed away on April 30, 2011, also remembering with love Robert Dempster, who passed away on May 23, 2010.

We never ask for miracles But today just one would do To see the front door open And see you walking through.

- Jessie, John, Marie, Cathy and Donald John and all the Dempster family at home and away.

GILLIES - Treasured memories of my dear mum, Morag, died April 24, 2002. Always in my thoughts and prayers.

- Maureen. **GILLIES** - In loving memory of my beloved husband Ronnie, died April 26, 2003.

Time may pass and fade away But silent thoughts and memories stay.

- Loving wife May. **GILLIES** - In loving memory of Ronnie, a dear father and papa, who passed away April 26, 2003.

Sorley missed Always fondly remembered. - Love Theresa, Iain, Laura and Catherine.

JOHNSTONE - Treasured memories of Neil a much loved husband, dad and ganga, who died April 26, 2008.

You are not gone You are with me in every footstep, every heartbeat, every day, every sunset.

- All my love Ena. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts. - Neil and Daniel. Missing you and loving you always.

- Raema, Graham, Jamie and Paul. **LESLIE** - In fond and loving memory of the Leslie family of Kerrera. My father Alex Leslie, the Lobster King, who died April 19, 1961, his wife Elizabeth Nimmo died January 20, 1975, their daughter Margaret Nicolson died June 2, 2009, her husband John Nicolson died April 28, 1986, their elder son John, died March 6, 1999, their elder daughter Margaret died March 16, 2012. The others of the family, Elizabeth Leslie died July 5, 1942, Laura Leslie died September 4, 2001 and Alex Leslie Jr died August 8, 2007 and my own dear wife Mary MacLeod, died April 28, 2007.

MACAULAY - Cherished memories of my dear wife, Mary, who passed away on April 30, 2011. Always in my thoughts and close in my heart for ever

- Hector, Bayhead, North Uist **MACGREGOR** - Precious memories of a dear son and brother Robert Donald who passed away April 25, 1999.

- Mum, Annie and Duncan. **MACGREGOR** - In loving memory of Robert taken from us on April 25, 1999, a loving brother, brother-in-law and uncle to Ally, Kathleen, Ewan, Jamie and Rachel.

Until we meet again. **MACKAY** - In loving memory of my husband, dad and granda, Bill MacKay, passed away April 28, 2010.

Gone from our lives But not from our hearts. - Your loving wife Alison, Billy, Tracy and family, Alison, Gus and family and Caroline, Robert and family.

MACKENZIE - Remembering today as every day Joan, who passed away April 24, 2010. Much loved wife, mother, mother-in-law, granny and aunt.

We struggle to find the words to say how much we love and miss you But it is every minute of every day.

- Norman, Doreen and Annette xxx **MACKENZIE** - Joan. Loving memories of a precious mum and granny, died April 24, 2010.

- Stephen, Carol, Connor and Holly. **MACKINNON** - In loving memory of my dear husband, father and grandfather Neil, who passed away on April 30, 1991.

Always remembered - Jessie, David, Eileen, Lisa, Helen and John and great grandson James.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of Neil, who passed away April 29, 2011, a loving husband and dad.

Always remembered. - Jessie, Iain and James, Inchree, Onich.

MACLENNAN - In loving memory of my husband 'Johnny Fish', who died April 28, 2011.

Time may pass and fade away But love and memories forever stay.

- Sarah. **MACLENNAN** - Remembering with love today and every day my dad and grandad 'Johnny Fish', who passed away on April 28, 2011.

We miss you dad and always will You left a place no one can fill

You shared our lives, our smiles our tears Thank you dad for those precious years.

- David, Pat, Cara, Emma and Connor. **MCNEILL** - Loving memories of Sammy.

Always loved and remembered. - Betty xxx.

ROBERTSON - Remembering my cousin John (Lochaline), who died so suddenly aged 48 on April 28, 2008.

Always in my thoughts. - Catherine, Stonehaven. **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 Sandy, a dear dad and grandpa, passed away April 26, 2002.

Loved and remembered always. - All the family.

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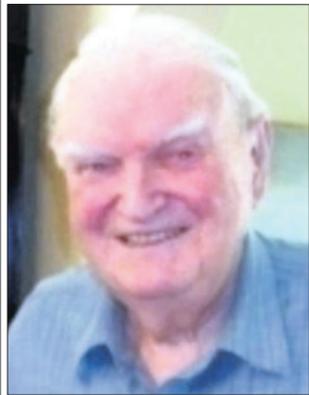
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Campbell Street Church
Sunday 29 April 2012
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
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4th of Easter
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Sung Eucharist..... 10.15
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Holy Communion..... 11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist..... 08.00
Evensong..... 20.15
Holy Eucharist.....
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Obituary: Donald Gilbert Macdonald



Donald Gilbert Macdonald.

DONALD Gilbert Macdonald, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, passed away April 15, 2012 at the QEII - Infirmary Site, aged 86.

Born in Benbecula, Donald was the only child of the late Rev. Donald and Rachel (MacKinnon) Macdonald.

As a child growing up in Islay, his first language was Gaelic and his free time was spent fishing and sailing.

His family are the MacKinnons of Port Wemyss, Islay and built Burnside as the family home.

Educated at Marr College, Troon and Glasgow University Medical School, Donald served in the Royal Navy as Surgeon Lieutenant and saw action in Korea and the Far East. While serving in Hong Kong he met his future wife and was married there.

Upon discharge from the Royal Navy, he practiced family medicine, primarily in Yorkshire.

In 1966 he emigrated with his family to Winnipeg where he was a family doctor. Because of his knowledge and love of the sea and ships, he was selected to join the Canadian survey ship *Baffin* as medical officer, where he took part in the exploration of the Northwest Passage and circumnavigation of North America in 1970.

Upon completion of the voyage, he opened a family practice in Prospect Bay and was also a consultant for the Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia.

He then accepted a position with the Federal Government as Director of Environmental

and Occupational Health for the Atlantic Region from which he retired in 1990.

He enjoyed his summers at the cottage in Kingsport, NS with his family and his little dog, Ginja.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothea Macdonald (Annet); daughters, Anne Thompson (Andrew), Rona Macdonald (Rod Tilley), both of Halifax; grandchildren, Geoffrey Donald Peladeau, Daniel Gilles Peladeau, Iain George Thompson, all of Halifax, and Robert Donald Thompson, Toronto.

Before his death, Donald wished any donations to be made to 'Missions to Seafarers' or the Salvation Army. - Rona Macdonald, Donald's youngest daughter, of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Kilmallie Parish Church flower exhibition



Bright displays on show

A flower exhibition at Kilmallie Parish Church in Corrach drew large numbers of members of the public over three days last week. The event, last held in the parish church in Caol in 2009, saw members of the congregation create a range of bright flower displays which were positioned around the church. Roberta Gillies helped run the event and said having the exhibition in the church made it even more special. 'It's nice having them under the stained glass windows, it just adds something special.' Irene Burns, who helped organise the show, said: 'We wanted to have it in Corrach this time, for everybody to come along and have a look.' Pictured are Norma MacLellan, Irene Burns, Ellen Smith and Roberta Gillies.

20 Years Ago Those Were The Days The Oban Times Thursday, April 30, 1992

Muck residents harvest wind power

PEOPLE living on a remote Hebridean island are to harness the power of the wind to generate cheaper electricity. The 27 residents of Muck are to be hooked up to a £350,000 windpower scheme this autumn, ending a 25-year dependence on a battery of diesel generators.

A 50 feet tall wind turbine is to be built on the island and 19 premises, including a new school and a BT transmitter station, will be connected to the system by underground cable.

In the event of a lack of wind to power the turbine, a back-up diesel generator will come into action. Funding for the project has come from the European Commission, Highland Regional Council, BT and Lochaber Limited.

Islander, Mr Ewen MacEwen said the system was a 'green' solution to Muck's electricity needs and offered potential for other small islands.

Royal date for Kilchoan schoolchildren

A PARTY of schoolchildren from Kilchoan had a date with royalty last week. Nine children from the remote school in Ardnamurchan met up with the Princess Royal on a trip to Edinburgh.

Mrs Sue Cameron, a parent who accompanied the children on the trip said: 'They were going on a trip to Edinburgh Zoo and before the trip the school got a telephone call, from the zoo, asking if they knew Princess Anne was going to Edinburgh on the day of the trip, they didn't know.'

'They were asked to go in to the Education Department to see the Princess. She spoke to them and asked them where they were from.'

Seal is released

A YOUNG seal was released back into the wild this week after being nursed back to health at the Sea Life Centre. She was very sick with parasites and infections, had been brought in from a fish farm on Loch Etive, and looked after with the aid of Oban vet Mr Max Bonniwell, before being released fat and healthy into Loch Fyne.

Lochaber is base for STV programme

SCOTTISH Television has laid the foundations for a new Gaelic do-it-yourself programme to be set in Lochaber. Dean Fhein E will be shown over 12 weeks this autumn, and the show will chronicle the building of a three bed kit house at Glenfinnan.

The Dean Fhein E crew will transform an empty site into a beautifully designed house, demonstrating along the way the skills needed to create a dream home.



Nurses - past and present together in Oban. t17twtd03

Reunion for Oban nurses

THE FIRST and last nurses to take part on an Enrolled Nurse Training (ENT) course in Oban met on Monday to commemorate the end of the course. Nurses who were the first to enrol in July 1958 met with newly qualified recruits who will be the last to take part in the training.

The ENT is being phased out at the end of April all over Britain and will be replaced with a new training known as project 2000. Nurses who trained together from 1958 - 60 were reunited with colleagues they had not met for over 30 years. Some had travelled from as far as Aberdeen.



Donald Forsyth, managing director of Henry Boot Scotland Limited, places the time capsule in the ground at Friday's ceremony. t17twtd01

Work starts on new Oban hospital

THE FIRST foundation stone of the new Oban hospital has been laid - more than 30 years after talks first began about building a replacement unit for the town.

At the official laying of the stone on the Glenshellach site last Friday Mr Robert Reid, chairman of Argyll and Clyde Health Board, expressed his delight at work finally starting on the hospital - which will replace Oban's five existing buildings.

After indicating the possibility of a new hospital had been mentioned 60 years ago, Mr Reid said: 'There is certainly a firm belief that 30 years ago this was definitely mooted. I have been involved for 17 years as a member of the Argyll and Bute Health Council.'

To commemorate work starting on the hospital, a time capsule was laid under the foundation stone. The capsule contains a copy of last week's Oban Times, a map showing the location of the site and a statement from The West Highlands and Islands of Argyll Tourist Board.



Hugh Ross opens the centreas Nancy Collins and Susan Smith look on. t17twtd05

New Caledonian Canal visitor centre opens at Banavie

A NEW Caledonian Canal visitor centre was officially opened at Banavie recently. The Old Sawpit Craft Shop and Memorabilia Centre was opened by British Waterways Supervisor, Mr Hugh Ross. Behind the project are Fort William women, Mrs Nancy Collins and Mrs Susan Smith. The site was formally used as an old forge where metal gates were made for the canal.

'We wanted to keep the character of the building alive, so we thought the best way to do it was by turning it into a memorabilia centre,' said Mrs Collins.

