

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8144

Thursday 25 April, 2013

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence



### 100 miles in a day for charity

Page 5



### Best of the west at tourism Expo

Page 11

### SPORTS NEWS

### Luck deserts Connel racer



# Atlantis subsidy row crisis talks

## Green Machine lifts RBS National Bowl at Murrayfield

A large section of Murrayfield, Scotland's national rugby stadium, was awash with green as hundreds travelled to see Oban Lorne lift the RBS National Bowl on Saturday. The victory, in the club's 50th anniversary season, was Oban Lorne's first ever major trophy. Captain Robin MacQueen is pictured lifting the cup as he celebrates with teammates. For more see the back page.

By STEVEN FLANAGAN  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

to run with it on a financial basis that's unrealistic.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* after resigning from the SNP on Monday, councillor Hall said: "This administration, under leader James Robb, knows the cost of everything and the value of nothing."

"There are some issues where the social value far exceeds monetary concerns."

Mr Hall said he was to consult with his constituents with a view to his long-term political future but is set to support a motion raised by councillor Duncan MacIntyre at the full council meeting on Thursday to debate Atlantis' future.

Plans proposed by the council and approved in February's budget would have seen Atlantis' subsidy cut by £12,000 per annum - together with a move agreed in 2011 to remove annual increases in the subsidy linked with the retail prices index.

Any solution would have to be reached by June, with the board required to give three months' notice to hand the building back to council control.

The row saw Oban councillor Fred Hall quit the administration and the SNP in protest on Monday over the council's decision to proceed with the cut, despite objections from Atlantis and the community.

Mr Matheson said: "There was an issue with the council and a decision taken at the last budget that was difficult for us to work with."

"Atlantis has to be run on a financial basis that's realistic. We are not prepared

### Well-known Oban adventurer dies in accident

A GLOBETROTTER Oban adventurer has died after his digger rolled on top of him in a tragic accident at his property in Sella, Spain.

Duncan Strachan, who died last Tuesday at the age of 66, was well known in the Oban area as a former owner of the rare breeds park and for his adventurous nature.

He and his partner, Kay Simpson, also ran a veterinary business in Broadford on the Isle of Skye.

A celebration of Duncan's life will be held in Skipinnish Ceilidh House, Oban, next Thursday, to which anyone who knew him is invited.

For more, see page 21.

### Biker injured in high-speed crash

A MOTORCYCLIST has suffered neck, hand and arm injuries in a high-speed crash on the A82 near Loch Tulla, Bridge of Orchy.

No other vehicles were involved in the crash, which happened around 2.15pm on Saturday. The motorcyclist, a 32-year-old Edinburgh man, was airlifted to the Belford Hospital in Fort William for treatment.

## Council on brink of collapse

ARGYLL and Bute Council's ruling SNP administration is on the brink of collapse amid furious rows within Kilmory Dunoon councillor Michael Breslin's resignation at the start of March.

Councillors have described as 'chaotic' Oban councillor Fred Hall's resignation from the party on Monday. He said he 'could no longer support' new leader James Robb over his decision to impose cuts on Oban's Atlantis Leisure and close Dunoon's Struan Lodge care home - despite strong community support for the ventures.

His is the second departure from the administration in as many months, following Dunoon councillor Michael Breslin's resignation at the start of March.

In what is a serious blow to Mr Robb's leadership, the Argyll and Bute branch of the SNP has supported Mr Hall in his decision to quit the party. Bob Allan, constituency convener, told *The Oban Times*: "We support Fred 100 per cent."

*The Oban Times* has also learned that at least two more members of the 'Fragile Alliance'

are considering quitting over concerns about its leadership.

While unlikely to happen at today's meeting, speculation is already rife that a new administration could yet be formed before the SNP-led administration celebrates its first anniversary in power.

Dick Walsh, the leader of the opposition, said: "For me, in my 30 years experience in the council, I've never seen a situation like this. I think people are genuinely worried by what is going on."

However, Mr Walsh said

he would have no interest in leading a movement to form a new administration, adding no member of his group has yet expressed an interest in doing so. The movement already puts the administration in an 'unprecedented' position ahead of today's (Thursday) full meeting of the council. Provost Isobel Strong is to have surgery and deputy provost Dougie Philand is also on holiday, meaning a vote will be held to elect a new provost to lead the meeting. With the opposition now boasting a numerical

advantage, it makes it unlikely any administration motion will pass. Mr Robb remained defiant ahead of the meeting. He said: "Thursday may be a difficult day. A leader leads with the support of his colleagues and I have no indication that may be changing."

Asked about the situation, constituency SNP MSP Michael Russell said: "I want this administration to succeed and I will continue to work hard to support it. It is a far better administration than the rag bag one it replaced."

## CalMac staff threaten strike action over wage cut plan

STRIKE action is being threatened after wage talks between bosses of ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) and union officials broke down.

CalMac propose cutting onshore workers' wages by up to 25 per cent - to the fury of union leaders.

Negotiations between the company and the RMT, Unite and TSSA unions in Glasgow aimed at resolving the dispute broke down on Tuesday without agreement.

Manuel Cortes, leader of the

By FAITH ORR  
forr@obantimes.co.uk

TSSA union which is fighting the cuts, accused ferry bosses of treating staff with 'contempt'.

He said: "It beggars belief that Martin Dorchester [CalMac managing director] should not even bother to attend the talks when he is planning wage cuts of as much as £6,000 a year for our members. I am now inviting him to meet me face to face at our Glasgow annual conference in three weeks time in an effort to resolve this dispute peacefully."

"If he continues his hard line stand, we will be looking to enforce our executive decision on calling a strike ballot after that conference. He is treating his hard working staff with contempt."

A CalMac spokesman said: "Meaningful talks were held today between management and unions."

"The company have put forward a number of proposals which the unions have confirmed today are unacceptable to them."

"The unions have agreed to consult with their members and

come back with specific counter proposals by May 8, which the company has agreed to consider as part of ongoing negotiations. Both parties will meet again in due course to progress discussions."

TSSA Scottish officer Tom Kennedy will now seek urgent talks with transport minister Keith Brown asking him to intervene in the dispute with the government-owned company.

He said: "The government cannot sit idly by while a company tries to impose such huge cuts in living standards

on workers in some of our most remote communities." The TSSA union also claims CalMac has refused to withdraw plans to cut anti-social hours payments.

A CalMac spokesman said: "The economy is going through a challenging time and CalMac is not immune from this."

Meanwhile, Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan has raised concerns over 'multiple breakdowns' experienced by CalMac vessels on Western Isles routes after complaints from constituents. Dr Allan is to seek a meeting with Mr Dorchester.

**Miller Stewart**  
ESTATE AGENTS & PROPERTY MANAGERS SOLICITORS & NOTARIES

no sale  
no fee  
no charge for advertising viewings and valuations

free listing on every major uk website

property of the Week  
Doirechullin, Dalmally  
Offers Over £349,995

Doirechullin is a fantastic three storey 7 bedroom stone built detached property set in a large 1 acre plot. Enjoying stunning views of the Argyll hills and beyond. This spacious property consists of 7 bedrooms, 2 public rooms, study, dining kitchen, utility, 3 bathrooms, garage and workshop.

Oban • Lochgilhead • Fort William  
Mull • Islay • Campbeltown • Tarbert

Tel: 01631 785016  
Mob: 07771 541578  
Email: oban@millerstewart.com

### Oban postie delighted with Spot the Shinty Ball jackpot delivery

A POSTMAN who has delivered thousands of Spot the Shinty Ball entries to The Oban Times and submitted two of his own every week has finally won the jackpot.

Andrew MacIntyre, who lives in Soroba, Oban, has submitted two coupons every week since the competition began but his persistence finally paid off this week, when he scooped the £1,750 jackpot.

Andrew, who celebrates his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, said: "I'm as high as a kite. When The Oban Times

contacted me I jokingly asked if I had won Spot the Shinty Ball.

"I have had a couple of near misses before but never the jackpot in all the years the competition has been running."

A keen golfer, Andrew said he plans to spend the money on a golfing holiday, as well as replacing his broken television. He added: "My father, Calum, plays every week too but I haven't told him I have won. It'll be a nice surprise for him on Thursday morning!"



Postman Andrew MacIntyre finally won the Spot the Shinty Ball jackpot after years of trying. 15\_1175p01

### Power tools stolen from Oban and Lorn

POWER tools worth thousands of pounds are among items stolen from vehicles in the Oban and Lorn area.

In Dunbeg, a Transit van parked in Lorn road had its driver's side window broken and thieves made off with almost £3,000 worth of power tools overnight between Sunday and Monday.

The same night a van parked outside the barber's shop in Craigard Road had its passenger side window forced open and a handbag was removed from the seat.

Oban police suspect the thefts are linked and have appealed for any witnesses who may have seen or heard anything suspicious.

Overnight between Wednesday and Thursday last week a bag of valuables, including a satnav, was stolen from an unlocked car parked at Fasnakyle, Taynuilt.

Anyone with any information relating to the thefts should contact Oban Police on 01631 510500.

Now JDP Oban offers you MORE for drainage and pipeline projects

- Over 15,000 products
- Local trade counter
- Technical advice
- In-house design

10 - 11 Glengallan Industrial Estate Glenshellach Oban PA34 4HG 01631 706417 www.jdppipes.co.uk

all our frames include free lenses this season!

see the difference

free single-vision, standard lenses on purchase of complete spectacles | Cannot be used with any other offer | Ends 31.05.13

WALLACE optometrists  
Kodak LENS VISION CENTRE

11-12 Argyll Square, Oban, Argyll PA34 4AZ  
01631 563170

Kodak and the Kodak trade dress are trademarks of Kodak used under licence by Signet Amrolite, Inc.

Pair admit driving 30mph over limit

TWO MEN have admitted driving 30mph over the speed limit on the same stretch of the A82 at Rannoch Moor in separate incidents.

Derek Clarkson, of 24 The Turnpike, Preston, was caught by a speed camera travelling at 90mph at White Corries on January 30.

The 67-year-old was fined £300 with six points placed on his licence.

Anthony Kenyan, of 35 Branstoun Close, Newark, was caught at the same spot driving at 87mph on January 7.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said his Mercedes van was limited to a speed of 50mph.

Kenyan, aged 48, was fined £400 and given six penalty points.

Both men were warned they would have faced disqualification if they had not had clean driving licences.

Easter Coll concert raises £725 for groups

MORE than 180 people packed in to An Cridhe, Coll, to help raise £725 for island charities as part of its annual Easter concert.

Virtually all the participants in the event were local, with singing, dancing and a touch of poetic prose among the performances to amuse the crowd.

Treshnish, a newly-formed ceildh band featuring Lavinia Maclean-Bristol, Robbie Payne, John Maclean and Allan McKechnie opened the event with a rousing selection of traditional music. Particularly popular were singers Robbie Payne, Lisa Carr and Pete and Sophie Isaacson - the latter pair a father and daughter team.

Sketches were performed, with a little inspiration occasionally from Monty Python, by Paul Wilson, Ross Evans and Ruth Sturgeon with her team, George McConnachie and Pete Mackay, who also sang with his friend Glen Campbell. Jane Metcalfe recited a Pam Ayres poem.

Carol Flett organised an aerobics sketch to the great amusement of the audience, and joined with Lavinia Maclean-Bristol for a final singalong on their accordions. The backstage crew was managed by Emma Grant. Coll Senior Social Club raised £217 with a raffle organised by Jean Peddie.

Newsdesks 01631 568000 01397 703003



Piper Angus MacKenzie entertains at the Yes Skye launch.

Get talking message at Yes Skye launch

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

'BLETHER for Scotland'. That was the message from leading academic Professor Alan Riach to more than 80 people at Gaelic college Sabhal Mòr Ostaig for the launch of Yes Skye last Wednesday night.

Describing the importance of nationhood and the multitude varieties of culture that makes up a collective identity, Professor Riach, professor of Scottish literature at Glasgow University, stressed how independence would allow the culture of Scotland to flourish.

And the way to win independence, he said, was to talk to, and persuade, friends, families and colleagues.

The event was organised by Gaelic singer Arthur Cormack, who introduced guests including Glenfinnan harpist Ingrid Henderson, Gaelic singer Margaret Stewart, and piper Angus MacKenzie from the



Arthur Cormack launches the Yes Skye campaign in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Gaelic super group Diarmh. The occasion heralded the start of the campaign to win over the people of Skye, Raasay and Lochalsh to the independence cause in the lead up to the referendum on September 18 next year.

Interestingly, a show of hands from the audience revealed that

over half those in attendance were not members of any political party, something Mr Cormack believed was key to the campaign.

He said: 'I am not affiliated to any political party. What I am supporting is the chance for Scotland to make her own decisions, to choose her own path.'

'And as a Gael and a Scot I believe that our culture will flourish with independence. On the September 19, 2014 I don't want to wake up to a 'No' vote and wonder if I could have done more.'

'That is why we should all work as hard as we can to deliver a resounding 'Yes.'

Stan Blackley, deputy director for Communities Yes Scotland, said a grassroots campaign and social media - not what politicians say on TV - were the keys to success.

He said: 'There could be Yes groups in every community in Skye, Lochalsh and Raasay

- it is up to the people how they decide to organise themselves.'

He added: 'We will not run out of positive things to say about Scotland and her potential.'

Yes Skye member Neil Stephen, a partner in Sleat-based Dualchas Architects, told The Oban Times after the launch: 'We had people there from all four corners of the island, even from Milovaig past Glendale.'

'I was expecting that most folk would be SNP supporters but that was not the case. The majority were members of the public who don't normally come along to these things.'

'There was one woman, a social worker, who brought her two sons from Portree. She was not a nationalist but believed an independent Scotland would preserve the values we all hold dear.'

A further meeting will be held on the May 6 at 7.30pm in Tigh na Sgìre in Portree to discuss further events and activities for Yes Skye, Lochalsh and Raasay.

Dedicated Breast Way Round bikers return to Oban

A DEDICATED group of bikers are set to turn Oban pink on their sixth annual visit to the town during a trip which raises thousands for charity.

Breast Way Round, a group of women and some elaborately dressed men, will get on their bikes for a three-day trip around 450 miles of the west of Scotland in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

The group are hoping to reach their target of £250,000 during this trip. They have already raised £212,000 from previous years.

Sheila Tyeson, chairwoman, said: 'It is quite phenomenal to have such a fantastic group of ladies who are prepared to put in the time and effort and we have managed to get so far.'

'We are well on our way to £250,000. We held a couple of events including a rockfest and have raised around £12,000 but the run is what we get the best money from. We have 75 people

signed up so far but plenty of space for more. If anyone wants to join email me on breastwayround@aol.com.'

The bikers always prove to be a popular spectacle in Oban, ladies with pink hair, men in decorated bras over their leathers and pink mohawks on helmets are just some of ways the group draws attention to the charitable cause.

Helped The bike run started in memory of a friend of one of the ladies who takes part. She wanted to give something back to the charity which had helped her friend so much.

Since its inception bikers who have taken on the run have passed away from cancer themselves and some of those taking part in last year's event were undergoing treatment.

For those who would like to support the event without taking part donations can be made at www.justgiving.com/breastwayround2013.



Mary Scanlon: raising awareness of lung cancer.

MSP in the frame to help raise awareness of lung cancer

A HIGHLANDS and Islands politician has appeared in a Scottish parliamentary photographic exhibition to raise awareness of lung cancer.

Mary Scanlon was among several MSPs pictured holding lung x-ray images for the display, which was organised by the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation and pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim.

Ms Scanlon said: 'One of the biggest aims is to raise awareness of the early symptoms of lung cancer to ensure people are treated as quickly as possible if they have the disease.'

Concern over metal detecting rules

RULES for those who go metal detecting on historical sites have been clarified by Historic Scotland in a new publication.

The issue was discussed at a recent meeting of Kilmelford and Kilmiver Community Council. Those in attendance were concerned about confusion over the rules.

Historic Scotland is aiming to preserve scheduled monuments throughout Scotland by making it clear that metal detecting on them is forbidden without written permission from Scottish Ministers.

A scheduled monument is a monument of national importance which is legally protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

There are 792 scheduled monuments in Argyll and Bute including many standing stones and cairns as well as brochs, burial grounds and forts.

'Even if the monument is on private land consent to go metal detecting is still required. Fines for those who flout the rules can reach £10,000.'

If you are unsure whether you are metal detecting around a scheduled monument check <http://data.historic-scotland.gov.uk> for a current list of sites.

Jura questions if own hydro schemes could power island

THE PREVALENCE of hydro power schemes on an Argyll island has left residents asking why they should suffer in the case of a power cut.

Following the recent power cuts that mostly affected Kintyre and Islay, Jura Community Council has raised the question about its own hypothetical emergency situation.

The council has written to Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) to ask whether the island's three main hydro schemes at Inver, Ardullas and Forest Lodge - an estimated output of 1.2 megawatts, would be sufficient to power the island.

Community councillor Donald Ewen Darroch said: 'People are querying if there is enough

energy being produced here, why do we have to suffer when there is a power cut in the mains cable when we can do our own thing?'

'Why should the power go off here because of a fault elsewhere, if we are producing it here on the island?'

Mr Darroch admitted the enquiry was more to satisfy curiosity than to gain evidence for any solid proposal from the community.

The enquiry has been acknowledged by SSE and the community council is awaiting a response.

Jura's energy needs are currently served by a sea cable from mainland Argyll, which also runs to Islay.

New Gaelic scholarship

A NEW publishing scholarship has been launched for candidates with fluent written and spoken Scottish Gaelic at the University of Stirling.

The Gaelic Books Council and the Stirling Centre for International Publishing and Communication are offering a fully-funded scholarship on Stirling's industry-leading MLitt in Publishing Studies programme for 2013-14.

Rosemary Ward, director of the Gaelic Books Council said: 'The demand for Gaelic publications continues to increase as a result of the growing number of pupils attending Gaelic Medium Education and the ever increasing number of adult learners.

Investment in this sector is essential if existing Gaelic publishers are to cope with growing demand.'

The successful student will study at the University's Stirling campus and the Gaelic Books Council will secure placements with Gaelic publishers.

The Gaelic Books Council will also act as an advisor for the student's publishing project and dissertation which is required to have a Gaelic focus. Applications for the scholarship should be submitted to Stirling University no later than 5pm on Friday May 31. Further details are available on [www.gaelicbooks.org](http://www.gaelicbooks.org).

Morvern gardening group welcomes new plans to make it easier to 'grow your own'

SCOTTISH Government proposals to make it easier for people to grow their own food have received a warm welcome in Morvern.

Rural affairs minister Richard Lochhead launched a nationwide consultation last week on simplifying allotment legislation following criticism that existing rules were too unwieldy.

The move came as food prices continue to soar and hard-pressed families consider taking up garden plots to save cash.

But in many areas - including the Highlands - red tape and a

shortage of available land can mean a long wait for people keen to get their hands dirty.

Lochaline gardening group Community Land Association Morvern (CLAM) produced its first allotment fruit and vegetables on land gifted by Ardormish Estate, opposite Lochaline Primary School, last summer.

And CLAM secretary Clare Holohan would be delighted if the changes led to more communities following suit.

She told The Oban Times: 'I am all in favour of it. If there is a

demand there and people want to grow their own food by wanting more land then they should be able to do that.'

'Food prices are rising yet wages are staying the same and it's quite clear you can save a lot of money by growing some or all of your own food.'

The consultation asks whether councils should be required to provide people with allotments within a given time, and/or have a duty to provide a set number of allotments per head of population.

Mr Lochhead said: 'Allotments

provide a range of benefits including better health, an opportunity to learn new skills, and an understanding of where food comes from - not forgetting the chance to eat the fruits of your labour. 'We're committed to helping people to grow their own food and this consultation will consider what changes should be made to the existing legislation to make it simpler and fit for today's community needs.'

The consultation is available at [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/04/5940](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/04/5940).

Fort William bus ticket zones advertisement showing routes to Invergarry, Roy Bridge, Torlundy, Croit Anna Hotel, Kinlochleven, Ballachulish, and Corpach. Includes text: 'Wherever you need to be, get there with a megarider.' and 'With 2 ticket zones in the Fort William area, travel to where you need to be has never been easier, or better value.'

Pier access row leads to right of way probe

A DISPUTE over access to a pier has led to Argyll and Bute Council conducting an investigation into whether it is a public right of way.

Melfort Pier and Harbour, near Kilmelford, is the site being considered for the designation - but landowner John Christlieb, who has been there for 23 years, branded the exercise a 'nonsense'.

The controversy began when Mr Christlieb encountered an individual on his property who refused to leave and became threatening. The police were called and referred the right of way dispute to the council.

Mr Christlieb said: 'This person claimed there was a public right of way - there isn't. It is a complete nonsense and a complete waste of time and money.'

For an area to be classed as a public right of way it needs to have been used without significant obstacles or interruption for at least 20 years.

The council's access team have now distributed forms to local residents asking for their experiences of using the pier.

Melfort Pier is not currently recorded as a right of way and Mr Christlieb added: 'I have been running this business for 23 years - nobody can say they have been using it for the last 20 years.'

There is no set time frame for local residents to submit forms and copies can be obtained from the council's Outdoor Access Team.

Fort shoplifter fined £100

A FORT William man has been fined £100 for stealing a bottle of wine from a shop in the town.

Jake Black, of 1b Linnh Buildings, pled guilty to stealing the alcohol by hiding it in his jacket on December 30. The 23-year-old was also ordered to repay the cost of the wine to the store.

Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes



Pupils from Bowmore Primary School were among those involved in this year's Rivers in the Classroom project.

Fisheries trust brings rivers into island primary school classrooms

PRIMARY school pupils on the islands of Islay, Jura and Colonsay grew their own salmon fry and released them into the wild as part of this year's Rivers in the Classroom project.

The annual educational initiative, run by Argyll Fisheries Trust, teaches children about the life cycle of fish and other river-based creatures.

The trust organised release days at five primary schools on the islands this year as part a larger project, Southern Hebrides Rivers and Communities, which saw data collected on fish populations and habitat from 16 rivers and burns.

Project leader Daniel Brazier, a biologist with the trust, said: 'The aim of the Rivers in the Classroom project is to educate and raise the awareness of the children to the freshwater environment that exists in their surrounding rivers and lochs.'

'As part of the project, the schools involved were given some wild salmon eggs which they looked after and reared in the classroom in specialised equipment provided by Argyll Fisheries Trust. I then visited over the course of three months and explained about fish life cycles, invertebrates and what the children could do to look after their local rivers and lochs.'

The scheme culminated with the children visiting the River Fyne to release the fry, which had been reared from eggs in the classroom.

Argyll Fisheries Trust thanks all the schools involved, Achadunan estate, Heritage Lottery, Awards For All and Scottish Power Renewables for their assistance.

The trust is also hoping to develop angling opportunities throughout Argyll and anyone wishing to be involved in this can also contact Mr Brazier on 01499 302322.



These pupils from Jura's Small Isles Primary School get their hands dirty during river sampling.

**CalMac gears up for e-ticketing**

PASSENGERS boarding Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) ferries could soon just have to swipe their smart phone instead of producing a ticket. The ferry company is looking at introducing e-ticketing as soon as possible, and it is thought the new system could be introduced as soon as this year.

CalMac's Laura Wohlgenuth told *The Oban Times*: 'E-ticketing is in the pipeline, although I can't say when it will be ready. Now, we have to go and physically get your ticket and hand it over. It would be easier if you just swipe your phone.'