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Both Oban teams out of Celtic Cup

Bute and Taynuilt progress to semi finals

OBAN CAMANACHD co-manager Andrew Pearson admitted his side contributed heavily to their own downfall during their AJG Celtic Society Cup defeat last weekend.

But he added his team were keen to make amends in the Balliemore Cup competition semi-final against Strathglass this weekend.

Andrew told The Oban Times: 'It is about time this club won a trophy; it's been too long since we did. The Balliemore Cup is a really nice trophy and the boys are really keen to bring it back to Oban.'

Last weekend's defeat at Bute came after young Malcolm Clark had given the visitors a 60th minute lead but failure to kill a team off came back to haunt Oban. A tactical switch by Bute saw Hector Whitelaw move to full forward and the big man fired in the equaliser before scoring two extra-time goals.

Andrew explained: 'We played well in the first half but we lost Ian 'Gussie' Campbell to injury and our midfield started drifting back. Our defence played really well but there was just too much pressure on them as a result. We should have kept pushing forward.'

Scott MacMillan and Matt Rippon should come back into the squad for this weekend.

BUTE manager Barry Martin is getting close to his ideal line-up as he welcomes players back to the squad.

This weekend's opponents Kinlochshiel present an unknown quantity for the islanders, who recorded a confidence-boosting Celtic Cup win over Oban Camanachd last weekend.

'I don't know much about them [Kinlochshiel] but I know this won't be an easy game,' said Barry. 'They have good forwards but defensively we are a tight unit and we have players coming back into the squad.'

Barry reshuffled his pack last Saturday after going a goal down to Camanachd and losing the services of Brian Liddell to an ankle injury. It was Brian's first game back after injuring himself in the first match of the season against Fort William.

The most effective tactical switch was moving Hector Whitelaw from defence for attack and the hard-hitter responded with a hat trick to see his side through to meet Inveraray in the semi-final.

Barry said: 'It was 10 minutes after I moved Hector forward that he scored his first goal and he had a shot that hit the post just before that.'

'I have been wanting to play him up front all season but due to the unavailability of other players, he has been in defence. Hector shields the ball well and it's not for the faint-hearted if you don't get your block in when he shoots.'

TAYNUILT fans will be dreaming of seeing their team in the AJG Celtic Society Cup final this season but team manager Davy Thomson refuses to get caught up in the hysteria.

A 3-2 win over Oban Celtic, in which Willie Gillies and Stuart Scott (2) scored for the home team, lifted spirits in an otherwise disappointing season so far.

It is the team's disappointing league form that concerns Davy, despite a promising cup run, and he has set his side a target of at least three points from the next two league games.

'We are back to league business this weekend against Aberdeen and it is vitally important to get something from it,' said Davy. 'We have Aberdeen again in the semi-final of the Celtic Cup but I'm not thinking about that

just now. We really need league points.

There were signs of improvement in Taynuilt's game last Saturday, not least scoring more than one goal for the first time this season.

OBAN CELTIC'S David Hamilton insists his players can put a painful Celtic Cup defeat to Taynuilt behind them as they prepare to resume league business.

The Oban side travel to Lochgilphead to play Kilmory on Saturday still smarting from their cup exit but David said his team has the strength of character to play out a successful league season.

'It was a very disappointing defeat because this season is the best chance a team from South Division One will ever have of getting to a major cup final.'

It was a keenly contested match against Taynuilt but they took their chances and we didn't. That was the difference on the day.

'Now it's back to league business and I don't think the boys are as badly affected as I thought they would be. They seem to be taking it in their stride.'

Alan MacInnes equalised for Oban Celtic to make the score 1-1 last Saturday and a Gary McKerracher strike pinned Taynuilt back to 3-2.

INVERARAY made themselves favourites to lift this season's AJG Celtic Society Cup by disposing of defending champions Kyles Athletic.

The Royal Burgh had Andrew McMurdo back in their 'old school' defence, which was able to nullify the usually lethal Kyles attack.

Manager John Smylie was keen to play down his favourites tag and refused to get carried away with a win over their Argyll rivals, which came courtesy of a Euan McMurdo strike.

'It was a hard game, with both defences on top. I told the boys at half time that one goal would win it and we had to go out and get it.'

'We had our old school defence and they were playing really well, so I knew if we got a goal, we could defend our lead.'

'We have Bute in the semi-final of the cup and we know semi-finals can be as unpredictable as the toss of a coin.'

'But the boys would be pretty down if we didn't win it after putting Kyles out.'

Ronald Ross is likely to return for Kingussie this weekend against Inveraray and John still singles out the veteran as Kings' danger man.

The Royal Burgh will have to break up the 'old school' in defence, as Scott Robertson and Douglas Dando are unable to travel.

KYLES ATHLETIC play bottom-of-the-league Kilmallie this weekend but the Tighnabraich side suffered a body blow last weekend, losing their Celtic Cup crown.

'What's more, the loss was to Argyll rivals Inveraray.'

The result of this weekend's match will determine whether Kyles' young team have the stomach for an Orion Group Premiership title challenge.

FORT WILLIAM will look to get their league campaign back on track by getting the better of Lovat at Black Parks on Saturday - ground conditions permitting.

Fort performed heroics in running Newtonmore so close in their Co-operative MacTavish Cup quarter-final last weekend, but their cause was not helped when the home tie had to be switched to Invergarry because Black Parks was out of commission.

Peter MacIntyre's men have lost two games on the bounce after going down 4-2 to Glenurquhart the week before the cup clash - but the coach knows that Lovat, who upset high-flying Kinlochshiel at Kirkton 4-3 last time out, will present a stern test.

He told the Oban Times: 'We will have to deal with Greg Matheson, who is scoring a few goals - he is a great young player who has great stick work and shows great accuracy in his shooting. We will definitely have to keep an eye on him.'

'I won't be changing much - we coped so well with Newtonmore, so we should be able to cope with Lovat with the same squad.'

We will have Bryan Simpson back and Ryan Campbell and that will be a big help to us. But Gary Innes won't be available - he's on musician duty playing on the islands.'

KINLOCHSHIEL will look to bounce back from their 4-3 home loss to Lovat last weekend by beating Bute at Kirkton on Saturday.

'Shiel coach Johnston Gill will still be without Fraser MacVish through work commitments, but said Gordy MacDonald could make a return to the squad after his long absence because of a knee injury. John Don MacKenzie will also make his return after two weeks on the sidelines through suspension.

Gill has been forced to draft in young players from the second team, but Oliver 'Ach' MacRae, Donald Nixon, Connel Fraser and Jordan Fraser - all aged 16 or 17 - have all performed well and look tremendous prospects. Gill told the Oban Times:



Newtonmore's Stevie MacDonald and Arran MacPhee of Fort William battle it out. 20_17shinty03

'Against Lovat we were short of players - I knew fine it would catch up with us sometime. We started with only one of our first choice forward line - Keith MacRae.'

'The Bute game is really one we want to win - we need to put some daylight between ourselves and the bottom teams.'

'If we lose this one, they could all come closer to us. Bute have played very well in a lot of their games and when they have lost they have only done so by a small margin. We won't be taking them lightly.'

He added: 'We are also still waiting to hear whether Finlay MacRae will be fit.'

NEWTONMORE have the weekend free after last Saturday's heroics against Fort William in the MacTavish Cup.

The 'More's next game will be against the same opponents in the league at The Eilan on Saturday May 5.

GLENURQUHART will travel to face Beaulieu in a MacTavish Cup replay this Saturday after last weekend's game was postponed due to an unplayable pitch

SHINTY

at Braeview Park.

The north division one side have already recorded an upset in the competition, defeating premierships rivals Lovat 4-3 in the first round.

Glen manager Fraser MacKenzie told The Oban Times he would not be taking Beaulieu lightly and he expected a tough game.

His side have had an up and down start to the season, winning three and losing three in the league so far.

KINGUSSIE welcome Inveraray to The Dell this Saturday looking for a win which could take them into second place.

With leaders Newtonmore not playing, Kings will be amongst a number of teams looking to take advantage and close the game at the top.

Manager Steven Borthwick told The Oban Times: 'This is a good opportunity for us to get a bit closer to the top, and we'll have a full squad available.'

Kings defeated Kilmallie 3-1 at Black Parks last weekend to move into the MacTavish Cup semi final, where they will tackle Lochaber.

Borthwick said: 'We were pretty much backs against the wall for the first 20 minutes. There was quite a strong wind against us. But we turned it round and in the end it was pretty comfortable.'

'Lochaber are an in-form team so it won't be an easy game.'

Marty Dallas opened the scoring after 20 minutes only for the home side to equalise 10 minutes later. Fraser Munro restored Kings' lead three minutes

after the break and Ronald Ross made sure of the win by scoring in the 78th minute.

LOVAT travel to Fort William on Saturday in great fettle after pocketing a fine 4-3 win at Kinlochshiel last weekend.

The Kiltarlity men, along with 'Shiel, have been the Orion Group Premiership's surprise packet this season and currently lie third - only three points behind leaders Newtonmore with a game in hand.

To Lovat coach Allan MacRae, Fort will be a tough nut to crack in what has been a highly competitive league campaign so far.

He told The Oban Times: 'Every game is a hard game this season - there has not been one where you could have said we should take both points before it started. Kilmallie, for example, have a good team and some cracking players and it won't be long before they start picking up the points.'

'It's just so full on - and I think it will be like that until the end of the season. Fort William are a really strong side and if Gary Innes is playing he's always one to watch.'



Oban Celtic's Ian MacKechnie tries to block as Taynuilt's Stuart Scott clears his lines during Saturday's Celtic Cup tie played at Taynuilt. The village team emerged 3-2 winners. 07_17shinty01

Lovat will be without full centre Lorne Mackay, who is suspended for two games.

MacRae added: 'Ewan Ferguson might still be out too. He's been missing for a few weeks and it depends on whether the lambing is finished or not.'

Against 'Shiel, a quickfire double from Ryan Ferguson and Greg Matheson put Lovat two up early on before Duncan 'Ach' MacRae gave 'Shiel hope.

The clinical Matheson scored two more in the second half to make it 4-1, and late goals from Duncan 'Ach' and Keith MacRae were not enough for 'Shiel.

KILMALLIE are still looking for their first league win of the season - and they couldn't have picked a much more difficult fixture to break their duck than an away trip to Kyles Athletic. Shinty commentators have been left scratching their heads

Lochaber will play Kingussie in the MacTavish Cup semi final after knocking out Skye with a 4-0 win at the weekend.

After a closely-fought first half, Lochaber got back on the goal trail in the second half with strikes from Ben Delaney, Sean Nicholson, Scott Paterson and Zands Ferguson.

Delaney said: 'The second half was much better; we weren't quite ourselves in the middle of the park in the first half.'

'Kingussie are a funny team. Everyone says they are not as good as they used to be but they still seem to be able to grind out results, and in the cup competitions they are a totally different team.'

LOCHCARRON'S attention turns to the Balliemore Cup when they travel to Portree to take on Skye this Saturday.

Andrew MacKenzie's men suffered a surprising 4-1 defeat at home to Inverness in the league last weekend, and a scoreline the manager said did not reflect how the game went.

He said: 'We just weren't get-

ting the goals. We had about 70 per cent of the game but we just couldn't put the ball in the net.'

'It was just a case of everything seeming to fall for their forwards. They only created a few chances but they were able to take them.'

'We'll be looking to strengthen things up front and maybe move some people around a bit this weekend. Looking back, we probably could have made one or two changes during the game and we might have got something from it.'

Ross Matheson and Ben Dalgety will be available after missing the Inverness game. Mackenzie said the cup will come as a welcome distraction for their poor start to the season.

'The idea is just to get through to the next round where we would have a home tie against Glasgow Mid Argyll, so we'd be looking to win both of those games.'

SKYE CAMANACHD will be on cup duty for the second week running on Saturday when they face local rivals Lochcarron in the Balliemore Cup first round.

The Skymen will be determined to erase the memory of last week's 4-0 defeat at Pairean Laoch in the hands of Lochaber - but will take nothing for granted in the derby match.

The teams are meeting for the first time this season - and Skye coach Willie MacRae won't be taking any chances.

He told the Oban Times: 'It should be a tight game, what with it being a local derby - they are always interesting affairs.'

'We have missed too many chances this season, and it was the same against Lochaber. So that's what we'll be concentrating on this week - trying to get the boys sharpened up for the Lochcarron game.'

He added: 'Against Lochaber we did everything right in the first half, but just could not score the goals.'



Results

Saturday 21 April

Orion Group Premiership
Kinlochshiel 3 - 4 Lovat

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Strathglass 1 - 3 Caberfeidh
Lochcarron 1 - 4 Inverness

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Aberdeen Uni v Glengarry Postponed
Glenurquhart v Kingussie Abandoned
Lochaber 5 - 4 Kinlochshiel
Lovat 3 - 2 Fort William

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Boleskine v Beaulieu Postponed
Kilmallie 2 - 2 Lochbroom
Lochcarron 3 - 0 Lewis Cam
Inverness 3 - 2 Strathspey

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Glenorchy 1 - 2 Glasgow MA

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Tayforth v Kyles Athletic Postponed
Bute 5 - 0 Inveraray
Aberdour 4 - 5 Ballachulish
Col Glen 1 - 0 Ardnamurchan
Lochside 9 - 0 Glasgow MA

The Co-operative MacTavish Cup
Beaulieu v Glenurquhart Postponed
Skye 0 - 4 Lochaber

AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup
Kilmory 1 - 1 Aberdeen
Inveraray 1 - 0 Kyles Athletic
Bute 3 - 1 Oban Camanachd
Taynuilt 3 - 2 Oban Celtic

Sutherland Cup
The Scots 1 - 2 Caberfeidh

Strathdearn Cup
Skye 3 - 2 Newtonmore

Womens Shinty
Dunadd 0 - 1 Glasgow MA

Fixtures

Saturday 28 April

(Throw-ups 2.30 unless stated)

Orion Group Premiership
Kinlochshiel v Bute

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Deek Cameron
Kyles Athletic v Kilmallie
Billy Wotherspoon
Fort William v Lovat
Robert Baxter - 3pm
Kingussie v Inveraray
Graham Cameron - 3pm

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Caberfeidh v Lochaber
Evan MacRae

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Lochaber v Aberdeen Uni
Graeme Irvine
Newtonmore v Kinlochshiel
Graeme MacMillan

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Inverness v Lochbroom
Robert Morrison - 1pm

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Aberdour v Taynuilt
Glasgow MA v Strachur
Kilmory v Oban Celtic
Colin MacDonald

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Glasgow MA v Lochside
Graham Irving - 12 noon
Bute v Col Glen
Gus Campbell
Inveraray v Ardnamurchan
Ronnie Campbell

The Co-operative MacTavish Cup
Beaulieu v Glenurquhart
John Angus Gillies - 12 noon

Sutherland Cup
Kingussie v Skye
John Matheson - 12 noon
Newtonmore v Taynuilt
Graeme MacMillan
Glengarry v Fort William
Callum Duff
Kilmallie v Ballachulish
Neil Ferguson
Lovat v Strathglass
Innes Wood

Boleskine v Caberfeidh
John MacLeod
Glenurquhart v Kyles Athletic
Donald MacRae - 3pm
Beaulieu v Aberdeen
Al Hunter - 3pm

Balliemore Cup
Oban Camanachd v Strathglass
Dunkie Kerr
Skye v Lochcarron
Donald MacRae



Oban Celtic goalkeeper Alan 'Spider' Duncan clears his lines during the Celtic Cup clash with Taynuilt.

League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	7	5	1	1	29	12	11
Kinlochshiel	7	3	2	2	20	16	8
Lovat	6	3	2	1	13	10	8
Kyles Athletic	6	3	1	2	18	15	7
Fort William	5	2	2	1	9	6	6
Kingussie	6	3	0	3	12	15	6
Glenurquhart	6	3	0	3	10	13	6
Inveraray	5	2	0	3	5	12	4
Bute	6	0	3	3	3	10	3
Kilmallie	6	0	1	5	9	19	1

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochaber	4	3	1	0	18	3	7
Beaulieu	6	3	1	2	14	14	7
Skye	4	3	0	1	11	11	6
Inverness	5	1	2	2	9	10	4
Lochcarron	6	1	2	3	9	17	4
Caberfeidh	3	1	1	1	7	6	3
Strathglass	6	1	1	4	11	18	3

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Camanachd	4	4	0	0	17	2	8
Glasgow MA	6	4	0	2	14	8	8
Glenorchy	4	3	0	1	8	4	6
Kilmory	5	1	2	2	10	11	4
Aberdour	5	2	0	3	6	14	4
Oban Celtic	4	1	2	2	4	7	3
Strachur	5	1	1	3	5	8	3
Taynuilt	5	0	2	3	4	14	2

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	6	6	0	0	30	5	12
Glengarry	6	4	0	2	13	8	8
Skye	5	3	1	1	13	6	7
Glenurquhart	6	3	0	3	12	12	6
Kinlochshiel	6	2	2	2	13	15	6
Aberdeen Uni	6	2	1	3	7	13	5
Lovat	7	2	1	4	12	23	5
Lochaber	7	2	1	4	16	28	5
Kingussie	6	1	2	3	11	13	4
Fort William	5	1	0	4	5	9	2

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochside Rovers	7	7	0				

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Oban cricketers defeat Gargunnoch

CRICKET
OBAN Cricket Club's pre-season continued with victory over Gargunnoch, from Stirling, an improvement on a narrow defeat by Fort William the weekend before.

A sharp fielding display from Oban contributed to a middle-order collapse, catches from Kelly, Khan and two from Mirza had the visitors in trouble at 34 for 6 and a middle order collapse saw the visitors post a score of 85 all out.

Having scored a magnificent 70 at Fort William, Bangladeshi-born Taj Islam continued his impressive form with the bat by smashing five sixes in his 43, which set the platform for a comfortable run chase. Ronnie Kelly and Imran Mirza spent valuable time at the crease to help the total on. Oban never looked in trouble as Neill Belshaw batted superbly and Sukanta Debnath secured victory with a towering six over long-on.

Oban next travel to Vale of Leven on May 6.

Douglas wins MacNab Trophy

CARPET BOWLS
THIS YEAR the Alistair MacNab Trophy was played in North Connel Hall, with five tables in place.

Five games were played over the afternoon and with 40 players taking part it was going to be hard to pick a winner.

At the last count, Hughie Macleod (Shuggie) was in top form with his team but the dark horse of Douglas MacCallum, whose team never lost a game, was appearing and won five games on their march to the final. There they beat Hughie's team.

The winning team consisted of Douglas MacCallum, Ronnie MacIntyre, Hugh MacCorquodale and Donald Henderson.

Taynuilt Golf Club

GOLF
INVERLORN Plate first round on April 22: 1 Donald Cattanach, 40 pts (7); 2 Hugh Nicolson, 40 pts (13); 3 Alan Wilson, 39 pts (11).



Scottish Rugby Union president Ian McLaughlan, centre, pictured with under-17 and under-14 players and coaches from Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club during a visit last Saturday. 15.117rug04

Young Mull rugby team wins top sevens tournament

A YOUNG group of players, who have risen through every age group at Isle of Mull Rugby Club, secured one of the club's finest trophy wins at the weekend.

The nine-man sevens squad, who all hail from the island, returned home from Inverness with the Highland Sevens title.

The Mull club last won the competition 22 years ago, before many of this year's squad were born. Of the 24 teams teams who attended the well-known sevens tournament Mull was one of the youngest, with two 16 year olds in their ranks. The oldest player was 23.

Achievements
Mull Rugby Club coach Gerry Ralston said: 'This win is up there with the best achievements ever at Mull Rugby Club.'

'It is a big tournament and a high standard of rugby, so we are really proud of the boys, especially as they are all from the island and came through from our mini rugby teams. That is really pleasing for everyone at the club.'

On heavy and muddy pitches, Mull opened their pool matches with a 26-12 win over Ross Sutherland Wildcats.

The next match ended in a 19-19 draw against Leavenyarsaelona (a Gordonians touring side) but it was victory in their third match against the much-fancied Aberdeen Grammar FP that really lifted Mull's confidence level.

Grammar had three players who took part in the recent Melrose Sevens but this only served to spur the young Muileachs into action and they recorded a fine 12-7 win.

Mull then took the field against their third Aberdonian side of the afternoon, Gordonians. The islanders had now developed their style and shape and really started to play, coming away 33-0 winners.

Glentworth, runners up in pool three were the opponents in the next round and Mull ran in try after try, whilst ensuring they're defensive cover kept pace. The team's unexpected progression into the semi-final began to cause concern, as the squad began to wonder how they

would have time to catch the ferry home. Leavenyarsaelona were Mull's opponents, but the fitter Mull boys came out on top in a 25-7 win.

On paper, the final was to be a very different affair, with the young Muileachs facing up to the Fijian Blackwatch, who had a former IRB sevens player among their ranks.

However, reputation counted for nothing from the first whistle, as Mull powered into the Fijian

side, keeping ball and tackling everything that moved.

The youthful energy of the Mull team failed to wear and the underdogs took the match 26-14.

The only remaining problem of how to get home on Saturday night was solved when Coastal Connection transferred the team from Lochaline to Mull.



The victorious Mull rugby squad.

SRU president congratulates Argyll rugby volunteers

RUGBY
THE PRESIDENT of the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) has heaped praise on Argyll rugby clubs and their volunteer coaches.

Ian 'Mighty Mouse' McLaughlan explained he 'keeps tabs' on Argyll rugby and, as part of his pledge to visit as many rugby clubs in Scotland as he can, visited Oban Lorne RFC last Saturday.

Mr McLaughlan, whose wife, Eileen, attended the Craigard Hotel reunion last weekend, said: 'In areas where rugby is the traditional sport they sometimes don't have to work as hard as the clubs in places like Oban.'

'The first thing Dee [club president Dee Bradbury] said to me when I arrived was how dif-

ficult it was to compete against shinty and football, which I understand.

'I keep tabs on Argyll rugby and I am trying to encourage clubs like Islay to play more but for them rugby is a two-day event because of ferries.'

'The new Mull clubhouse is a fantastic facility and what they are doing now is collecting funds for an indoor training facility.'

Asked for his initial impressions of Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club, Mr McLaughlan replied: 'I see a lot of young coaches, men and women, which is great, because young coaches are usually better at communicating with young players.'

Another podium for John

MOTOR CYCLING
JOHN McPhee took his second CEV Moto3 podium in a row at Navarra with a strong ride from eighth on the grid to third, earning 'title contender' billing.