Meanwhile, Ian Fox, area manager for CalMac, said wi-fi for the ferries is also progressing, but it is proving difficult to implement due to infrastructure and technological limitations. He said: 'We are working hard on it.'

**Quality of Poppies baking recognised at awards**

POPPIES Garden Centre near Oban has been recognised by a panel of expert judges as baking some of the best cakes and pastries in Scotland.

Paul Hollywood, artisan baker and TV presenter, will present the centre with an award at Scottish Baker of the Year Awards in Glasgow.

The final results will remain a closely guarded secret until Mr Hollywood names the Scottish Baker of the Year 2013 and the runners-up on May 18.

Alan Clarke, chief executive of Scottish Bakers, said: 'Poppies Garden Centre does a great job day in and day out delivering a quality product and their place in this competition shows their customers agree.'



St Conan's Kirk trustees, from left, Davy McLeod, Robert Campbell-Preston and Halbert Jamieson survey the damage to St Conan's Kirk, caused by thieves.

**Anger as thieves strip St Conan's roof**

A TRUSTEE and caretaker of the magnificent St Conan's Kirk has described how he felt 'sick' at finding the Lochawe church vandalised and part of its unique lead roofing stolen this week.

Davy McLeod discovered the damage at 7.40am on Tuesday, the same day the kirk's trustees had scheduled a meeting at the venue to discuss raising part of the estimated £1m needed to fully restore the building. The lead roofing, which has a unique

moulded design and had been in place since the early 1900s, was taken from the roof of the cloister garth section of the church.

Mr McLeod, who lives next to the church, said: 'I have looked after this place for years and I have never seen anything like this. It made me feel sick and angry.'

'The lead roofing has been there since the local plumber, Mr Bonnington, put it there a century ago and in one night someone has just stripped it off.'

Oban's police inspector Julie McLeish shared Mr MacLeod's anger at the theft. She said: 'This offence is of great concern. It is not just about the cost of the damage; this building is of historic importance and is a symbol within the local community.'

The lead roofing has a distinctive pattern, so we are appealing for help in tracing the thieves that took it.'

Oban Police can be contacted on 01631 510500.

**Roundabout sparks by-pass rethink call**

CALLS have been made for Argyll and Bute Council to take a fresh look at the Oban Development Road (ODR) after plans to build a roundabout at Dunbeg were approved.

Oban councillor Duncan MacIntyre is urging senior officials to revive the road project after Transport Scotland estimated the upgrade would mean 1,500 more vehicle movements on the A85 per day. West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) is providing the roundabout for access to its new housing development at Dunbeg, and a possible new boutique hotel at Tom Liath by an international developer.

These additional pressures, combined with possible increased ferry traffic when the government's RET fares discount scheme extends to Oban routes in 2016, means the time is right to look once again

By STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

at the bypass, according to Councillor MacIntyre.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'All the reports, and there are many, regularly refer to ODR as essential and number one priority.'

'The growth and expansion of Oban in developments such as Dunbeg, Dunstaffnage, Connel and Benderloch - all under the Lorn Arc - and south of Oban and the new Oban High School, wherever that may be, will demand improved access and traffic management and vehicle accommodation.'

'The hotel and WHHA proposals, the Scottish Association for Marine Science [new centre at Dunbeg], the first 50 houses already under construction in Dunbeg Village and a further 40 houses at Glenshellach, plus the Lorn Arc

and RET, is a clear indicator to Transport Scotland of a developing situation that cannot be other than a serious priority.'

Councillors approved WHHA's plan to build a roundabout west of the Halfway Filling Station on the A85 by majority at a planning hearing in the Corran Halls last Tuesday, despite 62 objections.

Among the complainers were Dugald Munro, who owns the fuel station, who not only felt the roundabout would affect passing trade, but that the removal of rock to level the area could cause problems, with the station built on infill. Dunbeg Community Council also said it had doubts over its position.

However, conditions for the approval of the site include provision that work should not start until the construction method is approved and a landscaping scheme approved. Building work on the roundabout must start within three years.

**Farmers 'No' to bear and lynx**

PROPOSALS to reintroduce wild animals including bears, wolves and lynx to the Highlands have enraged a farmers union.

Environmental activist Mandy Haggith believes we should be sharing the countryside with species which roamed the land centuries ago.

Ms Haggith made the controversial call at a debate entitled 'How Wild Can We Go?' to mark Earth Day in Assynt, where the remains of post-ice-age bears and lynx have been discovered.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'It is about restoring balance to our very unbalanced ecosystem and about sharing the land with other animals - not just expecting that human beings are going to dominate. We have got the space in the Highlands to share the land with these beautiful animals.'

But the National Farmers

Union Scotland (NFUS) has said the 'introduction' of the predatory animals would simply add to livestock losses to sea eagles.

The birds are now a common sight after eagles introduced from Norway successfully bred on the west coast.

Lachlan Maclean, from Knock Farm on Mull, the chairman of NFUS' Less Favoured Areas Committee, said he had lost new lambs to eagle predation - and was firmly against lynx and bear stalking farmers' sheep and cattle.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I would be horrified to think there was the possibility of any more reintroductions. They don't know the full consequences of how the sea eagles are going to end up. We are over populated in this part of the world - anything further would certainly put some folk out of business.'

'We are in such a fragile position at the moment economically in this part of the world. The sea eagles are having a high impact as it is - any further impact would really be the straw that breaks the camel's back.'

'Any reintroduction would have to be properly set out and funded - anyone who has any problems should be properly compensated. Even though there is a sea eagle management scheme it doesn't really recompense people for their losses.'

'The eagles benefit tourism - but if you have nothing invested in tourism all it does is affect your day-to-day business.'

He added: 'Sea eagle numbers are increasing year on year and the farmers get less and less. It is not viable for a young person to start up the way things are at the moment.'

□ See leader, page 10.

**Door-to-door seller charged under Act dating back to 1871**

A MAN who is accused of preying on the victims of the recent power cuts in Argyll by selling suspect generators and other equipment, has been charged under an Act dating back to 1871.

The Irish man was arrested and charged in North Connel last Friday afternoon, under the Peddler's Act 1871, for selling door-to-door without a valid peddler's licence.

Police initially received numerous reports of a group of Irish nationals who were travelling around

Argyll selling generators, flatscreen TVs and power tools. They established a joint operation with Trading Standards and found that although the goods did not appear to be stolen, they were of an 'inferior' quality.

Oban Police Acting Chief Inspector Alistair Davidson said: 'These men first appeared in the area after the power outages and tried to cash in on the fear factor of the power cuts.'

'The Argyll population has been very vigilant in helping us in this operation.'

**Services in training for Oban airport 'emergency'**

RESIDENTS who live near Oban airport are being urged not to panic when they see a full scale emergency response this weekend.

An exercise will be carried out on Saturday April 27 between 10.30am and 1pm to test the response of the emergency services in case of a plane crash at the airport.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council, which runs the airport, said: 'You will see blue lights and hear sirens at the airport but it will all be part of the exercise. This takes place every two years and is being done to meet the requirements of the Civil Aviation Authority and the Civil Contingencies Act 2005.'

**Hopes high SAMS centre will attract thousands of visitors**

A NEW £350,000 visitor centre in Dunbeg is aiming to attract thousands of people to the area to learn about cutting edge science.

The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) will open its new Scottish Ocean Explorer attraction in June to highlight work done by researchers and encourage visitors to explore how the marine environment works.

Based in the former Argyll College building at Dunstaffnage, it will take up about half of the area the college used to occupy.

SAMS is this week advertising for

staff to run the facility, which will feature an interactive exhibition, a small cinema for short documentaries about the sea, an outside marine technology garden with interactive science displays and a small science-themed cafe and shop.

The centre will also host an underwater observatory, webcams and hydrophones, while Smartphone users can access displays electronically.

SAMS head of communications, Dr Anuschka Miller believes the new base will be a major tourism draw for the area. She said: 'Our open days

have been attracting audiences of up to 800 which suggests that people are interested in what we do.'

'Our new Ocean Explorer Centre will allow locals to come in throughout the year to find out what we are up to and will add an indoor attraction to what we can offer visitors to the area.'

'With the help of the award-winning design team of Edinburgh company Bright 3D, we are developing what we hope will be a truly inspirational visitor experience.'

Local schools will be able to make use of the centre to help students

'dive deeper' into marine science. It will also host regular events and workshops for tourists and locals alike.

Ms Miller added: 'We have worked really hard over the years to engage with the public about our research and the importance of a healthy marine environment, but the centre will allow us to do it 100 times better.'

'Being located adjacent to Dunstaffnage Castle, we hope visitors will start to think of Dunstaffnage as a rare place where the past meets the future.'



Back from left: Ceitidh Garvin, Finlay McLuckie, William MacEwan and Catie MacLennan. Front: Daniel Campbell-Hill, Cameron Harris and Finlay Cameron. 16\_117familyceilidh1

**Touch of colour at family ceilidh**

PUPILS from Rockfield Primary's Gaelic unit brought a touch of colour to a lively family ceilidh at Oban's Glencruitten Church Centre.

The Comunn Gaidhealach an Obain family ceilidh on Friday was a popular affair, with the primary one to four classes putting on a lively performance of Aonghas Isean, Angus the Chick. The pupils brought with them all the vibrant

colours that saw them win best costume at the recent Argyll and Lochaber Gaelic Drama Festival run

**Entertaining**

Band Michael and Joanie Garvin were joined by Margaret MacLellan and the Bradfords, Morag MacNeil, Morag Smith and Andreas Wolff in hosting an entertaining evening.

**New ferry link heralded as huge boost to Kintyre**

A NEW ferry link between Campbeltown and Ardrossan has been heralded as a huge boost to the Kintyre economy.

Peter Stogdale, a consultant and former managing director of Campbeltown's White Hart Hotel, helped launch the new timetable at the VisitScotland Expo in Glasgow last week.

Mr Stogdale said sensible sailing times offered the potential for an influx of visitors. He told *The Oban Times*: 'It's terrific news because you can now get to Campbeltown from Ayr very quickly, via Arran, and on to Ireland by the Kintyre Express.'

'Public transport is so important and this is great news for Kintyre - it is absolutely, really positive.'

Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced the new link on a visit to the Kintyre port last week.

**Rest and be Thankful resurfacing planned**

OVER a kilometre of the A83 at the Rest and be Thankful near Arrochar is to be upgraded after being worn out by the average 4,188 vehicles using it every day.

BEAR Scotland will carry out the work on 1.2km of the trunk road for Transport Scotland. Repairs will be done between 7am and 7pm over two weeks, between May 7 and 17 under traffic lights and a 10mph convoy system. No work is planned at weekends.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north west representative, said: 'The works have been carefully planned to minimise delays to road users. Whilst the convoy system may result in some disruption, this is necessary to ensure the safety of both motorists and road workers during the works.'

**West coast stars in new 'stunning' BBC wildlife series**

VIEWERS of a new BBC wildlife series will be able to see the west coast of Scotland like never before. 'Hebrides - Islands on the Edge', narrated by Ewan McGregor, is the

stunning result of two years of filming by a talented team. Described as a 'landmark wildlife series' by executive producer Nigel Pope, the first three episodes focus on the

wildlife, above and below the sea, while the fourth takes a look at the people of the Hebrides. The work put in to making the show is akin to programmes such as Frozen Planet

or Big Cat Diary. The first episode of the four-part series, acclaimed by Mr McGregor as 'one of the most beautiful films I've seen', airs at 9pm on May 6 on BBC One Scotland.

**We will make you smile**

The Denture Designers @ Argyll and Bute Cosmetic Dentures have over 40 years experience in hand crafting cosmetic dentures.

Postal service available.

Teeth whitening service now available.

As mouth cancer is a serious issue in the West of Scotland, please come into our studio to pick up a leaflet on detecting mouth cancer.

We are not dentists.

We have hundreds of testimonials from satisfied clients from all over Scotland and from countries as far a field as Russia, Argentina, USA, South Africa and most of the Commonwealth countries.

Most importantly we listen to what the client wants

We can provide Dentures on the same day and also a half hour Denture repair service

**CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT**

**1b Combie Street, Oban**

**01631 566 631**

**Morvern Lines**

LOCH ALINE, with its sheltered, deep water and good holding ground, has been a favourite anchorage from time immemorial. Thousands of years ago prehistoric man came by sea in search of food and fertile land and left a legacy of stone circles and burial cairns at nearby Kinlochaline, Claggan and Acharn.

The roving Vikings were active in and around Loch Aline for over 400 years and must have found it a perfect haven for building and beaching their long-ships.

Their language and influence still survives in Ardnornish, 'Promontory of Thor's Headland' and Achaforsa 'field of the waterfall'.

In the days when Scotland had a navy, Donald, Lord of the Isles (1387-1423) who lived at Ardnornish Castle, mustered over 800 small galleys, called birlinns, in Loch Aline in preparation for the Battle of Harlaw, which was fought in 1411.

What a spectacle that fleet must have been. Some of his ships and marines are depicted on grave-slabs in the museum beside Kiel church above Lochaline village.

Of all the vessels which have passed through the narrow entrance to Loch Aline, none would have matched the magnificent and beautiful private steam yachts found at anchor in almost every sea loch in Scotland until the Great War.

Commissioned by some of the country's richest men, these stately yachts were symbols of wealth and power and provided much local employment both afloat and ashore.

Many were built along the lines of clipper ships, with ornate and old fashioned cutwater prows topped off with bowsprits and terminating in attractive rising sterns. Generally they were white and carried rigging with swept back masts for sails and were known in Gaelic as 'Eoin alainn nan sgiath geal' - the beautiful birds of the white wings.

Most yacht owners north of the Clyde belonged to the prestigious Royal Highland Yacht Club, established in Oban in 1881. Every September, before turning south, dozens of these magnificent vessels paused in Oban Bay where their owners partied as if they were already on the Riviera.

During the day they took part in regattas in the Sound of Mull or attended the Argyllshire Gathering to listen to the pipes and to watch kilted supermen throw things up and down a field from the comfort of the heavily tweeded members' enclosure. And as the sun sank behind the Morvern hills every yacht put on brilliant firework displays illuminating the bay for the glittering Argyllshire Gathering and Yacht Club balls.

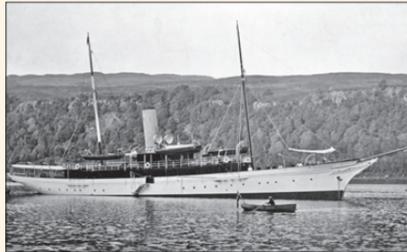
The 'Rannoch', owned by Thomas Valentine Smith of Ardnornish, was one such beauty financed on the proceeds of gin and wool. Named after a river on Ardnornish Estate she was designed by Cox & King of London and built in 1902 to the highest Lloyd's specification by Ramage & Ferguson of Leith - arguably one of the finest boat builders in the world at the time.

The 'Rannoch' had a steel hull, 184 feet in length, 25 feet in breadth, drew 14 feet (to allow her to pass over the shallow bar at the entrance to Loch Aline) and weighed 550 tons. A three cylinder x 124 horse-power engine ensured a fast cruising speed and her interior, illuminated by electricity, was the ultimate in gracious living.

Smith died in 1906 and the 'Rannoch' passed to his sister Gertrude and her son Gerard Craig Sellar who was Commodore of the RHYC from 1913 until his death in a railway carriage at Callander in 1929.

The fate of the 'Rannoch' is not known. During the 1914-18 War many such yachts went south to become naval auxiliaries. Expensive to crew and run those that survived never regained their former status and passed into history in the Depression that followed.

Iain Thornber.



'The Rannoch at anchor in Loch Aline around 1912. Built to the highest specifications, the vessel was one of the most magnificent private yachts in Argyll.'

**Isle of Eigg hydro plant back up to full power**

THE ISLE of Eigg's main hydro-electricity plant is back up and running following days of heavy rain last week.

The 100kilowatt scheme had been producing no power for around a fortnight due to the dry spell which saw heath fires devastate parts of the West Highlands.

The island has had its own electricity grid powered by local solar, wind and hydro energy since 2007.

The renewable energy mix means if one source stops

operating, electricity produced from the other two is sufficient to meet demand from Eigg's 90 residents, Eigg Electric director John Booth told The Oban Times.

'The big hydro one was switched off for around two weeks but our two smaller ones kept going,' he said. 'The whole island only consumes 40kw an hour during the day and less than half at night. It is quite a low consumption so you can see we have plenty of capacity in the system.'

**Firm seeks go-ahead to drill for precious metals**

**Test bores to be sunk in forest near Kilmelford**

DRILLING for copper and precious metals is set to get underway in a forest south of Oban - if Argyll and Bute planners give the go-ahead.

Lorne Resources Limited has applied for permission to sink test bores at 30 sites in Lagalochan Forest near Kilmelford over a period of three years.

The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Eurasian Consolidated Minerals, a firm which carried out aerial survey work to search for minerals in the Oban area last year.

A helicopter with what appeared to be a large net caused concern among locals last April while creating an electro magnetic map of the area which shows where minerals lie.

Girone Vidal, who works for French

company Geotech, was involved in the surveying work. He said at the time: 'The finished map of the area is given to a geology team who examine it before commencing exploratory drilling operations. I think there will be some areas of great interest to them.'

Lorne Resources has already carried out a preliminary assessment of the potential for copper and precious metal mining in Lagalochan Forest. Gold and silver bearing seams of rock are often found together with copper ore deposits.

The company now want to continue investigations by drilling boreholes to test for copper mineralization - the extent

to which copper ore is present - below the surface. An initial programme of 4,000m of drilling in eight boreholes is planned for 2013.

Locals are not objecting to the planning application but some have expressed concern over additional traffic.

Georgina Dalton from Lochavich said: 'I am concerned that the only access is along the C29 road that leads steeply out of Kilmelford to the proposed site.'

'The surface of this road is not strong due to its foundations being laid many years ago and it is not suitable for heavy traffic over the proposed three years.'

In its application, the company seeks to address traffic concerns in Kilmelford. It states: 'The drill rig and ancillary equipment will avoid passing through

Kilmelford village following agreement with the Forestry Commission to truck the drill rig and support equipment along the forestry haulage road from Inverinan to Lagalochan.'

The drilling will recover rock chips or cores from various depths for analysis to establish if metals are present in a sufficient concentration to be mined.

The world price of copper has fallen 20 per cent in the last six months but at over £5,000 per tonne is still six times higher than 10 years ago.

Johnson Poole and Bloomer, agents for Lorne Resources, were contacted for comment but did not respond.

Last week The Oban Times reported that Scotgold's mine near Tydrum had been hit by a fall in the world gold price.

**Award for Islay photographer**

AN ISLAY photographer has described a European award as the highlight of his career.

Mark Unsworth from Islay Studios, a contributor to The Oban Times, was commended in this year's prestigious Food Photographer of the Year competition.

His photograph of a wine cellar in Burgundy, France will appear in the commended gallery on the awards website, a new section to the competition designed to showcase outstanding work entered in the awards.

Mark said: 'To have my image chosen from more than 5,500 entries from food photographers all over Europe is a highlight in my career to date.'

The full gallery is available online now pinkladyfoodphotographeroftheyear.com

**Kilchoan man failed to tell police about collision**

A KILCHOAN man failed to tell police after crashing into a lamp post on his way home from a funeral.

Jonathan Crosbie caused £1,000 damage to the light pole on Pier Road after colliding with it on January 25.

The 38-year-old then left the scene but made no attempt to contact the authorities about the incident, Fort William Justice of the Peace Court heard.

Prosecutor Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'He said he didn't realise it was a police matter. He did get in touch with the council who told the police.'

Crosbie, of 8 Pier Road, pled guilty to driving without due care and attention and failing to notify police about the crash.

**Loch Aline pontoons land £3,000 grant**

LOCHABER councillors have granted Morvern Community Development Company £3,000 towards the cost of re-routing an access road to its pontoon development at Loch Aline.

Members also agreed, in principle, a contribution to Shopmobility Lochaber for improved service signs. Discussions are to be held with Shopmobility to determine exact works and costs.

**Hunt on for new school contractors**

HIGHLAND Council has begun the search to find companies to design and build four new schools in Fort William and Caol as part of a £32 million upgrade.

The project will see a new £10 million school created on Lundavra Road to replace the current Fort William and Upper Achintore primaries.

A replacement for Caol Primary School and a merged Lochside RC and Fort William RC will form the £15 million Caol Joint Campus, while Lochaber's first all-Gaelic Primary School will be built at Ardgour Road in Caol at an expected cost of £7 million.

The deadline for applications is May 14, and the contracts will be awarded at the end of the year.

A council spokesperson said: 'It is proposed that each primary school will be let as separate individual contracts however contractors are invited to apply for one, all, or any combination of contracts.'



Vivienne and Helen, front, with their fellow volunteers. 16\_117fishandchip01

**Knitters put skill to good use to help newborn babies in Malawi**

DEDICATED knitters have been putting their needlework to good use by ensuring newborn babies don't have to go home from hospital in Malawi wrapped in newspapers.

More than 500 'fish and chip' jumpers have been made by ladies from SAMS and Tesco, staff and friends of Dunbeg Primary School as well as members of clubs in the area including over 50s keep fit, line dancing and the church's Tuesday

Club. Organiser Helen Watt said: 'They are called fish and chip jumpers because they are going to babies who don't have any clothes to wear home from hospital - they get wrapped up in newspapers, which is what we use for fish and chips.'

Helen was only introduced to knitting when her mum picked up the pattern for the jumpers and showed her how to make them.

'I got quite into it, some have said

addicted,' said Helen. 'But it is a good thing to be addicted to.' Vivienne Clark, clerical assistant at Dunbeg Primary School, has also been busy knitting.

She added: 'It breaks your heart to think of babies getting sent home wrapped in newspaper, it is so wrong when you think of how much babies have here.'

The tiny jumpers are all made using bright colours as it is likely the women who receive them will be unable to wash

them. Many of the items will be taken out to Mulanje Mission Hospital in Malawi, where 3,000 babies are born every year, by Helen's dad, Alistair.

His trip, on May 9, is a fundraiser with EMMS International, a charity providing health and education in Malawi, India and Nepal.

Any jumpers he is unable to take will be sent to Malawi through The Raven Trust, based in Strachur.

**Strontian street sealed off during incident**

A STRONTIAN street was closed and residents warned to stay indoors by police during an incident last Wednesday.

Police rapid response units from Fort William attended along with local officers.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: 'There was an incident involving a vulnerable man. There was concern for him and he was taken to New Craigs Psychiatric Hospital in Inverness by police.'

Police denied rumours a firearm had been involved in the incident.



Catriona Maclean: new Crofting Commission chief executive.

**Crofting Commission appoints new chief executive**

THE CROFTING Commission has appointed its new chief executive.

Catriona Maclean, from a crofting family who still live in Tong on the Isle of Lewis, hopes to take up her new position in mid-May.

Ms Maclean previously worked with the Crofters Commission for over 14 years in various roles, including head of regulation.

Speaking from her home in Inverness, she said: 'It is 25 years since I first worked in the Crofters Commission and while

both the organisation and I have evolved and progressed, crofting has remained a key element in my life. This is an exciting time for crofting and I am looking forward to working with everyone at the Commission and our partners, to ensure that the Crofting Commission is modern, relevant and makes a real difference to crofting and the people of Scotland.'