The result means the Connel teenager is in second place in the championship, one point behind Germany's Philipp Ottl.

Last weekend McPhee - who struggled to deliver in qualifying dropped down the order when the lights went out before showing his M3-01's true race pace as he moved back through the pack to mix it with the front runners.

A frantic five-way battle for third behind runaway leader Alex Marquez and Monlau

team-mate Francesco Bagnaia followed before the KRP rider settled matters with a move on Stylobike's Luca Amato for fourth with a lap to go.

That left Eurotrading rider Alejandro Medina between McPhee and the final podium place, a problem the unpredictable Spaniard obligingly resolved by taking himself out and leaving the way clear for the Scot to chase Bagnaia all the way to the flag.

Marquez took the win five seconds clear of his fellow Monlau rider while McPhee followed on just over a tenth of a second behind.

Saints youths - results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results:
Under 13s 4, Ardencaple 4. Saints scorers were Jay Cooper, OG, Ben Coates and Lomond MacPherson.

Under 14s 4, Kilpatrick 0. Netting for the Oban side were Stuart MacLean, Keiran Hendry and Daniel MacVicar.

Renton 5, Under 15s 1. Saints scorer was Stuart Twort.

Under 16s 2, Port Glasgow 2. Aidan Campbell and Ryan MacDougall were on target for Saints.

This weekend's fixtures:
Under 13s v Lenzie; Clydebank BC v Under 14s; Under 15s v Allander Colts; Under 16s v Clydebank Phoenix.

Park take prime position

GYMNASTICS

PUPILS from Park Primary School took first place at the recent gymnastics festival at Oban High School.

Five primary schools took part in the competition but the partnership of Milla Biconova and Rebecca Hay from Park impressed the judges with a well choreographed and immaculate sequence to take the gold medals and a trophy for their school.

The judges were impressed with the all-boys team from St Columba's, the first time a boys team has entered.

Betty Moncrieff, a former principal teacher of PE in Oban, judged the teams with assistance from two high school students involved in coaching gymnastics in high school, Sophie McInnes and Christie MacKechnie.

Andrew tops Order of Merit

GOLF

GOLF of a consistently high standard saw Andrew Smith triumph in Dalmailly Golf Club's first Order of Merit event, the Leisure Sport Stableford, on Sunday.

Stable returns of 40 and 42 rendered Smith untouchable even by first round leader Shaun Squire, who faded from contention following his stunning opening gross score of 66 (42 stableford points), to finish seven back in second place.

Third, a further five points behind, was Colin McKay. The Orchy club are taking entries for the first open event of their Silver Jubilee season, the popular Gent and Ladies Seniors Open.

This takes place on Wednesday, May 16 and entries can be lodged via the club's website.

Tobermory GC

MEN'S section: Western Isles Challenge Cup 1 Ewan MacCrone, 38pts; 2 Graham Davidson, 37pts; 3 Mike Campbell, 36pts. The Kings and Queens Competition was won by John and Barbara Weir.

Ladies Section: April Stableford 1 Margaret Ingram, 37pts; 2 Olive Brown, 20pts; 3 Gillian Wilshire, 12pts.

Junior Section: Junior MacAllister trophy 1 William MacCrone, 70-09-61; 2 Ross MacCrone, 83-20-63; 3 Lewis Wilshire, 75-10-65.

Three vital league points for Saints as title race heats up

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
Castlemilk 0
Oban Saints 1

SAINTS travelled to the excellent Barlia Football Centre 3G pitch to take on Castlemilk in this premier division league match and it was the visitors who travelled back up the A85 with all three points in the bag after a hard-fought win over their Glasgow opponents.

The visitors created a chance in only the second minute when Donald Campbell set up Keith Millar, but the Saints skipper failed to hit the target, then Lewis Cameron had a good effort that sailed inches over the bar.

Castlemilk had the ball in the net in the 15th minute, but the 'goal' was rightly chalked off by referee Jim Pearson for a foul by Steven Murphy on Saints keeper Graham Douglas - there was no

complaint from the Milk striker over the decision.

The game was flowing from end to end and Chris Graham did well to head the ball off the line as Castlemilk pressed forward in an attempt to open the scoring.

Both teams were playing good football on the excellent surface. Saints almost took the lead when Donald Campbell fed the ball into the path of Willie Gemmell but his shot took the point off the top of the crossbar with Milk keeper Craig Lowe stranded.

A minute later Keith Millar set up Donald Campbell with a great chance, but Donnie's shot squirmed past the wrong side of the post.

Saints had a good claim for a penalty when Lewis Cameron was brought down in the box, but to the amazement of the Saints contingent the referee failed to point to the spot.

Just on the half time whistle Keith Millar had a good opportunity, but he miskicked in front of goal and a good chance was missed.

The referee blew for half time with the scoreline standing at 0-0 which was about right in a closely fought first 45 minutes.

Positive

The home side started the second half on a positive note and had Saints on the back foot, but the Oban lads were defending well although Saints keeper Graham Douglas was happy to see a shot skim the top of his crossbar.

After the slow start to the second 45 Saints fought their way back into the game and took the lead in the 58th minute with a well worked goal. Myles McAuley took a quick throw to Asen Gaydardzhiev who passed to Lewis Cameron and the

youngster fired over a great cross to the far post for the unmarked Craig MacEwan who left Milk keeper Craig Lowe no chance with his well placed header.

The visitors should have increased their lead when Lewis Cameron crossed for Asen Gaydardzhiev who found himself unmarked in front of goals. Asen tried an acrobatic kick instead of taking the ball down on his chest which would have left him one on one with the keeper and you would have put your mortgage on the Bulgarian striker sticking the ball into the back of the net.

Saints always looked dangerous going forward and Lewis Cameron came close with a good effort as did Donald Campbell who had a goal-bound shot blocked by Gerrard Cummings.

Ross Nicol had a great chance to equalise for the homesters when he found himself unmarked at

the back post but the big striker headed wide much to the relief of the Saints contingent.

As the clock ran down Saints were awarded a free kick in a dangerous position, but Willie Gemmell's effort sailed inches over the bar.

There were no further scoring chances created by either team and it was a delighted Saints squad who celebrated at the final whistle.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted. He said: 'We knew it would be a difficult match as Castlemilk are a good side. However, the boys all battled hard for the cause and in the end I think we were just about deserved all three points in a hard-fought game.'

Saints play two games this week. Tonight (Thursday) they travel to Clydebank to take on St Joseph's and on Saturday

FOOTBALL

they are on the road again when Aikenhead Thistle are the opponents.



Craig MacEwan

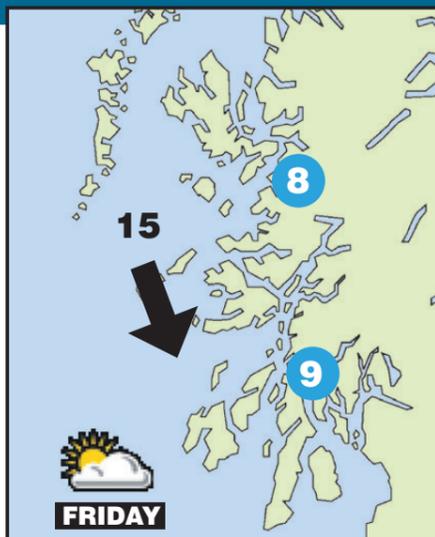
Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds moderate northerly
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate north westerly
Temperatures 3°C to 9°C.

Weekend Sunny intervals
Outlook Winds moderate north, north westerly
Temperatures 4°C 11 8°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 26, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 02.20	1.5 08.15 3.3 14.39	1.4 20.23 3.4
Fri 02.49	1.7 08.51 3.1 15.19	1.5 21.03 3.3
Sat 03.33	1.8 09.39 2.9 16.12	1.6 21.54 3.1
Sun 04.56	1.9 10.48 2.8 17.18	1.7 23.06 3.0
Mon 06.29	1.9 13.08 2.8 18.28	1.6 *** **
Tues 00.50	3.1 07.50 3.7 14.23	3.0 19.36 1.4
Wed 02.15	3.3 08.53 1.4 15.10	3.2 20.40 1.2

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardnishraig	-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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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

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Kilchoan ferry whisky hopes

ARDNAMURCHAN residents are hoping Highland councillors' decision to back ambitious plans for a new whisky distillery will boost their campaign to save a lifeline ferry service to Mull. The Scottish Government's draft ferry review proposal to reduce the current vehicle and passenger service between Kilchoan and Tobermory to passenger-only sailings has prompted a furious reaction – not least from West Ardnarmurchan Community Council. According to chairwoman Rosie Curtis, losing the vehicle provision would have 'a devastating affect' not only on crofters but everyone – locals and visitors. However, hopes have been raised following the planning committee's unanimous backing for Adelphi Distillery Ltd's plan to create a fine malt plant and visitor centre at Glenbeg. Ms Curtis told *The Oban Times*: 'Everybody in the community has been really positive about the decision.'

By RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk
'I think it's the right decision - it's going to bring local jobs here and hopefully some young families to the area which is what we need. 'And it can only help us to keep the ferry. Hopefully the distillery can join up with the west coast distillery tour and people will come to Mull then come up here. But even without the distillery I think we have a good case for keeping the ferry.' She added: 'The ferry is a lifeline for the area – if we lose it then they might as well shut us down. 'The abattoir is across there [in Tobermory]. 'A lot of people go over to the shops, which is only about 35 minutes, the guy who comes to fix problems with Sky TV, the local electrician comes over from Mull - there are so many little bits and pieces that join us up. It will cripple the area if we lose that ferry.'



Lochaber no more? Traveller William Burke says his family's 60-year association with the area will be broken if he is told to move on. 20.17willie02

Lochaber no more for Willie?

Traveller fears one man's vendetta could force him out after 23 years

THE YELLOW may be on the broom again – but this spring could be the last for one of Lochaber's best known members of the travelling community. Willie Burke has brought his caravan to the same pitch next to the Camusnagaull ferry slipway for 23 years, arriving and leaving – give or take a few days – with the swallows. His mother and father before him pitched tent along the same Loch Linnhe shoreline, taking the family's association with the area back over six decades. But now Mr Burke fears one man's vendetta against him could mean his summer days in Lochaber could be over. The 61-year-old grandfather does gardening and minor landscaping work for around 25 regular customers, mostly in Fort William across the loch. He prides himself on keeping his pitch scrupulously tidy – a fact verified by *The Oban Times* by local residents. Mr Burke, from Kilbirnie in Ayrshire, enjoyed a trouble-free time until three years ago. Then one householder began making regular complaints to the landowner, Conaglen Estate, suggesting Mr Burke and his

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

family were making a mess. According to Mr Burke – and local sources – the allegations were without foundation. But this newspaper understands the ongoing acrimony has prompted the estate to consider asking Mr Burke to leave for good. Conaglen has given Mr Burke permission to park up his van on the foreshore site on a grace and favour basis for almost a quarter of a century. No money has been exchanged. On the occasions when Mr Burke has offered to pay a rent for the summer months, he says it has been refused. Mr Burke says he has met the complainer only once. He repeatedly asked *The Oban Times* not to name the individual because he did not want any trouble. Sitting in his caravan, a visibly distressed Mr Burke said all he wanted was to stay in Lochaber in peace every summer. He has already told his daughters and grandchildren they can't come to visit for

holidays, as he fears their arrival would immediately be reported to the estate. Speaking to *The Oban Times* over an Old Holborn roll up and a cup of black tea, Mr Burke said: 'I have been coming here for 23 years, everybody here are my friends. I feel I am part of the local community. Even if the tide washes rubbish up here, I clean it up. If I move, that's Fort William over for me – I have nowhere else to go.' Local community representatives expressed their support for Mr Burke and his desire to stay in Lochaber. Ardgour Community Council secretary Nigel Colbourn said 'it would be a shame' if the area lost one of its best-known characters. He told *The Oban Times*: 'I have had dealings with Willie – he is a nice guy and I for one am quite happy for him to stay. 'An awful lot of people round here feel the same way. The vast majority of people that know Willie would want him to remain, definitely.' At the time of going to press, Conaglen Estate factor David Mosgrove had not responded to requests for a comment.