Crofting Commission convener Susan Walker said the appointment completed a 'renewal and change process' for the organisation.

**Argyll Resources Group**

INCORPORATING

- Quarrying and Aggregate
- Construction
- Crane Hire
- Plant Hire & Transport
- Ready Mixed Concrete
- Gas Supplies
- Recycling & Treatment
- Skip Hire
- Portable Toilet Hire

West Coast Loos WC

Argyll Resources, Torran Gorm Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4PL  
 Tel: 01631 566370 Fax: 01631 566758  
 Email: info@argyllresources.co.uk  
 West Highland Gas Depots in Oban 01631 564050  
 Fort William 01397 701414, Lochgilphead 01546 602662  
 Dunoon 01369 706269, Mull 01680 30056

**Police determined to ensure Six Days Trial runs smoothly**

THE SCOTTISH Six Days Trial gets underway in 12 days - and Lochaber police are determined to ensure a safe and enjoyable week for riders and spectators.

The event, from May 6-11, sees 275 trial bike riders from all over Europe take on a series of rocky stages each day over testing terrain in often challenging conditions.

And Lochaber Area Inspector Donald Campbell is equally keen that the trial runs smoothly and shows Lochaber at its best.

He said: 'The planning stages are critical from a police point of view in ensuring that routes and identified spectator points of interest are well covered

to prevent traffic issues and problems for other motorists, as well as to ensure the safety of all road users.'

'On a personal level my involvement with trials didn't begin until 2002, when my six-year-old son, Donnie, took an interest in the sport through a neighbour who had previously competed in the SSDT.'

**Ambition**  
 'Since then he has continued his interest and I'm sure like every youth rider he has an ambition of one day competing in the SSDT, which continues to be a wonderful spectacle.'

Thousands flock to Lochaber to watch competitors attempt set stages designed to test

their agility and control. To complete each stage 'clean' riders must keep their balance - each time they put a foot down earns a one-point penalty.

Inspector Campbell added: 'There is no doubt in my mind that the SSDT brings a massive boost to the local economy and also helps to keep Lochaber in its entirety on the world map as the 'Outdoor Capital of the UK'. 'Business communities throughout the length and breadth of Lochaber benefit through the volume of people, competitors, spectators and support teams who follow this important event.'

'I wish everyone involved in the SSDT a safe and trouble-free event.'

**Work to start soon on Kilmelford 'castle'**

PLANS to build a 'castle' near Kilmelford are nearing construction stage.

Permission for the building, an elaborate home complete with turrets, was granted on July 18 last year but no work has yet started.

The architect, William Cowie, of Allardice Castle, Inverberrie, said: 'We're getting near, we're still checking building warrants but as soon as we get through all the statutory consents we'll get underway.'

Plans for the site, on land south west of Glenmore Farm, attracted criticism

at the time, with one objector calling it a 'monumental folly'. But applicant, Trevor Leggett, was backed by Diarmid Campbell, a qualified architect who lives in Kilmelford.

He said: 'I for one would be delighted to have it in my view. I realise tastes vary but it is about time there was some creative and unique building allowed to liven the scene.'

According to his profile on the dictionary of Scottish Architects Mr Cowie has designed five previous castles as well as vastly modernising his own residence.

Yields down? Stock in poor condition? Has the past year's weather brought your farming business to crisis point? Extra feed costs? Crops to re-drill? vet bills? If so, help may be available through RSABI with support from The Prince's Countryside Fund and the Scottish Government. Over your limit with your bank? Can't meet household bills? Poor quality silage? Call 0131 472 4166 or visit www.rsabi.org.uk

THE PRINCE'S COUNTRYSIDE FUND rsabi The Scottish Government

**Former Oban woman convicted of manslaughter of toddler son**

A FORMER Oban woman has been convicted of the manslaughter of her toddler son at a court in Tenerife.

Corinna Reid, 37, can expect to be jailed for between one and four years after being cleared of the more serious charge of homicide.

Reid's former partner, Robert Cormack, 42, was also cleared of homicide but found guilty of the manslaughter of their 16-month-old son Aiden during a holiday to Tenerife in January 2007. The couple, recovering drug addicts, always maintained Aiden's death was accidental. Tests revealed traces of methadone and diazepam in his body.

After being arrested Cormack, from Edinburgh, admitted the youngster might have drunk some of his orange juice laced with methadone.

Reid told the court: 'I didn't give anything to Aiden. When Robert told me it was an accident, I know he's telling the truth. He would never have knowingly killed Aiden.'

The nine member jury reached a majority, eight to one, verdict after only a matter of hours. They ruled the couple had consciously given the infant methadone and diazepam but unanimously agreed they could not have been aware of the lethal consequences.



David 'Skinny' MacInnes is running 100 miles in a day for Macmillan Cancer Relief. 15\_17skinny01

**'Skinny' vows to run 100 miles in a day for Macmillan charity**

HE ADMITS to not being particularly superstitious - but Friday September 13 may be a day that Oban's David 'Skinny' MacInnes will dread.

The 33-year-old, who has only ever run one 10K five years ago, has vowed to run 100 miles from Ibrox, Glasgow, to the Corran Halls, Oban, in just 24 hours.

The Oban Camanachd shinty player readily admits his charity challenge is daft - but he is determined to achieve the feat to raise as much money as possible for Macmillan

Cancer Relief. He chose to support the charity after he recently lost his auntie and friends of the family to cancer.

The Lorne barman told *The Oban Times*: 'Everyone does a skydive or a bungee jump but I wanted to do something completely ridiculous to try and capture people's imaginations.'

'The more ridiculous it is, the more money I think people give so I don't care if people say I'm mad. I don't care if I have to crawl - I'm going to finish it.'

Skinny, who has planned a route via Glasgow's Great Western Road and Inveraray to Oban, has roped in shinty teammates and friends as his back-up team, with the Oban Camanachd club bus serving as support vehicle.

Atlantis Leisure has given Skinny free use of the gym and the swimming pool in preparation for the event and gym instructor AK Hatim has been putting Skinny through his paces. Sponsorship can be made at The Lorne in Stevenson Street.

**Premier Inn 'very keen' to open in Oban**

Hotel chain's plans backed by town's lead councillor

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

HOTEL chain giant Premier Inn is 'very keen' on opening a hotel in Oban - and the town's lead councillor has vowed to help them get here.

Parent company Whitbread is currently embarking on an aggressive national expansion programme and is aiming to up the number of beds it offers across the UK from 52,000 to 65,000 by 2016.

However, it is thought the company is keen to find premises in Oban within the next 12 months to take advantage of an anticipated increase in tourist numbers during the Commonwealth Games.

While Whitbread said it is not currently in negotiations to buy any particular property or development site, and would not

be drawn on when it would like to open, the company confirmed to *The Oban Times* it is 'very keen' on the town.

A spokesperson said: 'We haven't identified any specific opportunities at the moment but we have identified Oban as somewhere we want to be. There is definitely admiration for the town and its potential.'

The company confirmed it doesn't necessarily need to build a hotel on a new site and could instead be interested in looking at buying and converting an existing hotel within the town.

Roddy McCuish, deputy leader of Argyll and Bute Council and chairman of the Oban and Lorn Area Committee, said: 'It's fantastic news for Oban that a well established company like Premier Inn want to come here. I'll do all I can to help and encourage them to come.'

'What it does is it gives a surge of confidence that Oban is the place to be.'

'When you get companies of that standard wanting to come here, you know you're on the right track.'

VisitScotland chairman, Dr Mike Cantlay, said: 'Premier Inn very much would like to move into Oban. The company has its own marketing machine and it shows Oban is something they consider worthwhile.'

**Castle tops poll**

INVERARAY Castle has been rated by its visitors as one of the UK's best tourism attractions.

The accolade was handed out by Irish bus tour operator CIE Tours International during its inaugural UK Awards of Excellence ceremony in Glasgow last weekend. Castle owner, the Duke of Argyll, added: 'I am delighted to accept this award on behalf of all those that help us at Inveraray Castle to create such a memorable and authentic tourist experience.'

**Argument with mother leads former Fort man to court**

AN ARGUMENT with his mother led to a former Fort William man smashing a window and throwing a garden ornament through the windscreen of a car.

Niall Hunter, of 60 Sunnybank Road, Aberdeen, got into a row with his mother after coming home late at Moorfield House, Camaghael on July 12.

The 20-year-old started shouting and swearing before punching holes in his bedroom wall, Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said.

He then left the house, smashing the glass in the back door with his elbow on his way out. Once in the driveway, he threw a garden ornament at the rear window of an Audi parked in the driveway, causing around £300 damage.

Defending Hunter, Niall MacBeath said Hunter had not returned to the house since the incident.

Hunter was fined £250 after pleading guilty to recklessly destroying or damaging the property of another.

**Anger as staff warned: 'do not speak directly to media'**

A LEAKED email instructing council staff not to talk to the media has been described as 'a threat' by an Oban community councillor.

The email, from authority's head of improvement and human resources Jane Fowler, warns staff they 'must not speak directly to the press on council matters'.

It was sent after staff allegedly talking to newspapers without going through the press office.

Ms Fowler's circular to staff states: 'When employees speak directly to the press, the communications team are not made aware of the approach being taken by the journalist

on the story and this can have a negative impact on the council's reputation.'

'It also prevents councillors from being quoted on issues for which they are responsible.'

Member Neil MacIntyre described the letter as 'scary' and 'a nonsense' at Oban Community Council's latest meeting.

He said: 'I think it's a threat. I think that's a really scary letter. I think it's ridiculous. People are allowed to have a view. To say we'll do your talking for you - that's just wrong.'

'Why take it to the extreme where you are so worried about someone saying something about the council you ban

everyone from speaking? If they actually listened more to the workers they employ they'd sort themselves out.'

Oban councillor and deputy leader of the authority, Roddy McCuish, who had promised a more 'transparent' council when the SNP-led alliance administration was agreed last year, said the policy mentioned in the letter was 'agreed' with council employees.

Asked by Mr MacIntyre if that meant people weren't allowed an opinion, Mr McCuish said: 'Of course, everyone is.'

A spokesperson for the council said: 'Council staff can and do comment on matters of fact, for

example opening hours or a job title.'

'All other media enquiries are referred to the communications team who will make contact with the appropriate officer and prepare a response.'

'This allows us to include a quote from the lead councillor, where appropriate, and sets the response in its overall policy context. This ensures that the media receive all of the relevant information.'

'All interview requests are also dealt with by the communications office who can then provide the most appropriate person for the media to speak to where appropriate.'

**Club kicks off Ben Nevis karate challenge**

KARATE enthusiasts in Argyll will swap the sports centre for Ben Nevis this summer when they perform martial arts at the highest point in Britain.

A group of volunteers from Mid Argyll Karate Club will climb Ben Nevis on June 1 and upon reaching the summit will do karate demonstrations on the peak.

The unusual challenge, the brainchild of Ardrishaig woman Karen Rodger, aims to raise funds for charity Befrienders.

A voluntary organisation, Befrienders Argyll and Bute supports vulnerable children, young people and their families. It recruits and trains local volunteers and matches them with young people who may have difficulties at home, school or in the community.

Karen, who will be



Christopher Stewart, Michael Stewart, Lewis Peacock, Karen Rodger, Theresa McLetchie, Iain Rodger and Wallace Simpson will do a karate demonstration when they reach the top of Ben Nevis in June. 06\_017karate01

accompanied by her karate instructor husband Iain Rodger, friends and family on the challenge, has been working with the charity in recent months.

'I was really keen to do something to raise money to help,' she said.

'I don't think anyone has ever done a karate demonstration on

top of Britain's highest mountain before - it's a first, and we really hope that this will help us to raise even more money for Befrienders.'

'My husband teaches karate in Lochgilphead and Oban, and some of the club members are coming along with us.'

Support 'Every penny we raise will stay in Argyll and Bute and will help local young people who need some support and encouragement.'

People across Argyll are rapidly signing up to climb the mountain with the 'Karate Kids', with volunteers from Tarbert, Dunoon and Argyll and Bute Council also taking part.

To sponsor Karen and the Karate group log on to their My Donate page at mydonate.bt.com/charities/befrienders.

**blackbridge FURNISHINGS**

**BARCELONA 2 SEATER SOFA £199**  
WAS £399  
ONLY 10 AVAILABLE

**FIONA RECLINER ONLY £99**  
WAS £199  
ONLY 10 AVAILABLE

Unit 3, Caol Industrial Estate, Ardour Road, Caol, Fort William, PH33 7PH Tel: 01397 708600.  
Email Sales@blackbridgefurnishings.co.uk  
www.blackbridgefurnishings.co.uk

**Digital projector brings new dimension to town cinema**

OBAN'S cinema has been closed this week so a new digital projector offering filmgoers movies in 3D can be installed.

The old projector had been in the cinema since 1986 and it ran 35mm prints, which will soon cease being produced. The prints cost about £2,000 compared to 25p for the new digital ones.

Fee Shaw, chief executive of Oban Phoenix Cinema, is excited about the opportunities the new projector brings.

She said: 'There is more chance to get films on, or really close to, release. The variety will also be bigger, I can show a different film every day and it brings 3D which Oban has never had before. She added: 'We had to upgrade the projector or the cinema would be closed.'

'But the thing I'm most excited about is the potential to do live streaming on all events including sport, theatre and ballet.'

'We just have to decide what we want to put on. It will be trial and error and dictated by the people of Oban - if they want opera I'll put on opera.'

Oban Phoenix Cinema on George Street re-opens tomorrow for the first 3D screening, Iron Man at 5.45pm.

The same movie will also be shown later in the evening in a traditional 2D version.

**Plockton High School pupils officially adopt railway station**

PLOCKTON Station will be officially adopted by Plockton High School pupils in an ceremony tomorrow (Friday) morning.

The celebration follows the recent formation of a school pupil committee to tidy up the platform following complaints to Plockton Community Council that litter was creating a bad impression for visitors arriving by rail to the scenic village.

From now on, Plockton senior pupils will officially be responsible for maintaining flower displays and keeping the station litter-free.

Scotrail external relations manager John Yellowlees, Plockton Community Council chairman Charlie MacRae and Plockton High rector Duncan Ferguson will be among those attending the event.

Mr Ferguson told *The Oban Times*: 'The railway police have brought it all together in what has been a very successful initiative. Our pupils will also be putting up artwork as well in future.'

A plaque commemorating the adoption will be unveiled by Highlands Jean Urquhart MSP at 11am.

Local PC Matt O'Neill, who has worked with pupil on the initiative, will close the formal proceedings.

The British Transport Police neighbourhood policing team in Inverness is organising the ceremony.

**Woman fought with bouncers and police**

A FORT William woman who fought with two bouncers and police after being asked to leave a Fort William nightclub has been banned from the premises for a year.

Diana Rudzisa, 3 Dunbarton Road, was also fined £260 for the drunken incident at the Ossian's Hotel.

After Rudzisa and a friend sat at someone else's table bouncers asked them to leave, Fort William Justice of the Peace Court heard.

Rudzisa refused, and when a male bouncer tried to escort her from the premises, she struck out and tried to kick and slap him. She managed to scratch his arm, drawing blood and damaging the bouncer's tattoo.

The 24-year-old Latvian then tried to hit a female bouncer before being restrained until police arrived. Rudzisa resisted two officers as they tried to handcuff her by struggling violently and kicking out with her feet. The officers had to put leg restraints on her to get her into the police van. Speaking through an interpreter, Rudzisa pled guilty to two assault charges, behaving in a disorderly manner and resisting police officers.

**Burnside Joiners & Builders**  
M.R.C, Barcaldine, near Oban and 5 Mill Lane, Oban  
Mob: 077191 58777 Office: 01631 720789 Home: 01631 720700  
www.burnside-builders.co.uk mmckay796@btinternet.com

**SHOW SHEDS at our office in Mill Lane - next to car wash (grey building)**

**NOW AVAILABLE Budget Sheds, starting from just £495.00+ Vat**

**We undertake an extensive range of joinery & building work to include:**

- Dormer Windows
- Loft Conversions
- Kit Erectors
- Chalets
- Kitchens
- Repair flat roofs slating / tile roofs

**We deliver to all Islands DISTANCE NO OBJECT**

**Please phone for a free quotation.**

**We have our sheds on display at the following locations**

- MGM timber, Oban
- Our unit at the MRC in Barcaldine
- Poppies Garden Centre

**Please phone Willie for more information 07719 158777 or 01631 720700**

**KILMELFORD**

THE LONG awaited speed limit change in Kilmelford has taken place with 30mph signs installed last week.

The reduction from 40mph came after fears for the safety of children in the village were raised late last summer by concerned parents.

One woman shared her concerns about the situation at a meeting of Kilmelford and Kilmilver Community Council (KKCC).

She said: 'My nine year old is crossing that road on his own every day and I'm terrified just listening for the screech of brakes.'

As well as the speed reduction, an extension of the speed limit to include the Degnish road, as far as the village hall, was also requested by the community.

Councillor Elaine Robertson advised a recent meeting of KKCC that change was to be advertised and was expected to take from eight to 12 weeks to implement.



Kinlochleven firefighters in action at the fundraising car wash. 20\_177car01

## Firefighters boost village festive lights fund with charity car wash

KINLOCHLEVEN firefighters raised £341 for the village Christmas lights funds with a charity car wash - despite being called to an emergency mid-way through.

The team was tasked to attend after a fire alarm went off in Fort William, but only made it as far as Glencoe before being stood down.

Back at the station a

**KINLOCHLEVEN**

steady flow of vehicles were thoroughly cleaned inside and out by the fire and rescue team, with locals keen to show support for the campaign.

Pat McIlhinney, a Kinlochleven Community Christmas Lights Fund committee member told *The*

*Oban Times* the total raised was 'fantastic'. He said: 'That was thanks to a lot of support from local businesses and local people coming down to get their cars washed.'

The group was set up last month to raise to £5,000 for a 20-foot artificial tree and festive lights to brighten up Kinlochleven this festive season.

**KILMORE**

POLICE are ensuring motorists are sticking to the new 40 miles per hour speed limit through the village of Kilmore.

PC Jeremy Moore told a recent meeting of Kilmelford and Kilmilver Community Council that his colleagues had been carrying out speed checks in the village.

The new limit replaces the national speed limit which was previously in force.

There are a few membership places available and forms can be obtained from David Mudie 770268.

**PLOCKTON**

THE HEAVENS opened in Plockton last week - ending one of the driest three months in record.

According to Plockton Community Council chairman Charlie, only eight inches of rain fell on the Lochalsh village in January, February and March compared with 16 inches in 2012.

Mr MacRae said: 'Up to Sunday last week we had 46 dry days since January - then it didn't stop raining for three days.'

**EASDALE**

A NIGHT of music and comedy will be enjoyed by residents and visitors to Seil Island Hall this Saturday.

Easdale Rocks, starting at 8pm on April 27, will see guests entertained by Oban band Signal Fires before funny-man Ray Bradshaw takes to the stage.

Proceeds from the night will go towards the Seil Hall Recreation and Amenities Group.

**GREAT GLEN**

CANOEISTS hit the chilly waters of the Caledonian Canal at Banavie tomorrow for a 57-mile coast-to-coast race from Fort William to Inverness.

The Great Glen Paddle Challenge will see competitors tackle 57 miles of canal and lochs over three days in aid of children's cancer charity Cliv Sargent Scotland.

The waterway was designated as the Great Glen Canoe Trail in March last year - the country's first official route for paddlers - under a £600,000 project to boost the canal's visitor appeal.

**BALLACHULISH**

PLANS are being made for the second annual Ballachulish summer fayre to be held on Saturday August 10.

This year's event will be held at the village hall and will feature a brae, cake stalls, a bouncy castle, a family treasure hunt and a tug of war competition.

**GLEN AFFRIC**

THIS year's Glen Affric Summer Walking Festival from May 24-27 is shaping up to be the best yet.

Dubbed OuttaAffric, the event will see walkers tackle Munros, Corbetts, straths and glens amid some of Scotland's most stunning scenery.

Highlights include venturing by boat to access the western Mullardoch Munros, a visit to the highest peaks north of the Great Glen and a superb circular walk around Loch Affric.

The festival will also celebrate the Year of Natural Scotland by teaming up with the RSPB to give walkers the chance to spot three members of the grouse family - black, red and snow.

**ACHARACLE**

YOUNGSTERS from Acharacle Primary will be helping to tidy up the village as the school works towards applying for its first Eco-schools Green Flag.

The pupils will carry out a litter pick tomorrow (Friday). Recycling practices have already been put in place at the school.

**ARDNAMURCHAN**

ARDNAMURCHAN youngsters got their taste of secondary school with their first transition visit to the Ardnamurchan High School.

Twelve P7 pupils from Acharacle, Ardgour, Lochaline and Kilchoan primaries got to know their way around the school as well as taking part in activities. A further five Strontian Primary P7s will also join the school after the summer.



Gregor MacCormick, right, with Donnie MacCormick, left, and Rev Roderick Campbell at the opening of the Lismore Ploughman exhibition at Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre.

inspect the items some of which he had kindly lent the Museum. Lismore's men were renowned for their horsemanship and there are photographs of several fine horses at work on the island in the first half of the twentieth century, as well as displays of the medals and cups the ploughmen won.

Bob Hay introduced the exhibition and thanked all the islanders who had provided photographs, objects and documents so that the story could be fleshed out.

He also welcomed Doreen and Roger Evans from Appin who have kindly lent a claret bottle which was salvaged from the barque 'Peggy' which sailed from Portugal with a cargo of Bordeaux claret and brandy in 1784 some of which was destined for Campbell of Airds and the Stuarts of Appin but which unfortunately went down in ten fathoms near Eileann Dubh, where it lay for 200 years until 1986 when it was salvaged by R&J Grieve.

To learn the whole gripping

story visit the museum which is open seven days from 11-4 with entry by donation.

LISMORE has a new website. www.lismoreheritagecentre.org is a specialist showcase for the Heritage Centre designed to take the work done by the many volunteers in all departments to the wider world and to bring the wider world to the centre in numbers which will sustain a project of such ambition and enterprise.

This is in fact the island's fourth website, the original being the excellent www.isleoffismore.com which was one of the first community websites anywhere and which has been earning plaudits by putting Lismore on the map and bringing people to the island since the early nineties.

In introducing the new site at the opening, the Heritage website group thanked Anne White for giving the Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mor a voice since 2004. Long before

there even was a Heritage Centre, Anne designed, wrote, and edited the Comann Eachdraidh's www.celm.org.uk which will now sit alongside the new site.

Finally there is www.isleoffismorecafe.com through which Beth Campbell lets the world know what she is offering at her excellent café which is such an attractive part of the Heritage Centre.

For a small island to have such a large digital presence in the world is amazing.

And both the island site and the Heritage site are on Facebook and the Heritage is also on twitter @LismoreGHC.

BETH Campbell at the Isle of Lismore café organised an Easter egg hunt for local and visiting children with lots of intriguing clues and many ingenious hiding places throughout the grounds and the building.

First prize went to Kirsty from Dollar visiting for the day with her parents.

Other winners were Bella from Lancaster and Isaac from Lewes, both enjoying a sunny week at Strathlorn, and Sophie King from Achnacroish.

On Easter Saturday the parents organised a very well attended, fun packed party in the hall with a treasure hunt, games, crafts and of course refreshments.