Gaelic open day success

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig (SMO) held its first Gaelic open day on Saturday to great acclaim from all concerned. Dozens of local families attended to enjoy a variety of activities including a music session, art and drama workshops and Gaelic tastings sessions for beginners. An exhibition of local artist Caillean Maclean's pictures also featured, while a buffet and ceilidh rounded off

the successful day. Groups with Gaelic links also set up information stalls. Janni Diez of SMO said: 'It is so important to create opportunities like this where people can get together and speak Gaelic. Sleaf resident Una MacLeod from Teangue said: 'There was a very nice atmosphere and the whole day was well thought out. I hope it will be repeated again next year.'



Isla Hyslop, Freya MacNeil and Grace Campbell from Sleaf enjoyed the Gaelic open day at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Glenelg-Skye ferry ready to set sail again following repairs

A TINY community-run ferry should be back running between Skye and the mainland by this weekend following essential repairs. As reported exclusively in *The Oban Times* two weeks ago, the Skye Ferry was gearing up to open for Easter between Glenelg and Kylerhea. But directors had to postpone sailings after a Maritime and Coastguard Agency inspection ruled internal bulkheads needed welding. The community interest company was told its boat, the

MV Glenachulish, could not ply the route until repairs were carried out. The Skye Ferry lost about a month's income due to the repairs – an estimated £15,000. Company director Clive Pearson told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday: 'We're hoping to go back into service on Saturday. The ferry is still at Kishorn finishing off the repairs and, weather permitting, we'll be back here on Friday and ready to go on Saturday. 'Although local people do use it, most of our customers are

tourists and there would have been a few people disappointed not to see it running over Easter. But everyone will be pleased to see her back again.' The six-car capacity 41-year-old turntable ferry – the oldest of its kind still operating anywhere – had already been granted a five-year operating licence the previous winter. Before the welding jobs were carried out at Kishorn in Wester Ross the boat had been providing a lifeline service across Loch Carron for six weeks until March 23 while the A890 was closed.

Urgent call to get behind sports plans

THE CHAIRWOMAN of Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) has called on all Highland Council candidates in Lochaber to back the on-going sports facilities projects in the area. LSA is currently waiting to hear if it has received funding from Highland LEADER to move plans for an indoor training facility forward, while Highland Council wants to create an artificial 3G pitch in the town. Jane Blanchard said carrying out two separate feasibility studies would be 'crazy, costly and potentially destructive' and called for the projects to

work more closely with help from councillors. Ms Blanchard said: 'It is clear that these projects are not only inextricably linked, but that a successful outcome for either, or both, will be dependent on working on that premise. 'We would be very grateful if we could meet with the newly elected members as a matter of extreme urgency.' She added: 'We will achieve nothing unless we pull together, without further delay, in the best interests of the physical and mental wellbeing of our whole community.'

Fort William drugs: man arrested

By RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk
A MAN has been arrested in connection with supplying the batch of suspect Valium pills which left 14 people hospitalised in Fort William over the weekend. The 21-year-old was detained on Monday. He had been due to appear in the town's Sheriff Court on Tuesday, but was released from police custody to allow the procurator fiscal to gather further evidence. A Crown Office spokesman told *The Oban Times*: 'After a full and careful consideration of all the facts and circumstances in this case, including all of the available evidence, the procurator fiscal instructed that he be liberated pending further enquiries.'



One of the 'Valium' pills believed to be responsible for adverse effects.

The victims suffered an extreme reaction to the pills, with symptoms including unconsciousness, unresponsiveness, nausea and

dizziness. A number of people – mainly males aged between 19 and 24 – attended the Belford Hospital for treatment. One person was still receiving care on Tuesday. It is believed the pills were handed out during a house party in Craggan on Saturday night. Northern Constabulary and NHS Highland issued an urgent public health warning, saying people should never take any unlicensed medication. Public health consultant Rob Henderson said: 'I would advise anyone who has concerns about drugs to contact the relevant organisations for advice. Taking illicit drugs is extremely hazardous. We would urge drug users if they are unable to abstain from drugs to follow harm reduction advice. There is no way to

make taking illicit drugs completely safe. NHS Highland works closely with the Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Northern Constabulary, Highland Council and our other partners to tackle these issues.' A police spokesman said anyone in possession of tablets they are concerned about should take them to Fort William Police or Belford Hospital, or telephone NHS 24 on 08454 24 24 24. Meanwhile the death of a 41-year-old man in the town is not being linked to the drugs batch by police. The man, named locally as Michael Kane, was found in a flat in the early hours of Sunday morning. Enquiries are continuing and a post mortem will be carried out to establish the cause of death.

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Police files

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a man attempted to break into the Hawco car garage on Ardgour Road, Caol, at around 8am on Saturday.

Northern Constabulary want to hear from anyone who was in the vicinity of the Volkswagen dealership at the time. The suspect is thought to be approximately 5 feet 10 inches, slim build and was wearing dark clothing at the time.

The garage was also broken into in February.

DAMAGE was caused to a vehicle parked in the rear of Torlundy Road, Fort William, sometime between 6pm on Tuesday April 17 and 6am on Wednesday April 18.

A CAR parked in Macmillan Place, Caol, was damaged at around 12.50am on Thursday April 19.

Anyone with knowledge of these incidents should contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000. Members of the public may also report any crime, offence or anything suspicious by phoning Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Corpach in Colour to run competition

THE RUNNING of the Kilmallie garden competition has been taken over by local group Corpach in Colour for this year.

Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) had previously run the contest, which was last held in 2008. KCC member Kshama Wilmington will be one of the judges for the competition.

Election count

IONAD Spòrs Leòdhais (Lewis Sports Centre) will be closed until 2pm on Friday May 4 in order to hold the count for elections to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.



Firemen's lift: Clint MacLeod and Pat McElhinney holding Lina Herrington, with artist Nick Simpson.

Calendar sales boost children's charity

A CALENDAR featuring topless firemen from across Lochaber has raised more than £11,500 over the past 12 months for a children's charity.

The money from the Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service campaign is being donated to Scottish Burned Children's Club, which helps children who have been scarred, physically and psychologically, by fire or scalding.

Around 1,800 copies of the calendar have been sold so far, with a few copies remaining

for sale on Facebook and Ebay to anyone wanting to get their hands on one.

It was launched at an auction night at the Ben Nevis Hotel in October, where each month's model posed on stage before pictures of them were auctioned off.

Auction

In the run up to the night, Glasgow woman Lina Herrington won an online auction for a large canvas print of the firemen, made by Spean Bridge man Nick Simpson, for £85.

Ms Herrington decided to return the artwork to allow it to be auctioned in an effort to raise even more money.

The picture was bought by the Fort William Fire Station for £280. Mr Simpson made a smaller version of the canvas and presented Ms Herrington with it at the hotel last Thursday night after she travelled up from Glasgow.

Ms Herrington told The Oban Times: 'The auction didn't raise as much as I thought it could, so I gave it back to them to sell

on the night and they managed to get lots of money, which was great. I'm friends of some of the guys. It's such a good cause and I just wanted to do something to raise awareness.'

HIFRS group manager Pat McElhinney said: 'We want to say thanks to everyone who came along, donated money and helped out, especially Nick and Brian Hume [hotel manager], who gave us the room and food for free. We raised a lot of money on the night, and through the calendar and donations.'

Canal land talks labelled 'damp squib'

THE LATEST round of public talks about the possible development of land next to the Caledonian Canal between Corpach and Gairloch has been labelled a damp squib by local residents.

British Waterways Scotland, recently renamed Scottish Canals, met with members of the public at the Moorings Hotel last Thursday to discuss the results of its public consultation held in September.

After being forced to withdraw proposals for two homes next to Neptune's Staircase at Banavie due to public pressure in 2010, Scottish Canals decided to develop a strategy for the entire lower section of the canal.

But Banavie resident Jan McLugash, a member of local pressure group Friends of the Caledonian Canal Lochaber, told *The Oban Times* the consultation had been 'a bit of a non-event'.

'There was a very good turnout and interest is still high

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

in the area, but it's just a shame we didn't know in advance there wasn't going to be any updates.

'They said there will be a two-day event later this year where they will properly discuss their plans and tell us what they got from the last consultation.'

Scottish Canals strategic planning manager Mark Smith told *The Oban Times* the next talks would either be held in June or September.

He said: 'It was just a feedback session. We are following all the steps of the consultation process, and it's a process which unfortunately has some fairly uninspiring moments as well as the more inspiring ones.'

Meanwhile, there have been calls for the A830 swing bridge over the canal at Banavie to stick to a timetable so residents would know when it would be closed for road traffic.

The bridge, which swings back to allow boats through the waterway, currently does not open for boats between 8.30am-9am and 1.30pm-2pm, but can be operated to close the road at all other times.

Kilmallie Community Council member and local resident Jillian Clark told last Wednesday's KCC meeting the issue was 'a big problem'. She said: 'In this day and age we should know when it will be shut. I can't understand why British Waterways can't just produce a timetable. It seems mad a main road like that can be closed for one week.'

Scottish Canals' John Stafford said: 'The boat movements vary so much, and we're only closed on average three or four times a day for about 10 minutes.'

'There's lots of informal things set up at the moment, and if we were to formalise them it might have some knock-on effects. We try to keep any disruptions down as much as possible.'



Walter Cameron Way's oldest resident Phyl Tebbet, 94, cuts the cake held by long time resident Sally Johnstone, who has lived there for 20 years.

Celebrations set to mark Mallaig marina opening

MALLAIG will become a 'must visit' destination for west coast yachts when its new marina is officially launched tomorrow.

The opening ceremony at noon will take place on the recently established yachting shorebase - a land reclamation scheme that formed part of the new £950,000 development at the Lochaber port.

Officials from Donegal County Council (DCC) are set to attend the celebrations along with Mallaig Harbour Authority personnel and local primary school children - who helped design the marina logo.

The Irish representatives are the driving force behind the EU-funded Sail West project, which

links Scotland and Ireland under one marine tourism banner. Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Highland Council delegates will also attend.

The marina, completed in September 2011, comprises berthing for up to 48 yachts with water and electricity available at each.

Harbour authority chairman Michael Currie said: 'We are delighted with the facility and indebted to all agencies who contributed to its creation. We are looking forward to our inaugural 2012 summer season - it's set to be an exciting time at the port.'

Gary Martin from DCC, chairman of the Sail West project steering committee, who will be

at the launch event, said: 'The investment in Mallaig is one of the larger capital schemes approved under Sail West and I congratulate the Mallaig partners as the result is very impressive.'

'Sail West is a very ambitious marine tourism project currently consisting of twenty mostly public sector partners from across Ireland, Northern Ireland and the West of Scotland.'

'The benefit of joint partner collaboration is evident in the schemes being implemented in likes of Mallaig, Ballycastle in Northern Ireland and at Cudaff in County Donegal.'

'That will make sailing more appealing, and likewise the introduction of the new marine tourism brand MalinWaters and the MalinWaters.com website can prove to be a key marine tourism driver for the partner region.'

A new website has been created. Although www.mallaig-yachting-marina.com is still a work in progress, it can now be accessed.

The new facility was part funded under the Sail West project and co-financed by Mallaig Harbour Authority, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and by The Highland Council. Sail West is funded through the EU's INTERREG IVA programme.

Friends of Nevis Spring Litter Blitz

LOCAL charity Friends of Nevis (FoN) is aiming to get Ben and Glen Nevis into shape for the summer season with its annual Spring Litter Blitz on Sunday.

The popular event gives families, individuals and groups the chance to take care of one of Scotland's most beautiful glens.

Helpers are asked to meet up for tea and coffee/collection of equipment at 10.45 in the Ben Nevis Highland Centre at Nevis Bridge. FoN co-ordinator Liz Wilshaw said: 'Litter picking continues to be one of our core activities. It's an enjoyable and rewarding day out for anyone who wants to put something back into this fantastic area.'

The event usually lasts till round 4pm - with lunch served in Braveheart car park at 1.15pm.

Volunteers are asked to register in advance by emailing info@friendsofnevis.co.uk or calling 01397 701088.

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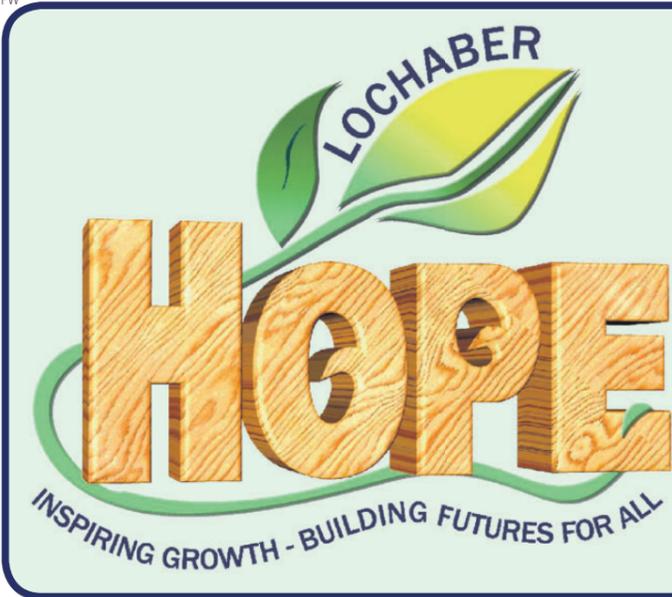
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Some of the Lochaber Hope team and members: (back) John Penny, Val Penny, Lesa Murphy, Margaret Colyer, Shona Nicoll and Scott Graham; (front) Jamie MacDonald, Alyson Smith and James Tomlin.

FORT WILLIAM charity Lochaber Hope offers vital emotional support for Lochaber people with a wide range of sensitive and personal issues.

Life is intense and often overwhelming, and when issues seem insurmountable Lochaber Hope is there to provide a helping hand.

The charity, which started in 2005 has recently moved into new premises in Fort William's west end, offers a confidential, non-judgmental counselling service with qualified, experienced counsellors on hand for people of all ages with issues including depression, addiction, debt and bereavement.

Also available are a wide variety of training courses, from money management and parenting skills, to interview techniques and personal development, as well as helping unemployed people back into work.

Lochaber Hope is teaming up with Inverness-based group 'Chooselife' to run a suicide prevention event at Nevis Centre on Tuesday May 22.

A fundraising family fun day in memory of Stevie Wright will be held at the BA Club on Saturday May 5, with Highland dancing, face painting, live music and a charity football game.

A raffle with prizes donated by local businesses will be held, and a Fender guitar signed by Snow Patrol

and a signed boxing glove will be auctioned to raise funds. Project Co-ordinator Alyson Smith said, 'This is a real sign of the community supporting the community and its very much appreciated.'

McDonalds Restaurant, MacPhee & Partners and The Tavern Bar & Restaurant in Fort William have decided to support Lochaber Hope as their chosen charity.

Marketing and sales manager Gavin Mackinnon from The Tavern said: 'We are delighted to support Lochaber Hope as our nominated charity. The work Alyson and her team do is fantastic, although the majority of it goes unseen it can never be underestimated.'

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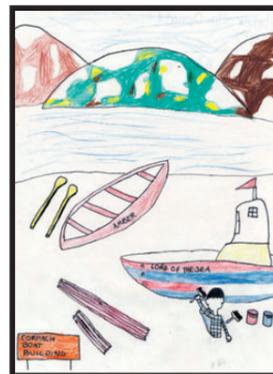
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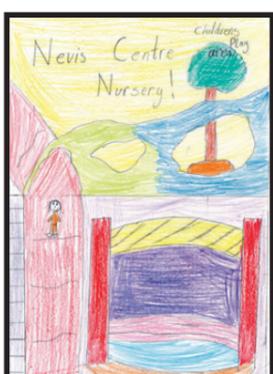
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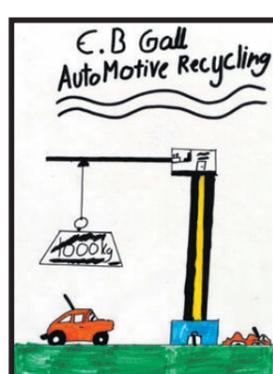
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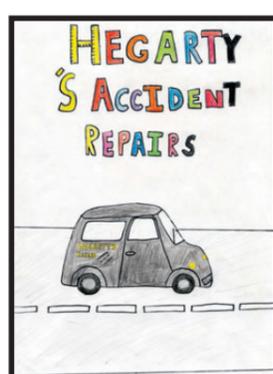
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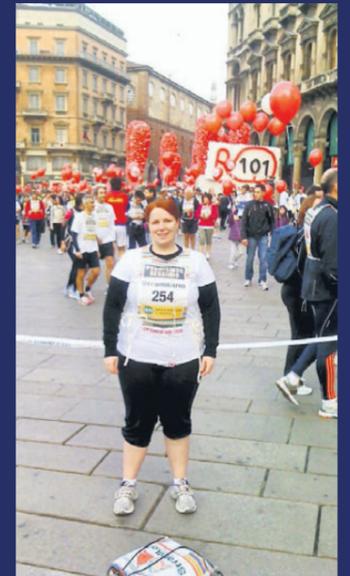


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Clare MacLellan GP7



Karen MacPherson recently raised a fantastic £848 for Lochaber Hope after completing a 10k race in Milan. Hannah Lees is also raising money for Lochaber Hope by running the Edinburgh half marathon on the 27th May. You can sponsor both Karen and Hannah online www.lochaberhope.org.uk/fundraising.html



Thanks to youngsters from Fort William RC Primary and Gaelic Medium Unit who drew some fantastic colourful pictures representing the many companies who support Lochaber Hope.

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Tesco superstore shelves Oban path upgrade

SUPERMARKET giant Tesco has confirmed it has shelved a £60,000 upgrade of the Glenshellach Road footpath next to its Oban superstore.

The company had already withdrawn plans to include the path in its refurbishment plans for the superstore.

Oban Community Council is among those who have long been campaigning for steps to be installed on the busy walkway.

Chairwoman Marri Molloy said: 'I think it's disgusting. Tesco takes an obscene amount of money from this town and they don't put a penny back.'

'They talk about how they need to revamp their image after a drop in profits - well here's one way they can help themselves.'

The path is owned jointly by three separate parties, Tesco, West Highland Housing As-

sociation (WHHA) and a third party, understood to be a private developer.

Sustainable transport charity, Sustrans, had agreed to contribute £17,500 towards the overall cost of the upgrade following an application by Argyll and Bute Council.

It withdrew funding when it became apparent the work wasn't going to be carried out. The charity 'remains keen' to see the path upgraded.

WHHA committed £15,000 towards the cost of the path, but cannot proceed without Tesco's participation and a £27,500 contribution. A Tesco spokeswoman told *The Oban Times*: 'We will be focusing primarily on internal improvements and at this time there will be no work done on the informal footpath at Glenshellach Road.'

New all-weather sports pitch to be laid in Tiree

A NEW £235,000 all-weather sports pitch will be installed at Tiree High School as part of a £2.1million increased spend in the council's education budget.

Argyll and Bute Council will allocate an extra £730,000 to the education capital plan for the 2012/13 budget, with a further £1.056million planned for the following year.

Another £340,000 will be invested in 2014/15 as the authority aims to upgrade facilities at 11 schools.

Tiree's all weather pitch was condemned by the council nearly four years ago after the £100,000

facility's wooden boards warped in the island's famous sunshine.

Headteacher, Myra MacArthur, had told the Oban, Lorn and Isles area committee that the pitch was the source of the biggest number of complaints at the school.

Delighted
Speaking to *The Oban Times*, she said: 'Obviously, I'm delighted. We've not had a pitch for nearly four years.'

'We had actually done some work to consider fundraising in the community and we were looking at spending £70,000.'

'We could never have envisaged this level of investment.'

Provost to be made honorary freeman

A SPECIAL meeting of Argyll and Bute Council has been called to admit Provost William Petrie as an Honorary Freeman of Argyll and Bute.

The meeting today (Thursday) will take place at 6pm in the Victoria Halls in Helensburgh,

following a regular meeting of the full council.

The award is in recognition of Provost Petrie's service to the community, his work in promoting tourism in Scotland and his service to local government.



Cameron Allen has raised thousands of pounds for charity by planning a sponsored silence.

Silence is golden for brave young fundraiser Cameron

A TOUGH 10-year-old, who suffers from a severe form of brittle bone disease, has raised more than £4,100 in just five days for the charity that supports him.

Cameron Allen targeted just £100 for his sponsored silence on May 8 but the Rangers Football Club fan has been inundated with donations, many of which are from supporters clubs on his JustGiving website.

His sponsored silence will come two days after Wishbone Day, which is held to support the work of the Brittle Bone Society. Realising he will have to go through with his promise, the cheery youngster quips: 'Three hours is a long time to stay quiet, especially during playtime.'

Cameron's condition makes him vulnerable to fractured bones but he has learned how to cope

with the pain. A particularly bad incident two years ago saw him fracture both wrists, his elbow, a leg and lose some of his teeth after a fall in his wheelchair. The brave primary six pupil was back at school a day after the subsequent operation.

Doctors failed to spot Cameron was suffering from Osteogenesis Imperfecta (brittle bone disease) until he was six weeks old when he broke his femur and it was discovered he had sustained fractures while in the womb.

As a result, he was one of the youngest babies to receive IV Infusion Treatment, which has, over time, prevented deformities and reduced the rate of fractures. Cameron, who has ambitions to be a Paralympian and an architect, will also be selling cakes outside the Appin Village Shop to support his charity.