LISMORE Primary School has had a busy term and one of their treats was a visit from the Mull Theatre on March 25 with their production of 'Starbird' billed as story telling theatre, a fusion of African and Scottish music with dance costumes and puppetry inspired by the booker prize winning author Ben Okri.

The children do not often get the opportunity to see live drama particularly on the island and they really enjoyed this colourful, stimulating experience and hearing the story of the Starbird and her adventurous chicks.

# Skye lights



## Starting pistol fires on first race over famous Trotternish Ridge

THE STARTING pistol will be fired on the first ever race over Skye's famous Trotternish Ridge - after organisers Skye Rotary Club secured a £2,000 grant from the 2014 Communities Big Lottery Fund.

The event, christened 'The Trot', takes place on Saturday June 29 along the spectacular ridge from Flodigarry to Portree, with a choice of three walking or running routes to cater for differing levels of fitness and ability.

The challenge is the most ambitious fundraising project ever undertaken by the Skye Rotarians.

Rotary vice president John Taylor said: 'We are delighted to get this grant which will help to defray some of the costs in staging the event.'

The grant is specifically for advertising/PR, catering, portable toilets and transport costs. The whole purpose of the event is to raise funds for local charities and good causes here in Skye and Lochalsh, and the grant means less costs having to be paid out of entry fees - thus increasing the monies which can be distributed.' Mr Taylor

added: 'We are hoping that this will be a real success story that will become an annual event in the Skye calendar.'

'Every year we have helped numerous charities and good causes in our annual awards, but if we can get 300-400 people motivated to do this we can make a significant difference to charities in need in our community. With 10 weeks to go we are hoping to see a real surge in entries particularly from local people here in Skye and Lochalsh who are keen to help fundraise for local charities.'

The special fund was set up to aid events promoting health and fitness in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games next year in Glasgow.

A 2014 Communities spokesperson said: 'We were delighted to be able to fund this project which means that the inaugural Trotternish Ridge Challenge will be able to go ahead this summer for the benefit of islanders and visitors.'

Full details on how to enter can be found at www.thetrott.org.uk

## Fond farewell to Sleat teacher

CHRISTINE Robertson retired at Easter after 30 years teaching in Bun-sgoil Shléite (Sleat Primary School).

Mrs Robertson is pictured, right, with her final class of Gaelic medium P1s on the last day of school, when P7 pupils insisted they wear a crown during her leaving assembly! Head teacher Gwen Culbertson said: 'A great last day was had by all - potted sports, singing, slideshows, dancing and party food. All staff and pupils are very sad to see Christine go, but we wish her well in her retirement and hope that she will pop in from time to time. Soraidh slàn!'



From left, P1 Gaelic medium pupils Finn Scott, Grace Campbell, Eva Mahon and Lachlan Micski hand Mrs Robertson her some of the gifts and cards she received on her retirement.

## Dancers turn on the style at festival

ISLE of Skye dancers Gemma Taylor, left, and Karen Mackinnon were among the winners at the recent Le-Ellen festival in Inverness.

Gemma, aged 10 and from Portree, won the novice trophy for her age group and overall Le-Ellen novice trophy, while 17-year-old Karen, also from Portree, claimed the beginner trophy for her age group and overall Le-Ellen beginner trophy.

Both girls are members of island dance group 'Dannsairean an Eilein Sgitheanaich'.

The competition on Saturday April 13 attracted 236 dancers.



## Broadford charity's award success

BROADFORD-based animal charity the International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF) has been honoured with the Wildlife Conservation Award in the ITV's British Animal Honours 2013.

A glittering ceremony in London saw naturalist, writer and television presenter Steve Backshall present IOSF head of operations Paul Yoxon and IOSF director Grace Yoxon with the accolade.

Ms Yoxon said receiving the prize was 'a huge honour' for the charity, which carries out otter conservation work both in Scotland and across the world.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'We were so surprised when we heard. We were delighted to be recognized like that for the conservation work we do, which is so important - and it's good for the Highlands as well.'

A 10-strong judging panel of vets and animal experts assessed a number of organizations put forward by public nomination - and placed the IOSF top of the pile.



Best of Broadford: Paul and Grace Yoxon of the International Otter Survival Fund receive their award from Steve Backshall.

Ms Yoxon said: 'Perhaps we won because the judges liked that we were working in the field and not just taking otters in.'

'We also do a lot of conservation work internationally and maybe they were impressed by the fact that we work from the Highlands yet we can do stuff abroad as well.'

She added: 'The award gives us a great opportunity to tell more people about the work we do.'

The new ITV show, hosted by Paul O'Grady last Thursday, celebrated the achievements of the country's most extraordinary animals and the people who work with them.

**SPECIAL OFFER - FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY**

# OBAN TIMES 1/2 PRICE EVERY WEEK

TAKE A DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION TO THE OBAN TIMES AND A COPY OF THE PAPER IN A USER FRIENDLY, READABLE AND 'CLICKABLE' FORMAT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO YOU FOR ONLY £20.80 A YEAR

go to [www.obantimes.co.uk/digital](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/digital) to try a digital edition of your newspaper now

Get your copy from 7am on publication day

Receive and read your newspaper wherever you are!

Simply follow the link sent to your inbox

A SAVING OF £27.20 ON A TRADITIONAL SUBSCRIPTION

**Jobs go as doors close on DE Shoes**

STAFF at a Fort William shoe shop have been given final notice the store will close in coming weeks. It had been hoped DE Shoes on the town's High Street would be sold to another company, but the shop will close along with 25 other branches across Scotland.

Managing director Robert Sinclair said: 'I am immensely sad that in the company's 146th year it has proved necessary to wind it up. The last months have been incredibly difficult for everyone but I have been grateful for the ongoing support from members of the public who do not want to see their local shoe shop close. Unfortunately shopping habits have shown a move away from local High Streets and in these difficult economic times even loyal customers have had to cut back on their footwear purchases.'

**Lights out in Inverlochy**

INVERLOCHY residents have been left in the dark since Friday night after street lights in parts of the village went out.

A fault has meant Wades Road, Abrach Road and parts of Montrose Square have been in pitch black throughout the night, making a walk from Fort William to Inverlochy after dark a perilous exercise.

Graham Cairns, who works in local chip shop Ben Nevis Takeaway, said the lack of streetlights was having an effect on his workplace. He told *The Oban Times*: 'I've been doing deliveries and you have to put on your full beams to see anything. We have a few young members of staff and we have to give them lifts home, we can't let them walk home in that.'

**Fèis Glèann Albainn**

YOUNG musicians from across the Highlands will have the chance to learn from expert tutors at this year's Fèis Glèann Albainn from July 15-19.

Now in its tenth year, the week long fèis offers traditional Gaelic music tuition to youngsters aged five to 18. Contact fèis organiser Tracey MacCallum on 01809 501468.



Driving for success: Fort William golfer Alastair Ross is heading for the US to pursue his dream. 20\_f17alastair01

# Young Fort golfer tees up US scholarship

A LOCHABER High School pupil has teed up a golfing scholarship in the United States after impressing a US college.

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

Sixth year student Alastair Ross has secured a provisional place at Union College in Barberville, Kentucky and will fly out to America in August if he passes the final Highers he needs to get through the admissions process. Fort William Golf Club member Alastair, from Tomonie, plays off a handicap of one and has impressed on the Scottish junior circuit.

The talented 17 year-old has signed up with Pro Dream USA, an ad company which helps the UK's best young golfers find scholarships with US colleges. He twice had to sit a standard US aptitude test for college admissions - and passed with flying colours both times.

Soon Union College was knocking on Alastair's door after viewing videos of his golf shots, together with his competition and academic results.

Alastair told *The Oban Times*: 'I have signed my letter of intent and given my commitment to the college. At the moment I'm

going through the paperwork process and getting everything formalised.

'By signing the letter that means I'm going - if I manage to get through admissions and show I can financially back it up.

'If it all goes to plan I'll be leaving in August - I can't wait. It's quite nice because it's a dream I have had since I was pretty young. When I was about 11 I found out you can go to the States. That captured my imagination - and has been a goal for me ever since.

'Everything I have done has been working towards that - so it's pretty sweet to have come through to achieve it and have a good chance of going out there.'

Alastair added: 'I'd like to study business management or sports management but I'd hopefully want to combine the two. My main aim is to get a degree but my plan is to have four successful years playing

on the US college circuit, then go on mini-tours then hopefully on to the PGA tour. That is my ultimate goal and dream.

'Two years back I watched [Scottish golfer] Martin Laird on Sky Sports and he had to make a 15-foot putt to keep his PGA playing privileges. He holed it - and that was a real inspiration for me.'

Alastair's dad John, Fort William GC junior coach, and mum Jane have backed their son all the way as he chases down golfing glory - while younger brother Lorne could soon be a rival.

Alastair said: 'I would like to thank mum and dad for giving up so much because playing competitive and amateur golf at junior level is very expensive and time consuming. They had to give up a lot of weekends to take me around the country. And Lorne already plays off seven - so there's a bit of competition there!'

Lochaber High School head teacher Jim Sutherland praised the dedication Alastair has shown in excelling both in golf and the classroom.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'To my knowledge Alastair is the first pupil from Lochaber High School to secure a golf scholarship in the United States. 'It is a great achievement both for him and Lochaber and we wish him well.'

## West Highland College open day success



Students of the Outdoor Activities Management course display some of the equipment they use to help encourage new students to join them in WHC Lochaber.

STAFF and students opened the doors of West Highland College UHI in Fort William for their annual open day event on Saturday.

And there was plenty for prospective students to see and do with traditional and contemporary music performances, cookery demonstrations, displays, a college tour and talks with tutors about courses.

Assistant Principal Georgina Morrison said: 'We were delighted to greet local people interested in studying as well as those from further afield.

'New technology will allow learners to study from any of our 10 college centres throughout the West Highlands. The college is already well

known for its unique BA (Hons) Adventure Tourism Management degree course delivered in its School of Adventure Studies.

But the open day also featured practical demonstrations of the college's construction and rural skills courses, pictures of the college's new Mallaig-based boat 'Lannair' - part of the Maritime Skills Certificate course - and a display of art and textiles from the art and design course in Portree.

Meanwhile, students playing traditional music highlighted the NC music course in Fort William with tuition arranged through a partnership with the National Centre for Excellence in Traditional Music in Plockton.

### Call to fund 3G pitch with crime fund

A CALL has been made for a proposed 3G pitch in Fort William to be partially paid for through the Scottish Government's proceeds of crime fund.

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson has written to Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill to ask for the pitch plan to be considered

when the next round of finance from the fund is allocated. Mr Thompson said: 'A redeveloped 3G pitch at Fort William will be an invaluable resource for football and shinty teams in the wider Lochaber area. This would be an excellent investment for the proceeds of crime.'

See pitch crisis meeting, page 3.

**NEWSDESK**  
01631 568000

**TELFORD CONSTRUCTION**

BUILDING & CIVIL ENGINEERING THROUGHOUT THE HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS

THE COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION SERVICE

www.telford-construction.co.uk

CIVIL ENGINEERING

EXTENSIONS & RENOVATIONS

INDUSTRIAL BUILDING

HOUSE BUILDING

Old Manse, Onich, Inverness-shire PH33 6RY  
tel 01855 821 202 fax 01855 821 312 e-mail don@onich.co.uk

**Greenflame Stoves Ltd**  
the finest design in wood pellet stoves

**The Pellet Stove Fire - You really want!**

There is an excellent alternative for heating your home - an elegant, highly efficient cast iron wood pellet stove. It is the easy automatic stove which saves on fuel costs with far less work. With a pellet stove heating your main living areas; you simply turn down your central heating to a minimum cost. Pellets are conveniently packaged within 10kg bags which are simply poured into the top of the stove every 1 to 3 days. No more desperate struggles with damp logs. You set the stove timer and preferred room temperature and then leave the stove to heat your living space without effort. This appliance is seriously powerful at delivering heat consistently and accurately with no hassle. The cleaning routine is only once per week to remove the ash and simply vacuum out the burn chamber. Does this sound easy? Yes it is - a pellet stove automatically heats your living space and provides a magnificent new focal point fire for you to enjoy.

Greenflame Stoves specialise in the finest pellet stoves chosen for their elegance, traditional designs and highest quality. A cast iron pellet stove will cost about £2500 plus vat. It is not designed to be cheap - it is atop of the range, powerful heating stove for your home which saves on your heating costs. The manufacturers are renowned for uncompromised quality, with over 30 years experience to provide a limited lifetime warranty, assured reliability and performance.

For further information visit our website  
www.greenflamestoves.co.uk • Tel: 01540 651 591

**BLOCKED DRAIN?**  
Drain and septic tank survey, installations and repairs

Call 24/7 - **01369 840367**

Your No 1 for drainage in Argyll

**ARGYLL & BUTE ENVIRONMENTAL LTD**

www.aandbel.co.uk

**farsain cruises**

**Craobh Haven**

Cruises and Trips daily from Craobh Haven. Featuring abundant wildlife and truly spectacular scenery including the Corryvreckan whirlpool.

Over 20 years operational experience. Enjoy daily wildlife and whirlpool cruises from Craobh Marina, 20 miles south of Oban, off A816

**Mobile: 07880 714165**

**50th Year Anniversary**

a warm welcome awaits...

Luxury Caravans

Linnhe Lochside Holidays  
Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7NL  
Tel: 01397 772376  
www.linnhe-lochside-holidays.co.uk

Luxury Chalets

Touring & Camping

Park Facilities

BEAUTIFUL GARDENS - STUNNING VIEWS OF LOCH EIL & BEN NEVIS - PET FRIENDLY OPTION - 5 MILES FROM FORT WILLIAM - FREE FISHING - WELL PLACED FOR DAY TRIPS - BROCHURE SENT WITH PLEASURE - OPEN 15TH DECEMBER TO 31ST OCTOBER

**SPECIALIST BIKE INSURANCE.**

Bikesure Insurance Services has launched a new range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of island life. If you take out a bike insurance policy with us, you can save up to 50% compared with similar policies on the mainland. Call us today for a free, no obligation, quote.

**FREEPHONE 0800 089 2000**  
Quoteline hours: Mon to Fri 9am-7pm | Sat 9am-4pm

bikesure.co.uk  
Part of Adran Flux Insurance Services  
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority

**krisp print**

For a hassle free service throughout Argyll call Krisp Print on 01631 568015

PO Box 1  
Lochavullin Industrial Estate  
Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

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

• Design  
• Copy  
• Print



# Give a pet a Home

FOUNDED around 20 years ago by a small group of animal lovers, Argyll Animal Aid has already helped re-home thousands of rescued pets.

But that commitment shows no sign of wavering, something that has helped develop the charity from its humble beginnings to becoming a rescue and re-homing centre taking in animals from all along Scotland's west coast.

The need for a rescue centre was established after a local vet revealed most unwanted animals were destroyed, whether they be kittens and puppies or pets that their owners can simply no longer care for.

Strays were also destroyed, something that the charity's volunteers vow should never be allowed to happen.

Completely self-funded, Argyll Animal Aid has a 'no-kill' policy, unless advised to do so by a vet on health grounds.

Dogs are accommodated at Lochandubh Kennels, which is based on site. With four kennels, it can look after four dogs, or more if two or more dogs are compatible.

Because the dogs are incorporated in a professional environment, they are regularly fed, watered and walked – meaning the dogs are fully socialised and friendly.

Cats are kept at Seil, in purpose made accommodation, where they are looked after until their new homes can be found.

To continue to operate, Argyll Animal Aid requires

donations from well wishers and support at its fundraisers. All workers are volunteers, while all monies raised is spent on the animals.

The charity is always looking for volunteers to help with looking after its pets, including dog walking. If interested, contact Jean Sutherland on 01631 566406.

If you are interested in any of the pets below, or for further information, contact Jean Sutherland (regarding dogs) or Pat Blunsden (regarding cats) on the phone numbers below.



For CATS contact Pat on  
**01852 300362**

For DOGS, contact Jean on  
**01631 566406**

<p><b>MAX</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Oban Veterinary Surgeons</b> Tweeddale St, Oban <b>01631 562876</b></p>	<p><b>LEE</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Tralee Bay Holidays</b> Benderloch, By Oban <b>01631 720255</b></p>	<p><b>DOUGAL</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>S.D. MacDougall Autoservices</b> Lochavullin Ind. Estate <b>01631 566502</b></p>	<p><b>DREAM</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Highland Blindcraft</b> 38 Ardoconnel Street, Inverness Tel: 01463 233662 www.highlandblindcraft.co.uk</p>	<p><b>SPARKIE</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Oban Electrics</b> Stevenson St, Oban <b>01631 564203</b></p>	<p><b>KUMHO</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Kerries Tyres</b> Quarry Rd, Oban <b>01631 570000</b></p>	<p><b>BERRY</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Craobh Marina</b> Craobh Haven by Lochgilphead <b>01852 500222</b></p>	<p><b>RUARIDH</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>The Landscaping Centre</b> Lochavullin Drive, Oban <b>01631 571 777</b></p>	<p><b>PADDY</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>DK Lafferty</b> Address Address <b>01631 564712</b></p>
<p><b>CATFISH</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Oban Fish and Chip Shop</b> George St, Oban <b>01631 567000</b></p>	<p><b>ARDORAN</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Ardoran Marine</b> Lerags, Oban <b>01631 566123</b> www.ardoran.co.uk</p>	<p><b>LUCAS</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>John Allan Motors</b> Lochavullin Ind. Estate <b>01631 563817</b></p>	<p><b>WYLIE</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Wylie + Bisset LLP</b> 4 High Street, Oban <b>01631 562478</b> Email: info@wyliebisset.com Web: www.wyliebisset.com</p>	<p><b>LOUIS</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Argyll Resources</b> Torrans Gorm Ind. Estate, Oban <b>01631 566370</b></p>	<p><b>CURLY</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Dry Carpet Cleaning</b> Eco carpet and upholstery cleaning <b>07827 014328</b> www.ecocarpetcleaning.net</p>	<p><b>DUSTER</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Carpet Services Oban</b> Craigard Road, Oban <b>01631 563684</b></p>	<p><b>DOUGIE</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Oban Memorials</b> Soroba Rd, Oban <b>01631 563123</b></p>	<p><b>EMMA</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>A. A. Whyte &amp; Son</b> Albert Road Ballachulish <b>01855 811438</b></p>
<p><b>GUS</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Castle Stalker View</b> Appin <b>01631 730444</b></p>	<p><b>CUAN</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Scottish Sea Farms</b> South Shian, Benderloch <b>01631 574000</b></p>	<p><b>LEVEN</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Leven Homes Ltd</b> Lochaber Road Kinlochleven <b>01855 831900</b></p>	<p><b>DONALD</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>C. Hodge</b> Lerags, Oban <b>01631 563271</b> www.hodgefencing.co.uk</p>	<p><b>MIA</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Jewsons</b> Sinclair Drive, Oban <b>01631 562208</b></p>	<p><b>WESTIE</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>West Highland Housing Association</b> Crannog Lane, Oban <b>01631 566451</b></p>	<p><b>SOCAT</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>The Oban Times</b> <b>01631 568000</b></p>	<p><b>SQUEAK</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>The Argyllshire Advertiser</b> <b>01546 602345</b></p>	<p><b>CAMPBELL</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>The Campbeltown Courier</b> <b>01586 554646</b></p>

**Thieves snatch power tools from Onich shed**

POWER tools worth more than £1,000 were stolen from a shed in Onich - the latest in a spate of break-ins near the village.

The outbuilding was broken into sometime between 7pm on Wednesday April 17 and 3am on Thursday April 18, a police spokesperson said.

A number of sheds have been broken into in the area since the start of the year, as well as the local village hall.

One Onich resident told The Oban Times the thefts had made locals think more about home security, saying: 'We've always been very relaxed about locking our doors, but now we make sure our garage and outbuildings are locked. That's something we've never done before.'

**Caol man denies violent sexual attack on woman**

A CAOL man has denied carrying out a violent sexual attack on a woman in Fort William town centre last summer.

Artur Papadimitriu, of 12 Banavie Road, pled not guilty to sexually assaulting the woman with intent to rape in Viewforth car park in the early hours of June 24.

The 20 year-old is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on May 7.

**Two Fort William trials postponed**

TWO TRIALS were postponed at Fort William Sheriff Court on Monday due to a lack of time.

Kevin Cairns, of 4 Lorn Cottages, Ballachulish is accused of assaulting a woman to her injury by repeatedly seizing her throat and compressing it, and holding her on a couch on February 16.

The 34 year-old is now due to stand trial on June 17.

Gillian Mann, aged 22, was due to appear accused of dangerous driving on Lochail Road, Inverloch and a track at Black Parks but saw her case put off.

Mann, of Coilleras, Tomonie, now faces trial on June 5.



**Young boxing stars shine at show**

FORT William's finest young boxers put on an entertaining display for a big crowd at the Nevis Centre on Saturday night.

Two of the stars of the show were Cameron Whyte and James Aitchison, who both scored unanimous points victories.

Aitchison, aged 15, was named fighter of the

night after his display of power and speed led him to victory over Scottish finalist Hairee Razul.

Scottish champion Whyte, aged 11, was named as young boxer of the night after an impressive display against Glasgow fighter Keiron Yardley.

For a full report and photos from the night, see the sports section. 20\_f17boxing01

**Kinlochleven gears up for litter pick**

KINLOCHLEVEN residents will help get the village ready for the upcoming summer

tourist season with a litter pick this Saturday. Organised by the community

council, volunteers will meet at the community centre at 10am, with refreshments available.

**A890 road upgrade going nowhere fast**

Lochalsh campaigner fears he won't see work completed in his lifetime

A LOCHALSH community leader fears he will be in the grave before a vital upgrade on a rock-fall-prone road is completed.

Plockton Community Council chairman Charlie MacRae has campaigned for over two decades for a replacement route for the A890 Stromeferry bypass.

The vital link, which connects Lochalsh to the north, was shut for four months early in 2012 for stabilisation work to a rock face following a landslide.

It closed again for several days around Christmas for further rock removal after more debris came down.

Highland Council spent £2.8million stabilising the rock face, realigning the road and the laying on extra ferry and train services.

Drivers were faced with a disruptive 140-mile diversion via Inverness during the closures, prompting Highland Council to canvass for an alternative.

Now Mr MacRae, along with other local residents, will attend a council 'drop-in' session in

**EXCLUSIVE**

REPORT by

STEPHEN NORRIS

snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Lochcarron Village Hall on Saturday to view possible solutions. But the veteran community leader, who celebrated his 75th birthday last Wednesday, has given up hope the new route will ever materialise.

He told *The Oban Times* last week: 'Even after we have seen all these options it will be next spring before we know what the best one is - then only after that they have to go for the money.'

**Too long**

'I was 75 yesterday, so I don't see a solution in my lifetime at Stromeferry. There is no money and they are taking too long to find the best route.'

'Twenty years ago I was at a meeting in Achmore and Highland Council were asking then what option we wanted - a bridge or a different road. Now, 20 years later, they are asking us the same question. It just goes



Charlie MacRae: not hopeful a solution to the A890 will be found in his lifetime.

Inverness traffic for 10 minutes it would be better to transfer the money to get our road built.'

Lochalsh and Wester Ross residents can view and discuss options for the new A890 route in Lochcarron Village Hall from 1pm to 5pm.

The event follows preparatory work last year to draw up ways to build around the vulnerable section.

Nine choices will be on display in the hall, including a bridge over Loch Carron - which many locals favour - a tunnel, reclaiming land from the loch for the bypass and a new road over the hill through Attadale Estate.

Mr MacRae said: 'Practically everybody I have asked here wants the bridge. But why do they need nine options after the meetings we had?'

Speaking ahead of Saturday's event, transport, environmental and community services chairman Graham Phillips said: 'The council has given priority to finding a solution to the recurring rock falls at the Stromeferry bypass.'

**Sheriff finds Caol man guilty of three-hour drunken assault on 17-year-old**

A CAOL man throttled his then girlfriend, ripped her clothes off and threatened to set her hair alight after she tried to break up with her.

Alexander Williamson's three hour drunken assault left the 17 year-old woman with a black eye, cuts on her chest and ear, and marks on her left arm.

The woman told Fort William Sheriff Court Williamson punched and slapped her, poured drink and aftershave over her head, stubbed out a cigarette on her hand and set her clothes

**EXCLUSIVE**

By RICHARD HADDOCK

rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

ablaze in the back garden in the early hours of June 23 last year. However, Williamson, aged 23, claimed the woman had attacked him after he accused her of cheating.

He said: 'She started slapping me on the face, kicked me on the side, and kicked me on the leg. I stood up as she was slapping me and I slapped her on the face. Then I grabbed her by her

underwear and flung her onto my bed.'

Prosecutor Alison Wylie pointed out Williamson had given three different versions of events - to hospital staff, to police and in court. She said he had variously claimed to have been hit by a vase, an aftershave bottle and a 5kg lifting weight.

Mr Williamson said he did not know why details in his story has changed. Ms Wylie said: 'She gave a harrowing account of a sustained course of violence the accused put her through that

night. Mr Williamson cannot explain the injuries to her.

'It is all consistent with him being very unhappy about the end of the relationship.'

Finding Williamson, of 4 Glenallie Terrace, guilty of assault, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'Mr Williamson, you have maintained inconsistent positions. I find her to be a credible witness, and I do think the other evidence in the case corroborates her evidence.'

Sentencing was deferred to May 22 for reports.



**Holly's delight at ceilidh cash boost**

A Fort William teenager's attempts to raise funds to allow her to teach English to underprivileged youngsters in India for a year received a boost with fundraising ceilidh on Saturday night. For Lochaber High School senior Holly Fraser this was the latest in a series of events to help towards the total of £5,500 she needs to take part in Project Trust. Music on the night was provided by five of Holly's school mates, while a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses helped boost the total. Holly is pictured with Jemma Halford and Rebecca Gilles at the ceilidh. 20\_f17holly01

**Intrepid climbers honoured with Golden Ice Axe**

NEWTONMORE mountaineer Sandy Allan, together with climbing partner Rick Allan of Aberdeen have been honoured at the sport's 'Oscars'.

The pair conquered the last unclimbed route in the Himalayas range - the eight-mile knife-edge 7,000m-plus Mazeno Ridge leading to the mountain Nanga Parbat.

The men were presented with the coveted Piolet D'Or (Golden Ice Axe) at a three-day event in Chamonix, France and Courmayeur, Italy.

All attempts by the world's best climbers to climb the ridge over the last 20 years failed. Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson introduced a motion in the Scottish Parliament to congratulate the intrepid duo.

He said: 'Sandy and Rick are a testament to the adventurous Scottish spirit and continue the great Scottish tradition of mountaineers like John Cunningham, Tom Patey, and Dougal Haston.'

'I dabble with mountain walking and cannot imagine the level of physical and emotion determination involved in such an undertaking.'

**Fort FC lotto draw jackpot**

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £500 is up for grabs in this week's Fort William FC lotto draw. Last week's numbers were 3, 11 and 19.

**Lochaber Together fun run**

HUNDREDS of local people will complete a 5k route through Fort William and Inverloch to raise money for charity at Saturday's Lochaber Together fun run.

Those taking part can walk, jog or run the circular route which starts from the BA Club at 2pm. As well as the race, the day will see a strongman show, a children's area, a mini Highland Games and a spectacular balloon launch.

**Association's last ditch attempt to save Lochaber indoor sports centre proposal**

LOCHABER Sports Association representatives will meet with Highland Council leader Drew Hendry in Inverness today (Thursday) in a last ditch attempt to save its bid for an indoor sports centre.

LSA chair Jane Blanchard said the group are on the verge of giving up on their plans for a £1 million sports hub next to Lochaber High School because of the council's proposal to put funding towards resurfacing and widening the school's astro turf pitch.

Mrs Blanchard told *The Oban Times* she hoped the meeting would provide the solutions to save the project.

She said: 'We want to see if any of this is salvageable. We want to know how they can think of recovering the astro turf pitch at a cost of £700,000 when we have a quote for £140,000. They want to use all £400,000 of the community gain from Tesco, if that ever comes, plus other council funds towards the astro pitch. None of this has been in consultation with anyone,

let alone ourselves. They are making a mockery of things. We've battled away for four years and it seems at the moment to have got us nowhere.'

Mrs Blanchard continued: 'If something positive comes out of this it will be worth it, but there are some pretty big questions to answer. We want to look at the development of the two facilities and how it might be funded, and we want assurances from the council they're not going to pursue their own agenda on this.'

**Police step up road safety message as 100 are caught in crackdown**

MORE than 100 road users were stopped in the space of five days for driving offences across the Highlands during a police crackdown last week.

More than 60 people were caught speeding, 30 were seen not wearing seatbelts, 19 drivers were using mobile phones and seven were reported for

careless or dangerous driving. Police Scotland divisional road policing unit inspector Neil Lumsden said: 'Although they could be perceived as being relatively low numbers, I would like to reinforce the message that one person committing such an offence, is one too many. There is no

excuse for committing distraction offences or not adhering to simple safety measures, such as wearing seatbelts.'

'Quite simply, losing concentration for just a second and not being secured within a vehicle can cost yours and others lives.'

**Holidaymaker fined £900 for carrying four-inch knife**

CARRYING a four inch blade in his belt while shopping at a busy Fort William supermarket has cost a holidaymaker £900.

Members of the public contacted police after seeing the knife on Antony Higman at Morrisons at around midday on September 13.

And when officers stopped him in the car park, the 49 year-old admitted having a second smaller

knife in his jacket pocket. Defence solicitor Eilidh MacDonald said Higman had been fishing on Loch Shiell and camping nearby, and had been heading back to England when the offence occurred. She said he had forgotten the knife was on his belt.

Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'He said the knives were for fishing but he could not explain why he had them on him while shopping in Morrisons.'

'The fact he was in a supermarket with the knife in open view disturbed members of the public.'

Fining Higman, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'It is a matter of huge concern if someone goes into a supermarket with knives like this.'

Higman, of 40 Malmesbury Park, Runcorn, pled guilty to having the two knives without reasonable excuse.

## DAVID PETRO FORESTRY SERVICES

- ▲ Tree surgery
- ▲ Site clearance
- ▲ Stump Grinding
- ▲ Dangerous tree removal
- ▲ Tree Surveys and Consultancy
- ▲ Forest Establishment work
- ▲ Chipper/Stump grinder hire
- ▲ Fully NPTC Certificated
- ▲ Fully Insured
- ▲ 24 Hr Emergency Call-out
- ▲ Insurance approved
- ▲ Treatment of Japanese Knot weed

**Contact:**  
**Office: 01369705564**  
**Mobile: 07884434257**  
**Email: petro.glen@btinternet.com**  
**Web: www.dpforestry.co.uk**

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

THE PROSPECT of predators such as bears, lynx and wolves being reintroduced to the Highlands has drawn fury from farmers. And it should come as no surprise to those behind the idea that the controversial proposal has drawn sharp criticism from certain quarters.

It should not be forgotten that Highland glens were well-populated - with people, not four-legged carnivores - before thousands of Gaels were shipped out to Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand under the Clearances.

Today, the glens stand tragically empty with good land gone to ruin, a desert of rank grasses and straggly heather.

The indigenous people had occupied these areas since the ice melted, but when they left, many plants and animal species also declined - something conservationists often forget.

So instead of reintroducing animals - to the detriment of the remaining human population - environmentalists should factor people into the equation.

'Wild land' campaigner Mandy Haggith believes we need predators on the land to redress the burgeoning deer population and help balance the ecosystem.

She says the Highlands has plenty of land available for bears, lynx and wolves and that we should welcome these 'beautiful' creatures.

But the only reason we have so many desolate areas is because the people have long gone - and it is they who need to be 're-introduced'.



## Rest and Be Thankful hill climb car race

MacIain Service of Airds Bay, Taynuilt, submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows a hill climb car race on the Rest and Be Thankful. 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.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Piping Live 2013

AS IT celebrates its tenth year, Piping Live will see changes from the format of the past few years as a consequence of decisions outwith its control.

The World Pipe Band Championships will this year take place over two days, Saturday and Sunday, so Piping Live will start a day earlier than in the past with a Birthday Bash at the National Piping Centre on Sunday August 11. And there won't be the customary 'Shindig' to finish off the festival.

Over the past months, plans to redesign George Square were shelved but there will still be some upgrading and so the venue will not be available. Instead St Enoch Square will be used for free performances by pipe bands and as an extra the bands will march down Buchanan Street from the Concert Hall stopping to play at one location.

The third main change is that the Strathclyde Suite is unavailable so the evening concerts will be held in the Royal Conservatoire.

The significance of Piping Live to the city cannot be underestimated. An independent economic report into Piping Live 2012 concluded that it attracted 38,000 attendances with 36 per cent of visitors from outwith Scotland and that it had a £2.5m impact on the Scottish economy.

The festival is delighted Glenfiddich has been retained as the main sponsor joining Glasgow City Marketing Bureau, Event Scotland, Creative Scotland and the National Piping Centre.

#### Ceol's Craic

FURTHER to celebrations earlier this year as part of Celtic Connections, the April meeting of Ceol's Craic will continue the theme of the 40th anniversary of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the renowned Gaelic College in Skye with proceedings taking place in the usual venue, the CCA, 350, Sauchiehall Street.

At 3pm there will be a presentation giving information on the college and this will be followed at 3.20pm by a workshop on Gaelic pronunciation with useful phrases for beginners.

Christine Primrose will teach a new Gaelic song at 3.50pm and at 4.30pm there will be an informal class for intermediate level learners who wish to practise their Gaelic.

The Live Music event will start at 7.30pm and will feature performers associated with the college. Allan MacDonald, currently a piping tutor at the National Piping Centre, will play and as well as Christine Primrose, the students of the BA Degree Course in Gaelic will give a

special performance.

Within the CCA the Ceol's Craic menu, two courses for £7.50, will be available from 6pm-8pm. Children under 14 years are welcome at Ceol's Craic until 10pm. For further information or tickets contact 0141 352 4900 or info@ceolsraic.org

#### Phoenix Choir with Breabach

THE ANNUAL Spring Concert of the Phoenix Choir, during which it will launch its latest album 'Songs of Comfort', will take place in the Royal Concert Hall at 7.30pm tomorrow evening (Friday).

The choir will be joined by the popular group Breabach whose wide variety of traditional instruments, together with song, result in diverse and captivating performances which have seen them recognised for folk awards at home and abroad.

#### Donald Murray

IT IS with sadness that I have to intimate the recent passing of Donald Murray, Past President of the Glasgow Sutherland Association.

Donald, whose father came from Brora, and his wife Elizabeth were loyal supporters of the functions of several of the associations in Glasgow. Our sympathy is extended to Elizabeth, son Colin and daughter Sybil.

#### Diary dates

**Thursday April 25:** Gaelic Drama at the Tron, 'From the Darkness' featuring Catriona Lexy Campbell and Beth Frieden, 1pm and 8.30pm, cost £4.

**Friday April 26:** Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, Partick, 9pm-1am. Phoenix Choir and Breabach - see above.

**Saturday April 27:** Ceol's Craic, CCA, Sauchiehall Street - see above. Glasgow Skye Association Spring Concert, the 'Wee Skye', Crawford Hall, 7.30pm.

**Tuesday April 30:** Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72, Waterloo Street, 8pm - Lady Maisery. BA Scottish Music Students Concert, National Piping Centre, 7.30pm.

#### Pub scene

ENTERTAINMENT in the Park Bar on Saturday and Sunday this weekend is simply advertised as the 'Big Reunion' which suggests that it is worth a trip to witness the treat on offer. Gaberlunzie will play there on Friday while in the Islay Inn it will be the Keelies on Friday and Black Velvet on Saturday.

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

#### Cough up Fort community cash immediately

Sir, The Tesco Blar Mor story illustrates how ill-equipped our community and representatives are for dealing with powerful corporations.

Tesco has form on land-banking and can delay building for as long as it likes. Yet the fact it may be intending to do this in Fort William seems to have surprised everyone.

From the granting of planning permission, the sale of the land, the destruction of a site of environmental importance to our present position, the plans of Tesco and their associates Miller Development have not received sufficient scrutiny or attention.

Who knows if Miller Developments' £50 million Blar Mor 'masterplan' ever had a realistic chance of happening.

Of all the original amenities which were to be built on the Blar site to justify planning permission being given for Tesco, now the only definite thing we have is a police and ambulance station.

And what of the £400,000 developer contribution, which is supposed to come to the community for much-needed facilities? The arrangement is that it will be paid when Tesco opens, which may well not be any time soon.

What should have been agreed was for this money to be paid as soon as the first digger arrived on the Blar. This should certainly be the case in future developments.

In this situation, however, where the damage has already been done, Highland Council, councillors, community councils, local groups and individuals should at least work to ensure that Tesco and Miller honour their commitment and pay the community the developer contribution immediately.

Russell Leaper, Secretary, Kilmallie Community Council.

#### Strategic Housing Fund success

Sir, With reference to the letter from Alastair Redman in last week's *Oban Times*, he does not appear to realise I quoted the correct balance in the Strategic Housing Fund at the end of March to ensure the public was aware the figure quoted by Mr Redman was wrong.

I can confirm affordable housing projects are currently being built on many sites across Argyll and Bute with the help of money allocated from the fund.

Mr Redman asked if the population is not entitled to know how large sums of money are actually spent.

As a community councillor, I thought he would be well aware that every penny allocated from the fund is recorded in the council minutes and is freely available to anyone interested.

In exactly the same wording as correspondence received by me from Douglas Tott of Islay, he also asks why the site at Port Ellen was not purchased years ago and refers to it being called The Bog, and warning me to take wellington boots if I visit the site.

He also states that the project at the Port Ellen site is 'well behind schedule'.

It has been confirmed to me by the Argyll Community Housing Association chief executive that the project is not behind schedule.

He should also be aware that any risk of flooding on the site would have been identified during the planning process.

Even although I would have expected Mr Redman as a community councillor to be aware of all these issues, I hope I have now finally managed to enlighten him with regards to the major success of the Strategic Housing Fund.

Councillor George Freeman.

#### A changed way of life on Eriskay

Sir, The Eriskay Pony seemingly has won its own race to survive, although I'm not so sure that is the case with the natives.

The pony was an asset to crofters and was a useful animal, but like most things in our present day has become an accessory.

The pony and many other items were the essence of island Gaelic culture, not simply a decoration. But in these times in seems cultural necessities have become decorative novelties.

In the same vein, more is being done for the animals, birds and plants than ever was done for the natives in any island, so I can understand how the 'accessories' have survived where the people have not.

When I go to Eriskay today, it is more akin to a mainland city suburb where the doctors and bankers have their one-up homes and facilities. There is no real visual evidence of a crofting life or indeed very few, if any, real, genuine stock of character left there.

It is sad to see - like so many other places a more secular society and a changed landscape prevail.

The Gaelic gurus and Government officials dream away in their all expensed paid secure employment, while the ordinary man on the Isles is abroad, at least mentally, or worse still, waiting for death with gladness, I wonder why? Angus Campbell, Garrynamonie, Isle of South Uist.

#### Proposed closure of Struan Lodge

Sir, Some readers will be aware of how Argyll and Bute Council has handled the proposed closure of Struan Lodge care home in Dunoon.

The interim chairman of the committee set up to save Struan

Lodge was told recently by a senior council official that a paper was being prepared proposing the closure of all council care homes in Argyll and Bute, including Eadar Ghlinn.

As Councillor Duncan McIntyre said in a letter to *The Oban Times* in March, care of the elderly is an honourable pursuit. I agree with him on this and deplore the callous manner in which the current administration is acting. There have been many requests for them to give time and space for some other solution to be found and they have shown themselves to be totally intransigent. I accept our council care homes are expensive but they can be made far more efficient.

Perhaps there is a need for a radical overhaul of the council that might see it deconstructed then put together again into smaller but more efficient units. Retaining Struan Lodge is what the people of Dunoon and Cowal want and I agree with them but we also need to make it as efficient as possible and we need time to do this.

Years of management neglect can't be turned round overnight. It's time to choose between those who run things badly, make them too expensive then argue for closure. That seems to be the dominant style at the moment within the council and it's an affront to every member of the public. In stark contrast, it's infinitely better to argue for the retention of services, facilities and establishments, wherever possible, but operating in a far more efficient and effective manner.

Finally, ask yourselves this: the council has also cut funds for Atlantis Leisure, unfairly in my view. Just what would it be costing for this excellent facility if it had remained in council control and been run as efficiently as Struan Lodge?

Michael Breslin, Independent Councillor, Ward 7 Dunoon.

#### Growing success of whisky industry

Sir, I read with delight your article last week (April 11) on the whisky industry's growing success.

Continuing growth will mean growing employment, which is good for our overall economy.

The success of the whisky industry underlines the importance of the European Union's trade policy where we MEPs attempt to protect brands and get the best possible deal in

trade agreements. In Europe, Scotch whisky enjoys Protected Geographical Indicator (PGI) status, which means that only whisky our companies export to other countries can be branded and sold as Scotch. Research has shown that Protected Geographical Indication status provides a valuable marketing tool and boosts sales.

In my work on the International Trade Committee I keep in mind the importance of Scottish whisky and attempt to ensure it is a protected brand in all trade agreements made with non-EU countries.

The best example of this was in trade negotiations with South Korea. The South Korean Government agreed to recognise and protect the Scottish whisky brand. On top of this it was agreed that the 20 per cent import duty on Scotch whisky would be eliminated over a three-year period creating a more level playing field. This means by next year, Scottish whisky will face a zero per cent import duty. Since the agreement, South Korea is now among the top 10 importers of Scottish whisky.

I hope to get a similar deal with a similar impact for Scotch (as well as other Scottish products) during trade negotiations with India, which are on-going.

David Martin MEP.

#### Marie Curie thanks

Sir, I would like to thank everyone in North West Scotland who helped make Marie Curie Cancer Care's Great Daffodil Appeal a huge success this year.

Collections in supermarkets, shopping centres and streets have raised more than £26,000 with the collection in Oban raising £1,160.09.

From our collectors who encouraged people to donate and wear a daffodil pin, to everyone who gave what they could, I want to say a big, heartfelt thank-you. The appeal raises funds so that nurses like me can provide free nursing care to people with a terminal illness in their own homes. I have seen first hand what a difference it can make for patients to spend their final days, weeks or hours with the people and things they love close by, and this is what makes the Great Daffodil Appeal so important. My fellow nurses and I will be able to provide terminally ill patients and their families with more of the hands-on care and emotional support the charity is known for.

Penny Sutherland, Marie Curie Nurse, Highland.



Beachd Ailein  
Ailean Caimbeul

THA LUCHD-POILITIGS bho gach taobh a-nise ag aontachadh gun robh feum air cùisean atharrachadh nuair a thàinig Mairread Thatcher gu ire Prìomhaire.

Chan eil iad idir ag aontachadh mun dòigh anns an deach ise ris an atharrachadh, a' moladh fèinealachd agus sannt mar fheallsanachd a' mhòr-shluaigh.

Chaidh mìltean a chur à cosnaidhean ann an gnìomhachasan a bha air teachd-an-tìr a thoirt dha ginealaichean agus chaidh dualchas choimhearsnachdan a sgrìos gun truas gun fhaireachadh. Cha bu bheag an t-iongnadh ged a dhùisg mòrchuiseachd an tiodhlacaidh aice faireachaidhean cho làidir! Mar shluaigh a tha fhathast cho mothachail air gach brùdealachd a thàinig air an sinnsearan eadar fudaichean is cogadh, tuigidh Gàidheil sin gu sònraichte!

Chanadh mòran gur e buaidh agus cumhachd na roinne prìobhaidich an dìleab as maireannaiche aig Thatcher agus gun teagamh, tha farpais air beagan ceannachadh a thoirt air cosgais sheirbheisean de gach sòrsa ach theagamh gum bheil ire agus luach na h-obrach air fulang cuideachd.

Chan eil daoine cho cogaiseach their cuid, ach air an làimh eile an robh an dearbhadh cogais sin ri fhaicinn aig am cumhachd mòr nan aonaidhean? An deidh deich bliadhna fichead tha feallsanachd Thatcher air an dùthach a thoirt gu suidheachadh cho duilich is gum bheil mòran fìu 's de na Tòraidhean a-nise ag iarraidh atharrachadh eile. Bha Ceannard a' Phartaigh Laboraich a' moladh sin aig co-labhairt bhliadhmail Laboraich Alba, ach chan eil e air an t-slighe fhòillseachadh gu tur fhathast.

Agus fhad 's a tha luchd-poilitigs ag argamaid, tha, am measg iomadh rud eile, seirbheisean taice sheann daoine a' fulang. Le daoine a' fuireach beò nas fhaide, tha feumalachdan sheirbheisean cùraim dhaibh a' dol am meud ach chan eil gu leòr ionadan ann agus an t-iarraatas a riarachadh. Tha e air nochdadh a-nise gum bheil cogaisean fuirich ann an dachaighean-cùraim Bhòrd Slàinte na Gàidhealtachd cha mhòr a dhà uimhir 's a tha air a mholadh anns an roinn phrìobhaideach.

Agus ri linn 's nach eil dachaighean-cùraim gu leòr ann, tha ceudan sheann daoine glasta ann an ospadal leis nach eil àite aca dhan tèid iad. Chan eil an duan aig Daibhidh Camshron gum bheil sinn uile a' fulang còmhla gu mòran cofhurtachd dhaibh sin agus cha mhotha na sin a thàinig Thatcher gan cuideachadh.

Ged a bha de bheirteas aice na cheannaicheadh aire ann an taigh-òsta spaideil, aig deireadh cùise thug an aois is an tinneas buaidh oirre mar air cùise.

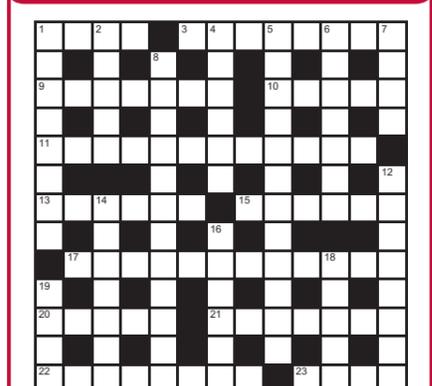
Cha chuireadh deich mìlean trioblaidhean nan seirbheisean cùraim ceart, ach saoilidh mi gum robh barrachd mothachaidh air suidheachadh a' mhòr-shluaigh air a bhith na bu ghliche dhan Riaghaltas ann a bhith a' tiodhlacadh Thatcher!