No police cuts on Mull says force chief

More officers during peak times

STRATHCLYDE Police this week insisted claims that police strength on Mull was to be cut by 30 per cent were wrong.

In an exclusive interview with *The Oban Times*, Chief Superintendent Russell Dunn, Divisional Commander for Argyll, Bute and West Dunbartonshire rubbished press reports earlier this week that officer numbers on the island were to fall from five to three-and-a-half.

CS Dunn is adamant the claim is untrue - and told this newspaper that far from cutting police numbers, plans were in hand to boost them.

He said: 'The bottom line is we are not reducing police on Mull. It is simply not the case and I will be writing to [the newspaper] to express my disappointment.'

'I went across to Mull with Inspector Julie McLeish and spoke to the officers on the island.'

'They told me about the

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by
FAITH ORR
forr@obantimes.co.uk

'finite number of supervisors'. Allegations that Mull would be left with reduced police cover left residents shocked and surprised earlier this week.

Steve Willis, acting chairman of Mull Community Council said: 'It is completely unacceptable. We know we don't have a lot of crime but we still need cover in case there is an accident.'

'If there was a crash on the Ross of Mull and the officer on duty was in Tobermory it would take them an hour and a half to reach the scene. It cannot be allowed to happen.'

Local MSP Michael Russell also joined residents in their condemnation of suggested cuts. He said: 'I have written to the chief constable to reflect the very considerable anger on Mull regarding these proposals.'

'Put simply, everyone thinks they are the wrong thing, as do I, and I hope the chief constable will occasionally have to provide cover in Oban as there were a

Achaleven Primary School to re-open a year after being mothballed

ACHALEVEN Primary School in Connell will re-open in August - just one year after the council mothballed the school because of a lack of pupils.

Argyll and Bute Council has confirmed the initial enrolment of four is enough to re-open the school, as was revealed at March's meeting of Connell Community Council.

The re-opening was announced by Cleland Sneddon, executive director of community services, at a meeting of the council's executive committee last week.

Addressing concerns raised by North Lorn councillors about the future of the school, Mr Sneddon said: 'I had a meeting with four

sets of parents at Achaleven and we had a long discussion around the enrolment of pupils in the new school year.'

'After that very positive discussion, parents have said that they want their children educated there and want to enrol their children.'

Explaining parents had a statutory right to have the school re-opened, Mr Sneddon added: 'We will make arrangements for the school to open at the beginning of August.'

The four pupils will begin primary one in August, with a further five pupils registered to join the school in the next few years. Stephanie Irwin, whose

daughter will be attending Achaleven in the new year, said locals were pleased with the decision.

'We are delighted the school is re-opening and we want to work with the council to make the school one of the best in the district,' she said. 'We have the support of the whole village and we want to restore the reputation of the school.'

The council has confirmed money is available within the revenue maintenance budget to get the school back up and running. It is understood very minor works are needed to prepare the building for the new school year.

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Police files

AN UNUSUAL roadside theft has shocked police and the local authority, who are making inquiries into the disappearance of 100 snow poles along the A819.

The aluminium poles, which had been erected between Cladich and Ladyfield on the Dalmailly to Inveraray road, were taken sometime between Tuesday and Thursday last week.

The theft was reported to Oban Police by a council employee who was driving on the road.

Oban Police Inspector Julie McLish said inquiries were ongoing, adding: 'This is a safety concern, as snow poles are essential in poor weather and poor visibility.'

A 21-YEAR-old man who allegedly pulled down his pants to reveal his bare backside to passers by in Oban's George Street has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

The incident occurred at 10.10pm on Sunday.

A POLICE officer is alleged to have been assaulted after attending a noisy household in Dunbeg last Friday.

Police officers went to the house where they heard singing but no music.

After speaking with occupants, the homeowner is alleged to have assaulted a female police officer and resisted arrest. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

POLICE are looking for the driver of a grey Citroen C5, following a complaint from another driver.

The Citroen driver is accused of tailgating and flashing their lights at a blue Peugeot on the A85 at around 2.30pm between the Halfway Filling Station and Dunollie Road in Oban.

As the two cars came into Oban, the Citroen turned off out of view. Anyone who can help police with their enquiries is urged to contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500.

Man denies harassing ex-partner

AN OBAN man appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday accused of harassing his ex-partner over the past four months.

Angus MacFadyen, of 3 Combie Court, Oban, appeared from custody and pled not guilty to repeatedly sending his ex letters.

The 54-year-old also denied shouting at her and throwing a bag and card at her in Co-operative Stores, Soroba Road.

Connel Bridge light problems resolved

LIGHTING problems that have dogged the Connel Bridge for two months should be a thing of the past.

Engineers from Scotland Transerv had feared a partial closure would be required to fix the lights on the A828, but overhead repairs seem to have resolved the problem.



Retiring retained firefighters, from left, Freddy Lockhart, James Maitland, Duncan Cruickshank and James Anderson with their mounted hand axes. 15_1176fre01

Firefighters' long service marked at presentation

AN 'EMOTIONAL' evening at Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls marked the retirement of four retained firefighters who clocked up 126 years of service in the town between them.

James Maitland, 35 years of

service; Duncan Cruickshank, 32 years; James Anderson 31 years; and Freddy Lockhart 28 years, were presented with mounted hand axes for their service to the community.

Retiring watch commander

James Maitland said it was an emotional evening for all four of them, as they had been at the Oban station for a long time, during which they made friends for life.

Dougie MacLean, who takes

over as watch commander from James said: 'They were all characters around the place and very popular guys too.'

'When you take all of that experience out of the unit it is going to be a big miss.'

Oban High School hosts Laurinburg exchange auction

UPWARDS of 50 items have been pledged to an auction being held at Oban High School in raise funds for the 20th Laurinburg exchange.

A buffet for 10 people, a full size pool table and a bird house are up for grabs.

The auction will take place next Thursday, May 3, at 7pm in the school's assembly hall.

Invite to apply for community trust grants

SCOTTISH Sea Farms is inviting charities and groups to make a last minute bid for the latest round of its Heart of the Community Trust awards.

John Barrington of Scottish Sea Farms said: 'We have substantial funds available to donate to deserving projects and we are really hopeful that we will receive more applications from the people of Argyll and the Highlands.'

The trust aims to support community schemes in areas where the company operates. Applications can be made on Scottish Sea Farms website.

The closing date is Monday April 30.



X-ray department staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital, with locality manager Veronica Kennedy, third from left, at the new scanner. 15_1176ray01

Oban gets new x-ray machine

A STATE-of-the-art x-ray machine has been installed at Lorn and Islands Hospital, representing a £450,000 investment by NHS Highland.

The multi-purpose scanner is one of the first to be installed at any hospital in the country and will help to ensure the long-term future of diagnostic services

at Lorn and Islands Hospital. It also comes as a necessary replacement for the 18-year-old screening room, which holds the same x-ray equipment that was installed when the hospital was built.

The new unit allows for a wide range of examinations, including interventional radiology

procedures and image-guided surgery and negates the need for patients to go to Glasgow for such treatments.

It also operates entirely by digital technology, giving hospital staff an instant x-ray scan, which can be immediately put onto a DVD for other health professionals to see.

Teacher buys island to be his final resting place

A TEACHER has bought an uninhabited island off Portnahaven on the Isle of Islay for £55,000, so he and his wife can be buried there.

Piers Casimir-Mrowczynski snapped up the tiny Mackenzie Island to be his final resting place.

Mr Casimir-Mrowczynski, 50, from Hertfordshire, said he came up with the idea when he was diagnosed

with cancer of the appendix three years ago. Now he plans to be buried on Mackenzie Island with his wife Pauline, 50, when they die.

The 42.7-acre rock is a site of special scientific interest and a special protection area. It also lacks mains services, such as electricity, water and drainage services.

Mr Casimir-Mrowczynski, a computer expert and

Soroba Lane crossing to be transformed

Dangerous Oban bottleneck to be replaced with two bridges

A NEW £400,000 bridge and separate footbridge is to be built over an Oban burn to replace the existing decaying structure.

Argyll and Bute Council hope work at Soroba Lane will start early next year.

The existing bridge over the Black Lynn has been the source of much criticism in recent years on safety grounds.

Last May local resident Luigi Lopez tripped and fell through temporary barriers into the Black Lynn, injuring his head.

Mr Lopez was knocked unconscious and said the only reason he didn't drown was because the cold water woke him up. The council subsequently erected scaffolding to make the bridge safer.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN

sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Argyll and Bute Council said 'the preferred solution' was a prefabricated steel deck on the existing abutments and a separate footbridge.

A spokesperson said: 'Although the road bridge will remain single lane, the carriageway width will be increased to minimise potential collisions with the parapets.'

'The separate footbridge will keep people safe from the traffic and allow better alignment with the existing Soroba Lane footway.'

'We still intend to issue tenders for construction in the autumn, with a view to construction starting in early 2013.'

Oban Community Council chairwoman Marri Molloy, described the news as 'absolutely wonderful'.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'The community council has been going on about this for ages so I'm absolutely delighted to hear there will be two new bridges.'

'A lot of schoolkids use it every day and I used to take the kids there to feed the ducks. However, you are constantly competing with buses and taxis. A lot of people don't use that route purely because of that. So two new bridges will be a massive improvement.'

Wrong information sees woman detained by police for five days

A WOMAN was detained for five days on 'erroneous' information received by the police, Oban Sheriff Court has heard.

Julie Ann Taylor, aged 42 of 107F McKelvie Road, Oban, appeared in court last Wednesday after admitting at an earlier date to obstructing police and failing to comply with the terms of a search warrant by refusing a medical examination on April 7 this year.

On receiving information Taylor had controlled drugs for distribution, her car was stopped on April 6 in the Taynuilt area.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said police officers noted Taylor looked anxious but a search for drugs on her possession or in her car proved negative.

She was then taken to Oban Police Station for a further

negative search by female officers but Taylor then refused to have an x-ray, or to be examined by a doctor at Lorn and Islands Hospital and was held in custody.

She was observed throughout that period but no drugs were ever recovered.

Defence solicitor Mark Lovie said: 'It was erroneous information that police received; there were no drugs.'

'Since August 10 Miss Taylor has been stopped and searched by the police on several occasions, all with negative results. She said to me she is 'fed up' with it.'

'However, if she had cooperated with police she would not have found herself in custody.'

Taylor was admonished by Sheriff Douglas Small.

Butcher knocked woman out cold

A BUTCHERY manager from Oban has been found guilty of hitting a woman so hard she was knocked unconscious and into the next room.

Michael Buchanan, 43, whose address was given as 3 Brankesome Park, had initially lodged a defence of self defence at the Oban Sheriff Court trial, but this was later withdrawn as it was shown in court he was not being attacked at the time of the assault.

Defending agent Laura Russell claimed the blow was an 'accident' which came about during a row where he was slapped twice. However, Sheriff Douglas Small said he was satisfied Buchanan deliberately assaulted the woman and was not being attacked when he hit her.

The court further heard Buchanan had one previous conviction for a similar incident against the same woman, for which he was admonished.

Sentence has been deferred until May 17 for reports.

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Fort William lose in red-blooded cup tie

'I felt the penalty was very harsh' - Peter MacIntyre

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

MacTavish Cup
Quarter Final
Fort William 1
Newtonmore 2

FORT WILLIAM found Newtonmore just too much to handle in this red-blooded Co-operative MacTavish Cup quarter-final at Invergarry - despite being a man up for most of the match.

the bigger threat up front. To the Lochaber men's credit they limited their Badenoch rivals to very few chances, although keeper Paul MacKay made a great stop in the sixth minute to deny Paul MacArthur.

Fort was finding it hard going up front against 'More's granite defence and the impressive MacArthur almost gave his side the lead on 40 minutes but his missile-like strike from 25 yards just eluded MacKay's left hand post.

deliberately kicked the ball away and awarded the penalty. However, Fort keeper Paul MacKay added further lustre to his international standing when brilliantly saved Danny MacRae's penalty hit.

Fort's centreline and defence were still standing strong, but in the 76th minute Danny MacRae fired Newtonmore ahead. Last year's beaten finalists were not done though - and Fort fashioned a late equaliser through Duncan Rodger's fine finish.

more so close. He told The Oban Times: 'Our keeper, defence and centreline put in great shift. We gave them a real good game - we are not far away. 'Our defence worked their socks off. Newtonmore were averaging 4.5 goals per game - and we kept them to one over the 90 minutes. They got a red card, but sometimes that can work in your favour. I think they probably deserved the win over the 120 minutes. 'I felt the penalty was very harsh - Neil Robertson simply stopped the ball with his foot.' Newtonmore coach Norman MacArthur praised his side's 'excellent performance' and singled out midfielder duo Paul MacArthur and Stevie MacDonald for special mention.



Fort William's Alex Duncan shields the ball from Danny MacRae. 20_173hntny05

Hall of Fame qualifier at Fort William Golf Club

GOLF

FORT William Golf Club's Hall of Fame qualifier attracted 32 competitors on a sunny Saturday.

The competition was won by Ally Matheson by one shot from James Duncan. Matheson shot a net round of 68.

Toby Richardson won the senior qualifier on Sunday after he shot a net round of 64.

The club will hold the Captain's prize competition this Saturday, with the popular Harris Ross Memorial competition on Sunday.

Results: Hall of Fame qualifier - 1, Ally Matheson 86-18=68; 2, James Duncan 81-12=69; 3, Owen Sweeney 96-26=70 (bh).

Senior qualifier - 1, Toby Richardson 77-13=64; 2, Jimmy Ross 83-17=66; 3, George Band 85-16=69 (bh).

Skye golf season gets underway

GOLFERS on Skye are preparing to get their season underway this weekend.

Isle of Skye Golf Club will hold the Captain versus Vice Captain stableford competition on Saturday.

The Scomser club decided to push the opening date back, unlike many other clubs in the west Highlands, many of who started their seasons the beginning of April.

Fight to the finish at Traigh Golf Club

TRAIGH Golf Club's Sunday Medal competition saw a tight finish, with Brian Ferguson's better inward half giving him the win.

Ferguson shot a net round of 64, as did second-placed Peter Weirman. James Manson in third was just one shot back.

The club, based near Arisaig, will see a number of golfers competing for the Colin Clark Trophy this weekend.

Fort manager tasks his team to catch Strathspey Thistle

FORT William manager Danny Conlon has set his sights on catching Strathspey Thistle in the last four games of the season.

The Lochaber men sit four points behind the Granton-on-Spey side, although Conlon's men have a game in hand.

He told The Oban Times: 'I don't know if winning at Claggan is a target, but catching Strathspey who are just above us. If we had won against Keith a few weeks ago, which we probably should have, then we'd be in an even better position.'

Fort welcome Deveronvale to Claggan Park on Saturday, but will be missing a number of players from last weekend's narrow 1-0 defeat at Fraserburgh.

Conlon said: 'I'd be quite confident of getting a result if we had the same squad available. But I'll have three of the back four missing, which affects the midfield because it means I'll have to shuffle things about.'

'I was really pleased with the performance, especially because we only had 13 players in the squad, which had an average age of 19. It was a battling, hard

FOOTBALL

working performance and the attitude was spot on. The longer the game went on and we stayed in it you could see the confidence getting higher.

'We haven't got any points from the game but we'll be taking plenty of positives from it.'

Lewis Campbell and captain Andy Martin will miss out as they are attending the wedding of Fort goalie John Campbell, who has missed the entire season with a knee injury.

Mixed fortunes for Phoenix boxers at MacDuff

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing club made the long trip to MacDuff in Banff last weekend for a boxing show held jointly by Byron and Deveron ABC.

Twelve year old Kevin Aitchison was the first of four Lochaber boxers in action when he faced Michael O'Neill of Granite City ABC.

Long range
Kevin looked to keep things at long range behind a sharp jab but cleverly on occasion would launch a furious two handed attack before reverting to boxing at range Aitchison Always in control, by the final bell Aitchison had shown his superiority over a game opponent.

Next up for Lochaber was 12

year-old Robbie Hall against Eddie Cowie of Deveron ABC.

Southpaw Cowie's aggression posed some problems that Hall had not seen before in his short boxing career, but Robbie was firing his own counters.

After three rounds you could have tossed a coin to decide the winner, but as is often the case the hometown boxer was awarded the decision.

Fourteen year-old James Aitchison faced Colin Stewart of Byron ABC in a rematch of a recent bout in Fort William won by Stewart.

The contest between two former Scottish champions was always going to be of a very high standard and neither boxer

disappointed. In the opener Stewart turned the contest into a war using his incredible strength in close, but Aitchison is now a boxer of great experience and in the second completely changed tactics, dictating from range.

Right crosses
In the third Stewart was at a loss in how to deal with Aitchison's clean jabs and right crosses and James clawed back points he lost in the first. Agonisingly the decision went to Stewart by a single point - but the plaudits went to Aitchison.

At 32, light-welterweight Aidan Donnelly is proving age is just a number as he is now entrenched in his division's top

BOXING

ten. Up against top five boxer Aaron Medder of Granite City ABC, the shorter Donnelly won the battle of the jabs early on but Medder was proving adept in close.

After round two the judges had them all square - and the contest hinged on a fifteen second spell in the last when Donnelly had a lapse, allowing Medder to score two unanswered punches.

Impressive
This was the difference in the scoring as Medder edged a thriller - but Donnelly once more showed he is turning into an impressive force.



Sponsor Jesse Wigman, of Alpine Bikes, with ladies champ Mairi Meldrum, men's victor Ben Miller and short course winner Gregor Linfield.

West Highland Wheelers final winter league meet

THE FINAL round of the West Highland Wheelers winter league saw teenage rider Ben Thompson take a clear win to claim the overall male trophy.

Thompson finished the Alpine Bikes sponsored event through Leanachan Forest, Nevis Range in 32minutes 23seconds, 3m and 56s ahead of second-placed Ben Miller.

Mairi Meldrum won a hard fought ladies race in 42m 12s from Nix Forster, 51m 7s, to take the women's trophy.

CYCLING

Youngster Lachlan Blair powered his way to the junior title, while Gregor Linfield picked up the short course award.

Club member Andy Rodgers said: 'The end of season BBQ that followed allowed much discussion, chat and laughter. As a sign of this year's relatively mild winter, all nine races were held even if one or two involved dodging the fallen trees from the December storm.'

Fort William cricketers bowl over Northern Counties at the BA

FORT William Cricket Club got their league season off to the perfect start with captain Kevin O'Meara starring in a hard fought win over Northern Counties at the BA Club on Saturday.

O'Meara scored 94 runs, the highest score by a Fort player since they joined the senior league three years ago.

A very wet outfield combined with some tight bowling and sharp fielding saw the home team struggling early on, scoring 23-4 after 18 overs.

Debutant Lindsay Gordon joined O'Meara and the pace quickened with both hitting boundaries and quickly adding 59 before Gordon (16) was well caught.

Good batting and quick running between the wickets from Sean Fraser and Ali Ferguson saw Fort reach 168 before O'Meara was finally caught out.

As Counties set about their task in drier weather, Fort's strong bowling squad continued to take wickets and Counties were never quite up with the required rate. At 101-8 it seemed all but over

and sensing victory O'Meara went on the defensive and Fort kept the advantage and Counties' innings closed on 145-8.

Praised
O'Meara praised a strong team effort, saying: 'Everyone made a contribution - we made a good



The Fort William team face the camera before Saturday's game with Northern Counties

Lochaber finish off with best performance of the season

LOCHABER ended a tough season on a high by putting in one of their best performances of the season in a 39-19 victory over Garioch in their final league game.

A hat trick of tries by young number eight Connor Taylor helped the Fort William side to victory over their Inverurie rivals.

Lochaber started at a furious pace and scored three unanswered tries in the first half hour to take a commanding lead. Taylor's first was a classic number eight pick-up and go from the scrum that saw him bounce through a tackle and sail under the posts for a converted try.

Two scores
Lochaber captain Kenny Turnbull set up the next two scores before Garioch clawed their way back into the game with a try either side of half time to make the score 19-12.

But that was a close as it got as Lochaber stretched their lead with two more tries from Taylor. The first was an easy run in to score in the corner but

CRICKET

the second was a touch of class, stepping inside and outside two defenders and showing a good turn of pace to make the line.

Veteran Lochaber back Garry Hendrie could not be held back from putting in his umpteenth appearance for the club, coming on to the pitch 10 minutes to go to show the youngsters how its done and burst through to score under the posts.

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Next week Lochaber are due to play Inverness Craig Dunain in the Brien Cup.

Meanwhile, the mini rugby training for children in P3-P7 has been moved from the King George V Park to Banavie this Saturday. Start time is still 10am.



Second row forward Chris Simpson, 18, bursts through the Garioch defence. 20_117rugby01

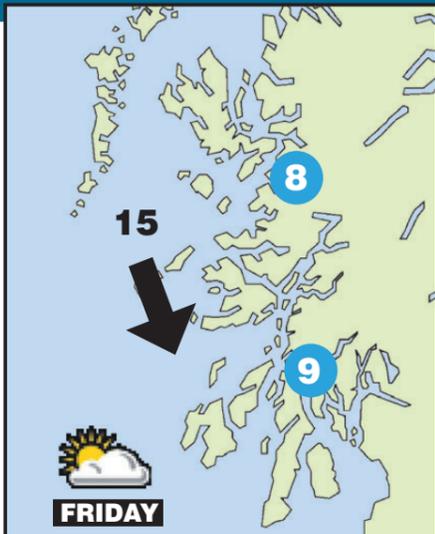
Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds moderate northerly
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate north north westerly
Temperatures 3°C to 9°C.

Weekend Sunny intervals
Outlook Winds moderate north, north westerly
Temperatures 4°C 11 8°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 26, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	08.15	3.3	14.39	1.4	20.23	3.4
Thur	02.20	1.5	08.15	3.1	15.19	1.5	21.03
Fri	02.49	1.7	08.51	2.9	16.12	1.6	21.54
Sat	03.33	1.8	09.39	2.8	17.18	1.7	23.06
Sun	04.56	1.9	10.48	2.8	18.28	1.6	** ** *
Mon	06.29	1.9	13.08	2.8	18.28	1.6	** ** *
Tues	00.50	3.1	07.50	3.7	14.23	3.0	19.36
Wed	02.15	3.3	08.53	1.4	15.10	3.2	20.40

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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