BARONESS Thatcher could afford luxury hotel care while hundreds of contemporaries are trapped in hospital wards because no care facilities are available to them.

Illness and old age made Margaret Thatcher equal to any other person in the end and I believe it might have been more sensible for the Government to have reflected such equality in their funeral planning!

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

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- |                                       |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Across</b>                         | <b>Down</b>                      |
| 1 Not only one (4)                    | 1 Used to carry the headstay (8) |
| 3 One who strives (8)                 | 2 Eighth Greek letter (5)        |
| 9 Cyclist (7)                         | 4 Hit (6)                        |
| 10 Similar to a raccoon (5)           | 5 Cannot be added up (12)        |
| 11 The science of drugs (12)          | 6 Filling material (7)           |
| 13 To introduce gradually (6)         | 7 Cut neatly (4)                 |
| 15 Speak softly (6)                   | 8 Large athletics meeting! (7,5) |
| 17 Group in a church (12)             | 12 Wing of a church (8)          |
| 20 Nonsense (5)                       | 14 Hit with power? (7)           |
| 21 Diameter of a circular section (7) | 16 Deliver safely (6)            |
| 22 Avoid (8)                          | 18 Permeate (5)                  |
| 23 Something owing (4)                | 19 The item here (4)             |

Last week's solution

Follow us on facebook

www.facebook.com/obantimes

LOCAL TOURIST MAPS REGULARLY RESTOCKED THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

Available from most retailers and tourist outlets FREE



A replica of the famous Brooch of Lorn was on display as part of Argyll and the Isles Tourism's new Amazing Stories heritage stand. Visitors heard all about the area's unrivalled ability to tap in to the cultural and heritage tourist market. Elaine McChesney from Argyll and Bute Museum and Heritage Forum, shows off the Brooch. 16\_t17expo1

## Best of the west on show at VisitScotland Expo

TOURISM buyers from across the world were competing to secure the best of the west coast has to offer at VisitScotland Expo 2013 – with local stands among the most popular at the event.

Held in Glasgow's SECC over last Wednesday and Thursday, the event is the premier

international tourism exhibition in the Scottish calendar, with hundreds of buyers from organisations across the world competing to book the best trips and holiday experiences.

Tourism organisations, private companies and transport operators were out in force hoping to take advantage of an

event that continues to grow in stature and presence.

The Oban Times was there to see first hand how Scotland's tourist destinations did their best to attract people to their stalls and how our own organisations are doing their best to draw people in to the area.

# Argyll Street makes a big impression

ARGYLL could welcome an influx of tourists from India, Russia and Northern Europe as an expanded Argyll Street once again left a big impression at Expo.

The new Nature's Paradise stall was one of the more jovial in the centre, with the Scottish Beaver Trial bringing along their own special guest to draw people to Argyll – a human size dancing Knapdale beaver.

Such was the success of Argyll Street, American international news organisation, CNN, interviewed Mr Story on AIT's role and successes in attracting new markets and what Argyll has to offer.

A range of buyers from new and growing markets were among the most interested visitors to the 11-strong Argyll and the Isles Tourism (AIT) stand, which, like last year, was the envy of other organisations and businesses during the two-day event.

Whisky from all the local distilleries was available for delegates keen to find out more about Scotland's dram, while a selection of local produce, from fish, meat and cheese to oatcakes, cakes and treats, were available to provide a real 'taste' of Argyll.

With well over 100 buyers expressing a solid interest in bringing more people to the region over the coming years, the event was deemed a successful follow up to AIT's remarkable debut last year, when Argyll Street was first introduced.

Executive director, Mike Story, said: 'We were so busy on Wednesday we could barely move, so it's gone really well and the increase from six stalls was really worth it. We've certainly earned a reputation as one of the most attractive and friendly stalls.'

'The travel trade has really opened this year and there's huge potential from new markets – there's lots of responses. 'Northern Europe has come back in force this year, with great interest from Scandinavia. We've had great interest from India, Russia, the Chinese and the south-east Asian market – we've had a lot of interest from Singapore and Hong Kong too.'

A replica of the Brooch of Lorn was also on show as part of the new heritage stall, Amazing Stories, which promoted the area's unrivalled cultural treasures and plethora of castles and ruins.

'The potential from this is phenomenal and the timing is right. We have got to keep this momentum going as we're creating a real buzz about this region.'

Connie Lovel, chief executive of Mount Stuart on Bute, agreed that the buzz was tangible. She said: 'A lot of the tour operators are looking for something new, something they haven't sent people to before. Argyll and the Isles has been presented with such enthusiasm and professionalism that they are perking up and taking notice.'

## International show buyers home in on Outer Hebrides

A DECLINE in people wanting to go abroad has seen an increase in the number of people keen to visit the Outer Hebrides.

International buyers visiting Expo were seen buzzing around the Hebridean Hopskotch stand, intrigued by tours designed to show visitors why taking a trip to the Outer Hebrides is one of life's must-dos.

While interest from international buyers was well received, the organisation admits the domestic market is providing the most value.

Marshall the stall, Nicola Nikpavlovich said Expo had been a positive trip for one of the most remote tourist organisations in attendance.

Christina Maciver, of Stornoway's Caladh Inn, said the interest was promising. 'We tend to do well from the UK but there is some good interest too from international markets.'

'More and more people seem to want to come to the Outer

Hebrides,' she said. 'We've had a lot of repeat business from previous years. It's great to maintain the relationships we've had with buyers in the past, but the fresh interest is great. 'People aren't so keen on going abroad, they recognise it isn't as good value for money but they still get the experience of getting away from it all when they come to the Outer Hebrides. 'We also get a lot of people coming across in December to experience a real Hebridean winter.'



Nicola Nikpavlovich, left, and Christina Maciver, serve up some of the island's most famous products as they aim to draw more people to the Outer Hebrides. 16\_t17expo7



The team who manned the Argyll Street stall at VisitScotland's Expo. 16\_t17expo3



Argyll and the Isles Tourism's Linda Battison, Mike Story and Calum Ross present VisitScotland's chairman, Dr Mike Cantlay, with a selection of the area's rich produce, during his extended visit to Argyll Street. Mr Cantlay, centre left, once again praised the stand for its ambitious approach. 16\_t17expo2



Ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne was out in force at the Expo. From left are regional manager Ian Fox, marketing officer Kirsteen Duggan, Heather McCauley of the company's commercial arm Travel Trade, and team leader Laura Wohlgenuth. 16\_t17expo4



Argyll and the Isles Tourism's Ken Coley, Connie Lovel and Linda Battison show off Argyll's food and drink, with the samples going down particularly well with the European buyers. 16\_t17expo6

## Beaver spreads nature message

THERE was more than a few giggles around the SECC on last week – when many delegates at the Expo spotted a roaming beaver.



Attracting more than a passing glance at this year's Expo was the Knapdale Beaver, attracting people to the new Nature's Paradise stall. 16\_t17expo5

The larger-than-life visitor from Knapdale was spotted wandering around the corridors of the exhibition halls, helping draw people to Argyll Street's latest addition, Nature's Paradise, focusing on the region's vast flora and fauna.

up just to get a photo, then they were over to see what the beaver was all about. 'It worked really well for the stall. We've got so much nature and wildlife in Argyll and people have no idea. 'Argyll and the Isles is really Scotland in miniature, we have everything and we think we've proved that today. The response has been really encouraging.'

Dancing and showing off for the delegates, the beaver certainly worked – and smiling buyers were quick to check out what Argyll has to offer. The Scottish Beaver Trial's Oly Hemmings, who donned the costume on Thursday, said: 'It's amazing how people behave totally differently towards you when you're in a costume. Lots of people were coming

## Boost as delegate votes Oban lobster 'best in the world'

OBAN reasserted itself as Scotland's seafood capital after wowing international buyers visiting the town last week – with the local lobster declared 'the best in the world'.

Africa and thought that was the best he'd tried anywhere in the world – until he went to the Seafood Temple. 'They stood up and gave the staff a round of applause and that the seafood was fantastic.'

Mike Story, executive director of Argyll and the Isles Tourism, led representatives for four operators around Argyll on familiarisation trips to show why the region is ideal for a well-earned break regardless of where in the world you are.

The comment was just one of many complimenting the area during the course of the week. A group of 'very influential' travel writers enjoyed tea and cakes with the Duke and Duchess of Argyll during a trip to Inveraray Castle, while American garden and heritage agents enjoyed a memorable trip to Arduaine Gardens.

In Oban, Italian delegates were taken to the Seafood Temple for a meal – and the chef certainly impressed the party. Mr Story said: 'One of the delegates was very excited by the food. He said 16 years ago he had lobster in South

for Russian tour agents, who left particularly impressed with the area's offerings. Mike added: 'We've had a lot of success with the trips and the Duke and Duchess were terrific. We had a day at Loch Fyne Oysters when we were in Inveraray in their new private dining area and it was received really well. 'These trips were all about saying 'this is the real Argyll'. Meeting the locals and seeing the market for themselves really helps show what their customers can experience. 'The market is growing up now. It's not just saying look at what we have, we really have to compete and show why we're better than everywhere else.'

**OBAN STOVE CENTRE**  
Come in and see us

Get Ready for the Winter Early!

COMPLETE IN HOUSE FITTING SERVICE HETAS

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

**LOCAL TOURIST MAPS**  
REGULARLY RESTOCKED THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

Available from most retailers and tourist outlets

FREE

**NEW GENERATOR**  
When there is a power cut head to the George, Inveraray

**CES** Wallase Power Services Ltd  
Supplied and installed by  
Craigish Electrical Services Ltd  
Diesel Generator Repair, Service & Sales

# what's on

## THE OBAN TIMES FREE EVENT LISTING

<b>THURSDAY - April 25</b>
10am, Ramblers Scotland, Beinn na Gugaig walk, Inchree. 10.15am, Creation Station, Church Hall, Connel. 12pm - 4pm, Coastal Connections open day, Oban. 5pm, The Singing Kettle, Corran Halls, Oban. 7.30pm, Mull Through the Lens, Dervaig Church Hall, Mull.
<b>FRIDAY - April 26</b>
All day, Mull Music Festival, Tobermory, Mull. 10am - 12pm, Daffodil Coffee Morning, Lochdonhead Primary School, Mull. 11am - 4pm, Arts and crafts producers market, Bunessan Hall, Mull. 8pm, Fleeto/Wee Andy, Mull Theatre, Mull. 9.30pm, Sandra MacBeth, Markie Dan's, Oban.
<b>SATURDAY - April 27</b>
Colonsay Book Festival, Colonsay. All day, Mull Music Festival, Tobermory, Mull. 10am - 4pm, Friends of Oban Hospice pop up shop, Albany Street, Oban. 2.15pm - 4pm, Roller Disco, Atlantis Leisure, Oban. 7pm, Fiddlers' Rally Concert, Corran Halls, Oban. The Great Auks archaeology club Lismore visit, contact Kilmartin Museum. 8pm, Easdale Rocks live music and comedy, Seil Island Hall. 8pm, Alan Reid and Rob van Sante, Victory Hall, Benderloch. 8pm, Fiesta, Paparazzi, Oban. 8.30pm, Scottish Show, The Royal Hotel, Oban. 9pm, Glenalmond Music Concert, Easdale Island Community Hall. 9.30pm, Dance music by Quigley's Point Irish country duo, Bruichladdich Hall, Islay. 9.30pm, Crooked Reel, Markie Dan's, Oban.
<b>SUNDAY - April 28</b>
Colonsay Book Festival, Colonsay. All day, Mull Music Festival, Tobermory, Mull. 7pm, Declan Nerney and Band, BA Club, Fort William. 9.30am, Ramblers Scotland, Loch Laggan walk, Spean Bridge. 2.30pm - 4pm, Producers Market, Dervaig Hall, Mull. 9.30pm, Quiz Night, Markie Dan's, Oban.
<b>MONDAY - April 29</b>
Sale of store cattle and young bulls and second sale of ewes with lambs at foot and all classes of store sheep, Caledonian Marts, Millhall Auction Mart, Stirling.
<b>TUESDAY - April 30</b>
10am, Creation Station, Guide Hall, Oban. 4pm, Opportunity Knocks, SAMS, Dunbeg. 4pm, Ross of Mull Community Cafe AGM, Bunessan Bakehouse, Mull. 8.30pm, Public Service Broadcasting, An Tobar, Mull. 8.30pm, Scottish Show, The Royal Hotel, Oban.
<b>WEDNESDAY - May 1</b>
7.30pm, Melfort Ukuleles, Kilmelford Village Hall. 8pm, Patrick Duff, Bunessan Bakehouse, Mull. 8.30pm, Basil Forgive, The Royal Hotel, Oban.
<b>THURSDAY - May 2</b>
10am, Ramblers Scotland, Meall Ghuibhas walk, Glen Etive. 10.15am, Creation Station, Church Hall, Connel. 7.30pm, What on Earth?, Mull Theatre, Mull.
<b>FRIDAY - May 3</b>
All day, Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, Oban. 7pm, Accordion and Fiddle Masters, St. John's Cathedral, Oban. 7pm, Bingo night, Ulva Primary School, Mull.
<b>SATURDAY - May 4</b>
9.10am, Ramblers Scotland, Ben Inverveigh walk, Bridge of Orchy. 10am, Waverley Paddle Steamer Excursions, North Pier, Oban. 12pm - 3pm, Oban and Lorn Lions fun day, Ganavan Sands, Oban. 7pm, Concert of Champions, Corran Halls, Oban. 8.30pm, Festival Fling ceilidh, Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban. 8.30pm, Scottish Show, The Royal Hotel, Oban. 9.30pm, Signal Fires (Live Band), The Mishnish, Tobermory, Mull
<b>SUNDAY - May 5</b>
Isle of Mull Lions sponsored cycle ride. 1pm, Waverley Paddle Steamer Excursions, North Pier, Oban. 1pm, Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease 10k Race, Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban. 2.15pm - 4pm, Roller Disco, Atlantis Leisure, Oban. 6.30pm, Waverley Paddle Steamer Evening Cruise, North Pier, Oban.

Send your events to [whatson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:whatson@obantimes.co.uk).

**gig guide** your essential guide to live music in argyll

Friday 26th April >	SANDRA MACBETH Markie Dans starts 9.30
Saturday 27th April >	CROOKED REEL Markie Dans starts 9.30
Sunday 28th April >	QUIZ Markie Dans starts 9.30

**OUT NOW!**

FREE to all 200 Homes and Businesses

**REVIEW** Issue 63

See inside:  
Music & Dance Festival comes of age  
Dunollie: The stories behind the collections  
Tales from a kitchen gardener

**WIN**  
A bottle of Malt Whisky courtesy of Oban Distillery

Delivered free to mainland homes and businesses in and around Oban

Also available from The Oban Times offices in Oban and Fort William

For editorial and advertising opportunities contact [mauld@wvmedia.co.uk](mailto:mauld@wvmedia.co.uk)

# Skye Book Festival welcomes acclaimed authors to Portree

ACCLAIMED authors James Robertson, Mairi Hedderwick and Tom Pow will be among the writers appearing at the second Skye Book Festival, Fèis Leabhraichean an Eilein, in July.

James Robertson is celebrated for his bestselling novels 'The Testament of Gideon Mack' and the epic 'And the Land Lay Still'. His latest book, 'The Professor of Truth', will be published in June.

He said: 'I'm very pleased to be coming to Portree for the Skye

Book Festival. My new novel 'The Professor of Truth', which, although fiction, is inspired by the Lockerbie bombing and subsequent events, will be newly out and should provide plenty of scope for discussion and debate.'

Mairi Hedderwick became famous with her children's books about the life and times of Katie Morag.

She has since written and published such popular illustrated travelogues as 'An Eye on the Hebrides', the story

of a pilgrimage around her beloved western islands. Mairi will be hosting both children's and adults' events at Fèis Leabhraichean an Eilein.

Tom Pow is an award-winning poet who has also written novels for young adults, picture books, radio plays and travel books.

His latest book, 'In Another World: Among Europe's Dying Villages', explores some of the most rapidly vanishing areas of the continent.

Skye Book Festival committee chairman Donald MacDonald

said: 'We are delighted to attract such a high standard of writers to the island this year.

'There will be several others over the course of the festival, whose names we will release shortly.

'The Skye Book Festival proved last year that there is an appetite for a diverse programme of literary events in Skye, for young people and adults, and we aim to continue providing it.'

Fèis Leabhraichean an Eilein will take place at the Aros Centre in Portree on July 25-27.



Yasmeen Hollenstein: staging exhibition on the part animals played in the war effort.

## How animals helped the WWII Arctic Convoys

THE HIGH Life Highland library in Gairloch is the venue for a fascinating exhibition running during May to coincide with WWII and the Arctic Convoys Week being held in Wester Ross from May 6-11.

'Animals Beyond the Call of Duty', created by Dr Guy Puzey from Edinburgh University, reveals animal connections with the Arctic convoys which supplied the beleaguered Soviet Union during the war.

Network librarian Yasmeen Hollenstein said: 'We are delighted to be part of the Russian Arctic Convoys Museum Project annual WWII Week again this year, particularly with such a prestigious exhibition about animal gallantry straight from Edinburgh.

'We are so pleased that Guy is also coming along to talk about the theme of the exhibition as one of the speakers during the Week, on Saturday May 11 at Aultbea Village Hall.'

She added: 'The exhibition explores the close ties across the North Sea demonstrated by the inspiring stories of Sea Dog Bamse and Winkie the Pigeon.

'Visitors can also find out why a penguin from Edinburgh was knighted by the King of Norway - and no exhibition in Scotland about animal gallantry would be complete without Wojtak the Polish Soldier Bear.

Gairloch Library staff have sourced a wide range of books on the topic of animals, including books specifically about Bamse and Winkie - to give library goers the chance to read in more detail the fascinating stories behind these animals.

Yasmeen said: 'Several of the Arctic Convoys ships had reindeer given to them by the Russians as mascots, and they often seemed to call their reindeer 'Olga'. This included the HMS Belfast and HMS Kent. Two reindeer even travelled from Russia by submarine on HMS Tigris and HMS Trident in 1941 - but they were named Minsk and Polyanna.'

'Animal Beyond the Call of Duty' is one of nine exhibitions around the area during WWII Week.



Bird watchers lined the road next to the Jubilee Bridge as part of the event organised in the memory of late conservationist, John Muir. 16\_117birdwatch1

## Argyll Bird Club celebrates life of John Muir

TWITCHERS spotted nearly 40 different species of bird during a trip to Appin on Saturday - including one of the first cuckoos of the year.

Argyll Bird Club were guests of honour at the Argyll and Bute Local Biodiversity Partnership, with Nigel Scriven leading the group on a tour of the avian species populating the area around the

village's bird hide. Organised as a celebration of the late conservationist John Muir, the group gathered at Appin Village Hall for a presentation before getting the binoculars out for a gander across the water towards Castle Stalker.

Attendance was by donation to the Jubilee Bridge Restoration Fund.

## Runrig celebrates 40 years - thanks to The Oban Times

HIGHLAND supergroup Runrig will celebrate its 40th birthday on Sunday - all thanks to The Oban Times.

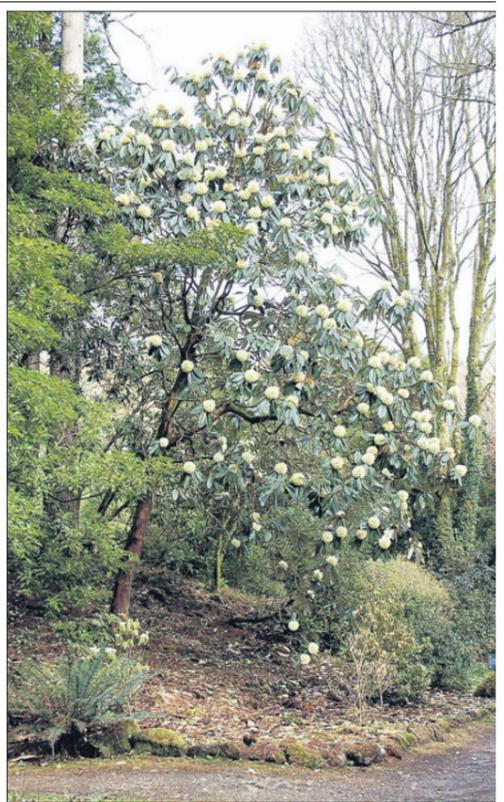
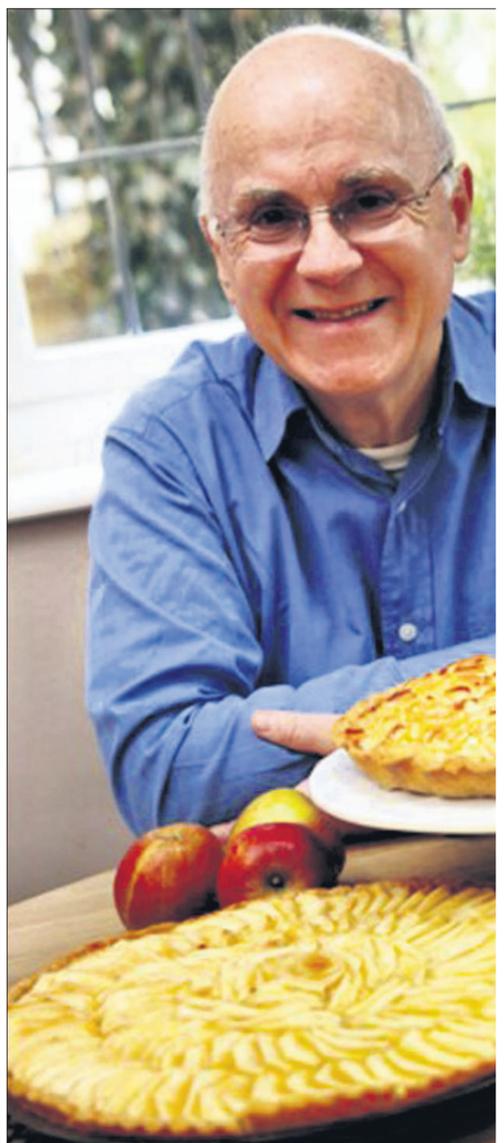
The band had been searching for the date of its first gig but had been drawing a blank until guitarist Malcolm Jones stumbled across a report of their debut at the North Uist and Bernera Association at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall in our Glasgow Letters column.

It's not the band's only connection to the paper.

The photograph for the cover for album *Everything You See* was taken by our editorial director Stewart MacKenzie.

Got a leisure story? Call 01631 568000

Follow us on facebook [www.facebook.com/obantimes](https://www.facebook.com/obantimes)



# Hollywood glamour as doors open on new Birks Cinema

RED CARPET glamour and a touch of Hollywood visited the Highland Perthshire town of Aberfeldy for the grand opening of the community-led Birks Cinema.

The town's own Hollywood star, Alan Cumming OBE, was one of the first to welcome in the new era of the cinema, with a specially pre-recorded welcome for avid film fans shown ahead of the debut film, *Oblivion*, starring Tom Cruise.

Mr Cumming, who has agreed to be the cinema's patron, opened with lines from the Robert Burns' poem *The Birks of Aberfeldy*, before welcoming the local community on their success in bringing the project to fruition.

Speaking from on stage at his Broadway production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, he called on audience members to switch off their mobile phones, and anything else that 'pings', urging local movie lovers to 'be in the moment' to fully enjoy the film.

Only 100 Golden Ticket

winner were lucky enough to secure a coveted place at the official opening on Friday night, out of the thousands placed around Highland Perthshire.

Treated to a Hollywood-style welcome, complete with the obligatory red carpet, flaming torches, searchlights and a spectacularly floodlit building, guests were served canapés and bubbly at the VIP reception before being treated to a tub of Mackie's of Scotland Ice Cream.

Success

General manager, Paul Foley said: 'Tonight has been a resounding success for the Aberfeldy community.

'The feedback we've received from local residents has been tremendous and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank the very many people and organisations who have played their part in helping us get here - we could not have done it without your support and for that we are truly grateful.

The cinema opens for good from this weekend. For more information, see [www.birkscinema.co.uk](http://www.birkscinema.co.uk).



Charlotte Flower, director of The Birks Cinema, left, and Friends of the Birks Cinema volunteer Lindsay Brown welcome guests to the picture house's premiere outing with a tub of Mackie's ice-cream, who sponsored the event.

# Great British Bake-off star 'icing on the cake' at Fort food and drink festival

STAR of the popular television show 'The Great British Bake-off', Brendan Lynch will be the 'icing on the cake' at the Nevis Radio Fort William Food and Drink Festival tomorrow and Saturday.

Mr Lynch will demonstrate his talents at a cake decorating master class on day two of the event, when the public can pick up tips from one of the country's best-known bakers.

The festival opens for business and trade

customers in Caol Community Centre at noon tomorrow, when local suppliers will showcase their products to Lochaber hotel, restaurant and B&B owners.

Meanwhile, speakers in the marquee will give presentations on running a business, food and health and kitchen hygiene.

In the evening, a junior chef 'Canna Cook, Winna Cook', under the mentoring of top chef Brian Gunn, will feature competitors from local

secondary schools creating two dishes from a mystery bag of goodies.

Doors open on Saturday at 10am for an all day market, with the afternoon bringing the Lochaber Bake2Bake, with local chefs demonstrating cake decorating as well as bread making and butchery. The first two demonstrations by Mr Lynch will follow. Other attractions include the Brain Freeze Challenge and the Gut Buster Challenge.



Brendan Lynch: coming to Fort William.

## Fergie honours Mull festival gig day after son's wedding

A PERFORMER at this year's Isle of Mull Music Festival is squeezing in the appearance during a particularly busy weekend for him which also includes his son's wedding.

Fergie MacDonald will be appearing at The Bellachroy Hotel in Dervaig on Sunday alongside Addy Harper of the Wick Scottish.

Nick and Debbie Hanson, owners of The Bellachroy, said: 'We are just so grateful that Fergie has been able to keep this date free for us despite his son's wedding the day before.'

'That is real commitment. We look forward to welcoming everyone to Dervaig for the whole weekend, but naturally we are most excited by Sunday's line-up.'

Other bands playing include Crooked Reel and The Dave Fleming Trio. Fergie's long awaited return to Dervaig will begin at midday.

**Gardening club spotlight on Alpine plants**

THE LAST meeting of the season for a gardening club on the Isle of Mull saw the merits of Alpine plants discussed.

Clifford Moisey, chairman of Torosay Isle of Mull Gardening Club, introduced Sandy Leven from Dunblane who gave a talk on 'Alpines by the Sea'.

An alpine plant is one which grows on high mountains, however the term is also applied to plants which are suitable for growing in rock gardens.

The meeting heard the alpine habitat tends to be cold, windy, with poor soil and little organic matter which is similar in some ways to areas on Mull - though the rainfall may be different and there is not so much snow and frost. As there are few insect pests and fungal diseases at the high altitudes, it is important that anyone growing alpine, especially in a greenhouse or polytunnel, ensures that the ventilation is adequate so that the risk of disease is reduced.

The gardening club is holding a flower show on May 27 in Craignure Village Hall at 11am. The club outing is on June 12 to the gardens at Arduaine and An Cala. Spaces are still available, contact Andrew Reid on 01688 301240.



## Sam makes it a family giant skate double

Twelve-year-old Will Griffiths, of Sarn, mid Wales, caught this 113lb skate on an angling expedition with Oban man Ronnie Campbell's Fish 'n' Trips business - just after his dad David landed a 235lb skate on the same trip in the Firth of Lorn. Will said: 'It was exhausting.'

## Arduaine reaps reward 100 years on

A coastal garden in Argyll is reaping the rewards from the effort put in by gardeners almost 100 years ago.

Flowering rhododendrons which stand 50 feet tall, pictured left, are on show in Arduaine Garden, 20 miles south of Oban. Maurice Wilkins, head gardener, said: 'At Arduaine Garden some of the biggest of these flowering shrubs could well have been planted back in the 1920s. The wonderful spring display is getting into its stride right now.'

Arduaine Garden also features a collection of rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolias, Blue Tibetan poppies, giant Himalayan lilies and Chatham Island forget-me-nots.

The meeting heard the alpine habitat tends to be cold, windy, with poor soil and little organic matter which is similar in some ways to areas on Mull - though the rainfall may be different and there is not so much snow and frost. As there are few insect pests and fungal diseases at the high altitudes, it is important that anyone growing alpine, especially in a greenhouse or polytunnel, ensures that the ventilation is adequate so that the risk of disease is reduced.

The gardening club is holding a flower show on May 27 in Craignure Village Hall at 11am. The club outing is on June 12 to the gardens at Arduaine and An Cala. Spaces are still available, contact Andrew Reid on 01688 301240.



Mark Reynolds of Lochaber High School: starring in Loch Shiel Spring Festival.

## Lochaber High School takes centre stage at Loch Shiel Spring Festival

A LOCHABER High pupil and the school's brass instructor are among an international array of musical talent performing at the 2013 Loch Shiel Spring Festival from May 3-6.

Violinist Helena Rose from Roy Bridge, an active member of Lochaber Music School and leader of the Highland Regional Youth Orchestra, became the youngest competitor ever to win the prestigious 'Highland Young Musician of the Year' award in June 2011.

Tuba player Mark Reynolds, a graduate of the RSAMD in Glasgow, completed his postgraduate studies at the Richard Strauss Conservatorium in Munich before being appointed as principal tuba of the Royal Philharmonic of Flanders. He became a founder member of the Ottone Brass Quintet in Belgium and played with other leading European ensembles as well as regularly performing as a soloist with the Royal Philharmonic of Flanders and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

February 2009 saw him move back to his beloved Highlands where he now teaches brass in Lochaber and conducts the Lochaber High Schools Wind Band and the Highland Regional Schools Wind Band.

Also starring in the four-day feast of classical music is internationally renowned pianist Jonathan Powell, acclaimed percussionist Simone Rebello - who is Cosmopolitan Woman of the Year in the Performing Arts - and concert flautist Susan Franks.

Festival director, violinist and associate leader of the BBC Concert Orchestra Charles Mutter, talented clarsach player Julia Somerville and virtuoso cellist David Watkin will also perform.

Other top artists include Caroline Jaya Ratnam, cellist Ghislaine McMullin and the Maxwell Quartet.

**Closing concert**

Festival venues will be various indoor and outdoor locations in Glenfinnan, Shielbridge Hall in Acharacle and the Ariundle Centre at Strontian, which will host Monday's closing concert.

Highlight will be the Glenfinnan Family Gala Day on Saturday, May 4, featuring a concert at the railway station and much more.

The event will precede the formal opening of the Glenfinnan Viaduct Trail, which is being completed this month.

Full details are on www.shielfestival.com.



## Oban trio Susie spotting at Bahrain Grand Prix

Oban trio Sandra Elliott, Jim Belcher and Sally Thompson were at the Bahrain F1 Grand Prix at the weekend trying to catch sight of Susie Wolff during the pit walk. The group are pictured in the Williams garage, where a member of crew let them in despite Susie not being around. Sandra said: 'Despite all the adverse news reports regarding the troubles here - of which we have seen evidence - we feel very safe and are looking forward to the race.'



Step aboard WAVERLEY - the last seagoing paddle steamer in the world! Waverley is owned by a Charity and is magnificently restored with towering funnels, timber decks, gleaming varnish and brass - see and hear the mighty engines turn the ship's famous paddles! Dine, relax with a drink in one of the restored period lounges, or simply watch the world slip by as you enjoy breathtaking views. You can send a postcard or shop for a souvenir whilst onboard.

Sail over the sea to the Isle of Skye. Cruise on Loch Nevis to Inverie. Enjoy a sunrise or evening cruise on Loch Linnhe. Take an afternoon cruise of four lochs: Shuna, Melfort, Craignish & Crinan and cruise to the spectacular Corryreckan Whirlpool. Visit the sacred Isle of Iona or cruise round the famous Mull of Kintyre!

There are special fares for Senior Citizens, Children travel at half fare and under 5's travel free, so bring friends and family - young and old - for a trip to remember! **Book Now for your Great Day Out!**

Discover the mystical Western Isles aboard Paddle Steamer Waverley!

**Sailing from OBAN North Pier**

<b>Isle of Skye Inverie Loch Linnhe</b>	<b>SATURDAY May 4</b>	Leave 10am back 9.30pm
	Fares: Isle of Skye £37 SC £33 Visit Inverie £39 SC £35	
	<b>SUNDAY May 5</b>	Leave 8am back 1pm
	Leave 6.30pm back 10pm*	
	Fare: Cruise Loch Linnhe £17 SC £15	
<b>4 Lochs &amp; A Whirlpool</b>	<b>SUNDAY May 5</b>	Leave 1pm back 6.30pm
	Fare: 4 Lochs & Whirlpool £29 SC £27	
<b>Iona &amp; Iona Abbey</b>	<b>MONDAY May 6</b>	Leave 11.30am back 7.30pm
	Fare: Isle of Iona £41 SC £37	
<b>Mull of Kintyre</b>	<b>TUESDAY May 7</b>	Leave 9am back 7.30pm
	Return by coach from Campbelltown	Fare: Mull of Kintyre via Corryreckan £29 SC £27

\*10pm by coach from Fort William

To book Call 0845 130 4647 Book at Tourist Information Centres or Book Online at waverleyexcursions.co.uk

**Oban Phoenix Cinema**

<b>Iron Man 3</b>	Fri 26th April	17:45 (3D), 20:45 (2D)
	Sat 27th April	12:00 (2D), 15:00 (3D), 18:00 (2D), 21:00 (3D)
	Sun 28th April	12:00 (3D), 15:00 (2D), 18:00 (2D), 21:00 (3D)
	Mon 29th April	17:45 (3D), 20:45 (2D)
	Tue 30th April	17:45 (3D), 20:45 (2D)
	Wed 1st May	17:45 (3D), 20:45 (2D)

Tel: 01631 562905 Mob: 08719 025752

Oban Phoenix cinema is very pleased to announce that from Friday 26th April 2013 we will be bringing you all the latest movies, timeless classics and must-see films in brand new digital format! With sharper images, enhanced Dolby 7.5 sound system and both 3D and live satellite streaming capabilities we look forward to welcoming you back to YOUR new and improved community cinema soon.

**Iron Man 3 (12A)** hands, he embarks on a instincts to protect those Iron Man 3 pits harsh- harrowing quest to find closest to him. As he but-brilliant industrialist those responsible. This fights his way back, Stark Tony Stark/Iron Man journey, at every turn, discovers the answer to against an enemy will test his mettle. With the question that has whose reach knows no his back against the wall, secretly haunted him: Stark is left to survive by does the man make his own devices, relying the suit or does the suit destroyed at his enemy's on his ingenuity and make the man?

**50% OFF**

Highland Hospice's Fort William shop will be closed for refurbishment on Saturday 27th April at 16.00, reopening on Saturday, 4th May at 10.00.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

There will be a half price sale from Thursday 25th - Saturday 27th April.

Limited Number of Tickets Available For **DECLAN NERNEY & BAND**

In BA Club, Fort William on Sun 28th April Doors Open 6.00pm Music 7.00pm-10.00pm

Tickets £12 from BA Club or Tel 012463 221268 / 0788 400 6020

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Oban & Lorn Lions Club **CHARITIES DAY** Station Square - Oban Saturday 8th June To book a stall Tel: John Lloyd - 01631 562762 Email: Oban3108@aol.com Booking forms also available at Westers, Stafford Street and Pink Elephant Office Supplies, Combie Street, Parade Information - Alex on: 077 9689 1676

**Easdale Rocks** Presents a mix of live music and comedy with **Signal Fires** The outrageously funny **Ray Bradshaw** **Sell Island Hall** Saturday, April 27, 8pm till late. Admission £8 B.Y.O.B. Over 18s All proceeds towards Sell Hall Recreation & Amenities Group

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS MUSIC & DANCE FESTIVAL Ticket now on sale Accordion & Fiddle Masters (3 May) Scottish Choreography Challenge (4 & 5 May) Festival Family Dance (4 May) Tel 07510841198 www.obanfestival.org

OBAN & LORNE STRATHSPEY & REEL SOCIETY **FIDDLER'S RALLY CONCERT** SATURDAY 27th APRIL 2013, 7.00pm **CORRAN HALLS, OBAN** Guest Vocalists - ALASDAIR WHYTE: Mod Gold Medallist **NICOLA PEARSON**: Mod Silver Medallist Conductor: Helen Jordan Chairman: Ted Heath Tickets: £8.00, Concessions £6.50 Family Tickets: £20 Seats can be reserved, available from Corran Halls Only. Tel: 01631 567333

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

# WIN a pair of designer glasses

INTERNATIONALLY-renowned fashion designer John Rocha has teamed up with Specsavers to launch a new eyewear collection.

To celebrate, Specsavers Oban has teamed up with The Oban Times to offer readers the chance to win one of two pairs of designer glasses, so they can make a chic pair of specs a fashionable part of their ensemble.

Available exclusively at Specsavers from April, the range features 13 contemporary designs to suit the modern woman. Inherently true to the John Rocha style, the timeless collection features beautiful colours, textures and wonderful temple embellishments.

Priced at £125, every frame includes PENTAX single vision lenses, a scratch-resistant treatment and a bespoke John Rocha case and cloth as standard. What's more, all glasses in the range are included in Specsavers' current two for one offer, where you can choose any two pairs of designer glasses from the £99 to £125 ranges and pay for just one.

The range joins Specsavers' existing designer collections including Aurora, GW by Gok Wan, Missoni, Red or Ded, Osiris and Jasper Conran.

To win, all you have to do is answer this simple question on the form below. Which big creature recently caught local attention when he spent a few days in Oban's bay? Was it a) a sperm whale b) a starfish or c) a giant squid.

Name.....  
Address.....

Answer.....

Entries should be returned to Specsavers Competition, The Oban Times, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB. Forms must be returned by 5pm, May 3, 2013.

Terms and conditions: Maximum one prize per household. Specsavers designer eyewear vouchers will be distributed by Beattie Communications on behalf of Specsavers. Terms of the eyewear voucher are set out on the eyewear voucher itself and must be adhered to. This prize is non-transferable, cannot be exchanged and no cash alternative will be offered. The Editor's decision is final. Employees of Wyxw Media and their families are prohibited from entering. Winners must participate in publicity of competition win.

# Thriving business on your doorstep



**WestCoast Energiee**  
Renewable Energiee power to renew  
www.energee.co.uk  
01878 700 717

At West Coast Energiee we have always had as most Islanders do 'A can do go anywhere mentality with a motto of "Solutions Not Problems". We have installed turbines on all of the Western Isles Main Islands, Skye, Tiree and Coll and the North of Scotland Wick, Thurso and Banff. With the Government FIT's Scheme the Turbine Market has become a Self Financing Market. The 5KW Evance wind turbines machine we install is one of the more reliable and popular small scale turbines. We have last week just

helped install 10 No Evance 5KW Wind Turbines for Scottish Water as a sub-contractor to West Electrical services and testing who are based in Lewis our 'can do attitude' has seen us install turbines for Community Halls, Hotels, Hostels, B & B's, Smokehouse, and Private Houses on New Build and retrofit projects. WCE have done Solar jobs for business and private households, and have installed numerous heat pumps both Ground Source and Air Source.




**THE CREEL**  
BAR AND BEER GARDEN  
FANTASTIC FOOD - WEEKEND CARVERY  
LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND  
To Book please phone: 01631 562184  
www.woodsidehoteloban.net

Allan and Mary McKie took over the extremely popular Creel Bistro Bar and the Woodside Hotel at the beginning of 2012. The Creel Bar with its adjoining and extensive beer garden offers a relaxing atmosphere in which to enjoy a meal or perhaps just a drink or two. The garden is a natural suntrap and offers a quiet area for customers to have a meal, snack or just some drinks. We take great pride in the quality of our beers and of our food served on these premises. WiFi is available throughout the hotel and there is SKY TV in both of the bar areas. The Sunday Carvery introduced in March 2013 is proving extremely popular with as much as you can eat 2 courses for £9.95 - available last Sunday of every month. Live entertainment (bands) are available every weekend.




**FOOD WITH A VIEW!**  
Home baking & cakes all day  
Breathtaking views  
Children's Menu  
Playpark, animals & beach  
**SEAFOOD**  
Is our Speciality!  
Lunch 12.00-2.30pm and Dinner 6.00-9.00pm  
Loch Melfort Hotel, Arduaine, 20 miles south of Oban on A816, NTS Arduaine Garden next door!  
Call us on 01852 200233 www.chartroom2.com

Loch Melfort Hotel is family owned and run by Calum and Rachel Ross. Since they bought the hotel in 2008, they have refurbished and revitalised this famous West Coast sailing landmark, which boasts the 'Finest Views on the West Coast' from every bedroom towards Jura, Islay and beyond. Winning a string of hotel awards over the last five years, they have recently gained the coveted VisitScotland Gold Stars for customer service, a reflection of the exceptional standards that

they and their staff achieve. Exceeding guest expectations is all part of the hotel philosophy and this attention to detail has doubled turnover and repeat business. Both fine dining in Asknish Bay Restaurant, led by Head Chef Peter Carr, and casual dining in Chartroom II Bistro, concentrate on locally sourced ingredients, including seafood, venison, beef and lamb. The world famous NTS Arduaine Garden is next door and they work closely together to achieve joint success.




**BOOK EARLY**  
Only a few months left!  
Join supporters of Highland Titles from around the world at Glencoe House for a Pig Roast luncheon and meet the people behind the Highland Titles Nature Reserve in Glen Salachan.  
Lunch served from 1.00pm  
Tickets available from Highland Titles  
01481 823939  
Glencoe House, Glencoe, PH18 4HT  
www.glencoe-house.com

The socially active conservation company Highland Titles has sold thousands of plots of Scottish land over the last 8 years, creating a community of Lairds and Ladies in the process. On 15th May 2013, they will host a Highland Gathering in Glencoe, which will be attended by landowners from all over the world. The Gathering will take place at Glencoe House, stately home of Lord and Lady Strathcona, now recently refurbished to offer 5 star suite accommodation in the heart of the Scottish Highlands. The truth is that when you buy land from Highland Titles you join their thriving community of like-minded landowners. Highland Titles have created the Highland Titles Nature Reserve, a few miles south of Glencoe and recent major activities have involved the planting of a 60 acre Diamond Jubilee Wood in 2012. Now, for the first time, the Highland Titles team has arranged to personally meet with 75 Lords and Ladies who will be attending from as far away as Australia and Canada. The gathering is aptly named Meet The Neighbours! Guests will be welcomed by the directors of Highland Titles, with champagne and canapés, followed by a "Hog Roast". Local supporters will have the opportunity to join the "Hog Roast" luncheon at a reduced rate to meet the people from all over the world and all walks of life that care so much about Glencoe.




**R A Clement Associates**  
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors  
5 Argyll Square, OBAN PA34 4AZ Tel: 01631 562643  
3 Cameron Square, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6AJ Tel: 01397 700171  
www.raclement.co.uk

R A Clement Associates have been in business since 1949 and in Oban since 1984, so we must be doing something right. Furthermore, we want to help you make your business a big success. Keeping your business dynamic and forward-looking is not just a matter of chasing new customers. It involves every aspect of the business operation, from marketing to product development, from administration to training, from financial management to creative thinking. R A Clement Associates have experienced staff who have been helping local businesses to achieve their goals for many years and we can help you too. There is so much involved in running a business that you have very little time to sit back and look at the bigger picture. We can offer business advice and an outside perspective on your business. After all, the money that leaves a business, whether in the form of wages, supplier bills, general overheads or the interest on loans, can be as vital to its success as the money that comes in from customers. Managing costs effectively should, therefore, play a central role in business financial planning. Feel free to phone either of our offices to see how we can help. Your first consultation is free so it is worth a phone call.



OES, part of the FES Group of companies provides an extensive range of Construction, Engineering, Property, Support Services and Facilities Management. Our services are delivered by in-house highly trained staff who have been supporting local businesses across the West of Scotland since 1971. Our service capability includes;

<b>Facilities Management Including;</b>	<b>Mechanical &amp; Electrical including;</b>	<b>Support Services including;</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mechanical &amp; Electrical Maintenance</li> <li>Fabric Maintenance</li> <li>Cleaning Services</li> <li>Landscaping</li> <li>Compliance Testing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design, Installation &amp; Prefabrication</li> <li>Renewables</li> <li>Energy Management</li> <li>Air Conditioning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property Services</li> <li>Communications</li> <li>Fire &amp; Security</li> <li>HV &amp; Utilities</li> <li>Engineering</li> </ul>



**OES Office**  
19 Stevenson Street,  
Oban  
Argyll  
PA34 5NA  
01631 564 203  
www.fes.ltd.uk



**Waltons of Oban**  
01631 566979  
For TESCO "click and collect" deliveries to the islands  
Unit 2, 13 Lochavullin Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4PL

Growing numbers of food wholesalers, producers, retailers, farmers and consumers are appreciating the benefits of using Waltons of Oban for the collection, storage and delivery of their foods. Our up to date chilled and frozen storage facilities in Oban's Lochavullin Road and our fleet of nine temperature controlled trucks and vans ensure that customers goods arrive in the very best condition. Covering Argyll, it's islands and Lochaber, we also run daily to Glasgow and weekly to Edinburgh, Perth and Stirling. For over eight years we have operated the area franchise for Wiltshire Farm Foods frozen meals (as promoted on TV by Ronnie Corbett) These have proven to be increasingly popular with people who find it difficult to always shop and cook for themselves. Another recent development that has proven very popular with islanders on Mull and Islay is the delivery of Tesco "Click and Collect" groceries. For further information see our website at www.waltonsofoban.co.uk or email info@waltonsofoban.co.uk




**Ben Nevis Distillery**  
www.bennevisdistillery.com

**BEN NEVIS DISTILLERY** has been building on its success since its establishment in 1825. It is one of the oldest licensed distilleries in Scotland and continues to go from strength to strength. The distillery is nestled at the foot of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, which has a summit elevation of 4'406 feet above sea level. Incorporated within Ben Nevis Distillery is *The Legend of the Dew of Ben Nevis Visitor Centre*, built into an old warehouse dating from 1862 and former bottling hall, which still retains some of its original features. There is a conducted tour of the production areas by a trained guide which concludes with a complementary 'tasting'. After your tour around the distillery relax with a refreshment or if you are hungry, try some of their delicious home cooking in the coffee shop and restaurant. The whisky shop is stocked with a large range of select whiskies, Scottish books and interesting gifts.




**Mallaig Harbour Authority**  
Tel: 01687 462154 Fax: 01687 462172  
Email: info@mallaigharbourauthority.com  
**NEW 50 BERTH MARINA NOW OPEN**

Mallaig Harbour's new yachting facilities include pontoon berths for 45 craft and additional moorings for busy periods. This development has been funded by the EC Sail West project, a marine tourism initiative of partner organisations from N Ireland, Ireland and Scotland. Mallaig was once the largest herring port in Europe, and is still a thriving fishing and ferry port for the Isle of Skye, the Small Isles and Inverie. There are plenty of options for shopping, eating or drinking with several restaurants, pubs and takeaways available. Local history is presented at the Mallaig Heritage Centre near the Railway Station. Mallaig Harbour Authority Harbour Master: James McLean Tel: 01687 462154 VHF: Ch 16/09 (office hours) Email: info@mallaigharbourauthority.com Website: www.mallaig-yachting-marina.com www.mallaig-harbour.com



# FARMING

Sponsored by NFU Mutual  
Oban, call Euan Warnock  
and Donna MacDougall  
on 01631 567 036 for  
your insurance needs.  
Agent of The National Farmers Union  
Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



## Annual April sale of grazing cattle at Islay Auction Mart

UNITED Auctions held their Annual April Sale of Grazing Cattle at Islay Auction Mart on April 13 when they had a catalogued entry of 1249 head.

Bullocks sold to average 222.9pence per kilo and £784.37 per head against 226.7pence per kilo or £793.35 at corresponding sale last year. Heifers sold to average 214.6 pence per kilo and £691.63 per head against 211.8 pence per kilo and £693.05 per head at the corresponding sale last year.

Overall, a good show of grazing cattle sold at levels in keeping with principal mainland centres which are at present failing to maintain recent high values due to the prolonged wait for grass. Leading the prices per head for bullocks & heifers was the Lossit consignment when their bullocks sold to £1155 and heifers to £1050. Leading the prices per kilo was Corray when their limousin heifers sold to 250 pence whilst Tallant charolais bullocks sold to 266pence. A good show of Aberdeen Angus Cross Bullocks & Heifers was included in this sale which sold readily.

**PRINCIPAL LOTS & PRICES**

**BULLOCKS**  
AAx: £1145(3) - Rockside : £1035(2) - Keppols : £1025(3) - Rockside : £985 - Octomore(5) & Craigs(7) : £965(7), £935(8) & £865(8) - Craigs : £825(15) & £815(17) - Rockside.  
CHARx: £1075 - Gartacharra(4) & Craigfad : £1015 - Craigfad : £945(2) - Gartacharra : £935 - Tallant : £895(9) & £855 - Craigfad : £835 - Ballimartin(7) & Gartacharra(4) : £825(7) - Craigfad.  
LIMx: £1155(2) - Lossit : £1075 - Uiskentuie, Kilchiaran & Craigfad : £1015 - Corray : £995 - Lossit &

Craigfad : £975(2) - Island : £955 - Kilchiaran(4) & Balaclava(2) : £945 - Gartacharra & Lossit(2) : £925 - Uiskentuie & Ballimartin(2) : £915 - Island : £905(3) - Kilchiaran : £895 - Bayview, Lossit(7), Balaclava(4) & Craigfad(2) : £885(2) - Mulindry : £865 - Kilchiaran(5) & Sunderland(2) : £855 - Uiskentuie, Lossit(6) & Sunderland(5) : £845(4) - Ballimartin : £835 - Kilchiaran(2) & Corray(2) : £825 - Kilbride(11) & Craigfad(2) : £815 - Tallant(8) & Uiskentuie : £805 - Mulindry(5), Tallant(5) & Balaclava(8).  
LUNING: £795(5) - Duich. SHx: £785(4) - Octomore. SIMx: £1115(2) - Coillabus : £905(5) - Corray : £895(4) - Kilbride : £865(2) - Island : £855(2) - Coillabus : £825 - Craigfad. BRBX: £805 - Mulindry.  
HEIFERS  
AAx: £855(4), £795(5) & £785(5) - Craigs.  
CHARx: £945(4) - Sunderland : £845(2) - Tallant : £835(5) - Island : £815(5) - Ballimartin : £805(11) - Ballinaby : £795(7) - Craigfad : £785 - Bayview : £765(8) - Island : £725(2) - Ballimartin.  
LIMx: £1050 & £995 - Lossit : £925 - Kilchiaran : £895(3) - Sunderland : £865(12) - Lossit : £855(2) - Kilchiaran : £845(5) & £835(2) - Sunderland : £825(3) - Gartacharra : £820 - Uiskentuie : £805(4) - Kilchiaran : £795(2) - Lossit : £775 - Uiskentuie & Kilchiaran(4) : £765 - Tallant(7), Uiskentuie(7) & Lossit(4) : £755 - Mulindry(2), Tallant(3) & Balaclava(3) : £745 - Tallant(6), Ballimartin(9), Kilchiaran & Balaclava(5).  
SIMx: £945 & £885(2) - Coillabus : £885(8) - Corray : £855(2) - Coillabus : £795 - Craigfad. BRBX: £815, £785 & £755 - Mulindry.  
TOP PRICES PER KILO

**BULLOCKS**  
AAx: 247p(29) - Rockside : 240p(2) - Keppols : 239p(3) - Ardmensh : 238p(3) - Rockside : 237p(5) - Octomore : 236p(5) - Rockside : 231p(7) - Craigs : 230p(15) - Rockside : 229p - Cladville : 229p(9) & 227p(7) - Craigs : 225p(3) - Ardmensh : 222p - Keppols(5) & Rockside(4) : 219p - Ardmensh(2) : 215p(2) - Balaclava.  
LUNING: 221p(5) - Duich. SHx: 219p - Octomore. SIMx: 246p - Kilchiaran : 222p - Island : 218p(2) - Kilbride. BRBX: 241p, 234p, 228p - Mulindry.  
HEIFERS  
AAx: 242p(10) - Rockside : 238p(10) - Ardmensh : 235p(4) - Rockside : 222p(4) & 218p(10) - Craigs : 215p(3) - Rockside.  
CHARx: 241p(2) - Tallant : 231p(2) - Carrabus : 230p(7) - Ballinaby : 227p - Carrabus : 224p - Tallant(4) & Mansefield(2) : 221p(7) - Ballimartin : 219p(7) - Craigfad.  
LIMx: 250p - Corray : 248p(4) & 243p(2) - Tallant : 241p(6) - Balaclava : 238p(3) - Gartacharra : 236p - Balaclava(5) : 235p(10), 234p(3) & 233p(10) - Tallant : 231p - Carrabus & Lossit : 230p - Kilchiaran : 227p(10) & 225p(3) - Tallant : 248p(4) & 243p(2) - Ballimartin(9), Corray(2) & Duich(15) : 223p - Lossit(2) & Smaladh(2) : 222p - Tallant(3) & Lossit : 221p - Carrabus(3), Uiskentuie(8), Lossit(12) : 220p - Carrabus(7), Uiskentuie, Lossit(4) & Duich(6) : 219p - Mulindry(3) & Smaladh(2) : 218p - Mulindry(2) : 217p - Smaladh.  
LUNING: 216p(7) - Duich. SIMx: 238p(8), 226p & 224p - Corray : 219p - Craigfad : 215p - Cladville. BRBX: 218p - Mulindry.

& Kilbride(6) : 224p(2) - Carrabus : 223p(6) - Lossit : 222p - Uiskentuie & Island : 221p - Keppols(2), Kilchiaran(2) & Island : 219p - Mulindry(5), Uiskentuie, Ballimartin(4), Corray(2) & Balaclava(5) : 218p - Uiskentuie : 217p - Carrabus(5), Tallant(2) & Kilchiaran(4) : 216p - Tallant, Kilchiaran(4), Bayview & Balaclava(2) : 215p(2) - Balaclava.  
LUNING: 221p(5) - Duich. SHx: 219p - Octomore. SIMx: 246p - Kilchiaran : 222p - Island : 218p(2) - Kilbride. BRBX: 241p, 234p, 228p - Mulindry.  
HEIFERS  
AAx: 242p(10) - Rockside : 238p(10) - Ardmensh : 235p(4) - Rockside : 222p(4) & 218p(10) - Craigs : 215p(3) - Rockside.  
CHARx: 241p(2) - Tallant : 231p(2) - Carrabus : 230p(7) - Ballinaby : 227p - Carrabus : 224p - Tallant(4) & Mansefield(2) : 221p(7) - Ballimartin : 219p(7) - Craigfad.  
LIMx: 250p - Corray : 248p(4) & 243p(2) - Tallant : 241p(6) - Balaclava : 238p(3) - Gartacharra : 236p - Balaclava(5) : 235p(10), 234p(3) & 233p(10) - Tallant : 231p - Carrabus & Lossit : 230p - Kilchiaran : 227p(10) & 225p(3) - Tallant : 248p(4) & 243p(2) - Ballimartin(9), Corray(2) & Duich(15) : 223p - Lossit(2) & Smaladh(2) : 222p - Tallant(3) & Lossit : 221p - Carrabus(3), Uiskentuie(8), Lossit(12) : 220p - Carrabus(7), Uiskentuie, Lossit(4) & Duich(6) : 219p - Mulindry(3) & Smaladh(2) : 218p - Mulindry(2) : 217p - Smaladh.  
LUNING: 216p(7) - Duich. SIMx: 238p(8), 226p & 224p - Corray : 219p - Craigfad : 215p - Cladville. BRBX: 218p - Mulindry.



Arran farmers were among the hardest hit by last month's blizzard.

## Renewed call to help farmers hit by prolonged severe weather

NFU SCOTLAND has reiterated its call to the Scottish Government for assistance to mitigate the worst effects of 2013's prolonged and extreme winter weather.

The Union is updating evidence it accumulated late last year to work out how best to target aid as members struggle with the cumulative effects of a very wet 2012 and late spring 2013.

NFU Scotland president Nigel Miller said: 'Last week we showed Cabinet Secretary Richard Lochhead the impacts left by the snow on a farm in Dumfries and Galloway - this was an extreme case, but the effects of the late spring are being felt by all farm types across Scotland.'

In the immediate term, we're working with Scottish Government officials to try to put together a weather aid package for those on the hit by the extreme events in late March.

However, the chronic and cumulative impacts of the weather on all sectors - arable and livestock - must not be ignored or forgotten. The true cost of the past twelve months for Scottish

farming might not be known for another year and more.

'So we are pressing the government to utilise its discretion within voluntary modulation to provide an injection back into the Single Farm Payment in December. The need for this is even more stark with the prospect of financial discipline from the EU that could cut Pillar 1 support later this year.'

Mr Miller said the findings show many farmers suffered a late, poor, and in some cases unfinished harvest and delayed the spring planting, with crops planted in the autumn 2012 ploughed up and re-seeded because they failed to take properly.

He added: 'In the same survey, livestock farmers made it clear that they were toiling with an acute shortage of bedding and fodder. 'Farmers were able to take some measures to work with meagre supplies but now with the late spring and intense snow storms that hit southwest Scotland at the end of March, the pressures on some businesses are now unbearable.'

'We would urge all members to complete our survey online or by calling

0131 472 4000 in order to help inform our work on the effects of 2012-2013 weather. It is crucial, however, that the Scottish Government acts fast to help those businesses for whom the crisis is immediate.'

**FOR SALE**  
Agricultural Equipment to include:  
Pressure Washer, Yard Scraper, Cattle & Sheep Clipping Equipment, Sheep Scales and Hurdles, 15, 12 & ft galvanised gates, 6ft Galvanised Cattle Troughs, Feed Rings, Sheep Troughs, Slewic 9ft Grass Topper, 1300 Litre Bunded Diesel tank with Electric Pump, Rancher Cattle head yoke PLUS various other items  
Please Phone 07919 915409

**Aberdeen & Northern Marts**  
A member of ANM Group Ltd  
THAINSTONE CENTRE INVERURIE, AB51 5XZ  
Tel : 01467 623710 Fax : 01467 623708  
e-mail : anmarts@anmgroup.co.uk

**AUCTION SALES AT THAINSTONE**

Scotland's leading livestock marketing co-operative offers a wide range of marketing opportunities for your livestock from our Thainstone and Caithness Centres.

Weekly Auction Sales of Store, Prime and OTM Cattle, Store, Prime and Breeding Sheep and Cast Ewes, Electronic Sales of Fodder  
Special Sales of Weaned and Suckled Calves, Breeding Cattle and Pedigree Sheep

Saturday 4th May from 10.00 am  
Special Spring Sales of Rare and Minority Breeds of Cattle, Horses, Pigs and Sheep, Poultry, Waterfowl, Hatching Eggs and Poultry Equipment  
Comprising 1 Longhorn Cow with calf, 50 Pigs, 300 Sheep incl Zwartble, Shetland, Jacob, Welsh Mountain, Hebridean, Dorset, Lincoln, Longwood, Hampshire, Bluefaced Leicester, Ryeland, Badgerface and Herdwick, 5 Goats, 400 Cages of Poultry and Waterfowl, 150 lots of Hatching Eggs and Poultry Equipment as forward.

Horses, Ponies and Tack  
Implements and Hand Tools from a Bygone Era  
Website : www.anmgroup.co.uk

Follow us on facebook  
www.facebook.com/obantimes

**ARGYLL AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS**  
OBAN

**Powermondial 120cw loader**  
Powerfarm 100  
One Series 35 Compact Tractor

**Ranger Diesel for Demo**  
400 Side x Side  
Sportsman 500 Forest ATV

**Bellima 130 Round Baler**  
AM243CV 8FT Mower Conditioner

**TB016 Cab Mini Excavator**

- Einbock 5 Metre Grassmanager Harrows
- McHale Bale Handlers
- Fleming Rollers, Aerators, Handlers and Toppers, Bale Handlers
- Teagle Fertiliser Spreaders

TEL: 01631 565 011, M: 07831 609 128  
info@argyllagricultural.co.uk

# West Coast property service

www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk

TELEPHONE: 01586 552345  
MOBILE: 07521 950 895

**KINTYRE PROPERTY CO.**  
SALES & LETTING AGENTS  
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

6 MAIN STREET  
CAMBELTOWN  
ARGYLL  
PA28 6AG

**103 Davaar Avenue**  
Campbeltown

Two storey end terrace villa, three bedrooms, lounge, bathroom, kitchen, large garden.

**Offers over £65,000**

**MacPhee & Partners**

**FOR SALE: TURNSTONE, POLVINISTER ROAD, OBAN**

- DETACHED DWELLINGHOUSE
- REQUIRES UPGRADING & RENOVATION
- SOUGHT-AFTER RESIDENTIAL LOCATION
- CLOSE TO LOCAL AMENITIES
- VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION
- DOUBLE GLAZING & HEATING
- DRIVEWAY & INTEGRAL GARAGE
- GARDEN
- EPC RATING: C 75

Offers in the region of: £185,000

Tel: 01631 565251  
Fax: 01631 565434  
property@macphee.co.uk

MacPhee & Partners  
8 George Street, Oban PA34 5SB  
www.macphee.co.uk

**John Clegg & Co**

**SOUTH INVERNEILL**  
Near Lochgilphead, Argyll  
17.9 Hectares/44.2 Acres

An extensive woodland site with outline planning approval for two houses. Stunning views over Loch Fyne and beyond. Sporting rights included.

**FREEHOLD FOR SALE AS A WHOLE**

**Offers Over £95,000**

2 Rutland Square, Edinburgh, EH1 2AS  
Telephone: 0131 229 8800 Fax: 0131 229 4827

**FOR SALE**

**Three bedroom detached house with large enclosed garden at the Sound of Kintyre, 4 miles from Campbeltown.**

For further information contact 07733603138.

West Coast property service

**M C & D Mactaggart**  
Solicitors  
KINTYRE ESTATE AGENCY

**3 Knocknaha, Campbeltown**  
Stone built terraced cottage in good decorative order with lovely views over fields and hills situated approximately four miles from Campbeltown on bus route to Southend.

- Porch
- Livingroom
- Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom

Offers in the region of £76,000

Castlehill, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6AR  
Telephone (01586) 552317 Fax (01586) 554719  
(24-Hour Answering Service)

57 Lochmell Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8JN  
Telephone (01546) 602581  
E-mail: mail@cdm-law.co.uk

**TO LET**

**39 Easdale Island**  
2 or 1 bedroom detached cottage. Furnished or unfurnished. £400 or £350 pm  
Email: no39easdale@gmail.com or phone 01620830261 (evenings)

**OFFICES**  
To Let - Town Centre  
Well appointed self-contained Office Suite (3 rooms, kitchen and toilet)  
Serviced 2-person Office Room (shared facilities) also available  
Tel: 07979497967

**TO LET ONE BEDROOM FLAT**, central Oban, fully furnished, no dss, £475 pcm + bills.  
Telephone 07786378672

**RISTOL ESTATES**  
Telephone: 01786 465 782  
E-mail: Info@ristolestates.com

**Bridge Cottage, Tayinloan, PA29 6XG**

A traditional semi-detached cottage with three bedrooms located in the village of Tayinloan. In need of complete refurbishment but offers excellent potential. EPC: E

**Guide Price: £70,000**

Touch Estate, Cambusbarron, Stirling, FK8 3AQ  
www.ristolestates.com

**Glendale, Dell Road, Campbeltown.**

An extremely spacious two storey maisonette within a traditional recently refurbished stone building. 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Sitting room, Kitchen / Family Room, Patio / Garden. The property retains many original features including decorative corning and open fireplace.

**Guide Price : £115,000 (Home report valuation £120,000).**

Contact : Fiona - 01586 552811.

West Coast property service

**Property Photography**

Make your property stand out in a crowded market place, 35 years experience capturing images that help to sell houses.

**Dennis Hardley Photography**

Telephone 01631 720434  
scotphoto.com/commercial

**Production resumes at distillery**

WHISKY lovers have been breathing a sigh of relief as production at the Isle of Mull's only distillery resumed last week.

Tobermory Distillery had stopped making the water of life after the level of its loch fell below acceptable levels. Production will now be ramped up at the Burn Stewart owned distillery to make up the shortfall from the four week sporadic suspension.

John Alden, head of marketing for Burn Stewart, said: 'Production of Tobermory restarted on Monday following temporary suspension last week due to a water shortage on Mull.'

'The water for our single malt comes from a small private loch on the island. Over the last three weeks we have seen the water dip to such an extent that we temporarily halted production to preserve the quality and consistency of our whisky.'

'After some much needed rainfall, water in the loch has been replenished to the required level, allowing us to restart production.'

# Spotlight ON Mull

## Island photographer goes solo



Sam Jones: launching first solo exhibition.

AN ISLAND photographer is launching her first solo exhibition using the light in her adopted homeland as the inspiration for her work.

Sam Jones, an award-winning photographer who has lived on Mull since 1998, will be showing off her photos at An Tobar in Tobermory as part of her *Possession* exhibition from May 2 until June 28, which will give Sam the chance to display her landscape photography work in black and white.

Now Sam, who also runs Islandscape Photography as well as volunteering as a press officer for the RNLI, is excited but nervous about the grand opening. She said: 'I've had photos in the Royal Photographic Society international projected image exhibition in 2011 and 2012 and things with the lifeboat but this is my first time on my own.'

'It's very exciting but quite nerve-wracking as it is just my work and I don't know how people are going to react. All the images are of Mull and they are all black and white. It is quite a personal exhibition, I really enjoy working in black and white. This is the closest I have come to expressing

my photographic vision and my connection with Mull as all the images were taken in places I go to time and again - places I feel really passionate about in my adopted home.'

Sam's exhibition will be accompanied by a book, available in both hardback and electronic versions, as well as a workshop to be held in An Tobar.

*Possession* is supported by arts organisation Comar, Holiday Mull and Iona and the Mishnish in Tobermory's Main Street.

A J MacLeod is the Mishnish manager and a former Royal Marine who went on to become part of the Royal Navy Photographic Branch. He said: 'I'm delighted to be supporting this exhibition, Sam's work has some stunning imagery. This isn't normally something a pub would support but I thought it would be nice to do something out of the ordinary - especially with my interest in photography.'

You can see more of Sam's work at [www.westcoastlight.co.uk](http://www.westcoastlight.co.uk) and for details of her workshops visit [www.islandscapephotography.co.uk](http://www.islandscapephotography.co.uk).

## Glengorm Castle transformed into nature haven

ONE OF Mull's best known castles is being turned into a haven for those interested in watching and learning about wildlife.

Glengorm Castle, near Tobermory, is setting up a wildlife tourism and conservation project and has a newly appointed wildlife steward for the estate.

Stephanie Cope has already launched a new programme of guided wildlife walks, events and workshops.

She said: 'Our workshops enable people to engage with nature through both practical and creative means. Glengorm has an established connection with the arts, and this has been embraced by the Wildlife Project.'

'We are also in the process of setting up a new interpretation centre on site, designed to enthuse and educate our guests about Glengorm's natural heritage.'

'This building focuses on Mull's terrestrial life, and

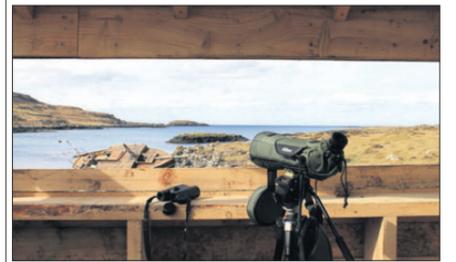
nicely compliments the Harbour visitor centre in Tobermory.'

The Nature Lab, funded by Glengorm Estate, Holiday Mull and Iona, and SCORE Environment, will be complemented by a Nature Pod which allows visitors to stay out of sight while watching wildlife.

Stephanie added: 'Visits to this facility are included in some of our guided walks with the intention that guests can enjoy our wildlife in a comfortable and responsible manner. It has been constructed by estate staff, using timber sourced from our own forests.'

'Alongside our people engagement and tourism activities, we also aim to improve the management of Glengorm for wildlife and hope to promote the conservation of the many species present on the estate.'

Once the project becomes established Stephanie hopes to add educational elements and encourage visits from school and community groups.



The Nature Pod allows visitors to stay out of sight while keeping an eye on the wildlife.

What's the story in Tobermory??  
Wouldn't you like to know.....

**the mishdish**  
restaurant with rooms



New summer menu with sumptuous local seafood and many new dishes.

Why not book our lovely comfortable rooms with uninterrupted sea views. **THE place to be.....**

Tel: 01688 302500 Email: [eat@mishdish.co.uk](mailto:eat@mishdish.co.uk)

[www.mishdish.co.uk](http://www.mishdish.co.uk)

Mishdish Restaurant and Rooms - Main Street - Tobermory

**COMING SOON**

To book your advertising space call Mairi Auld on 01631 568000

## Loch Scridain fish farm plan rejected

PLANS to construct a fish farm in a loch on the Isle of Mull have been refused by a Scottish Government reporter.

The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) had applied for planning permission to construct a 14-cage salmon farm in Loch Scridain but were refused by Argyll and Bute Council last November.

SSC appealed that decision and brokered a deal with local fisherman to stop them objecting but their efforts were in vain.

Reporter Douglas Hope turned

down the appeal last week following a site visit earlier this month. He cited 'the effect on the natural environment and on the character of the landscape/seascape of the surrounding area' as reasons for the rejection.

Stewart McLelland, Chief Executive Officer of The Scottish Salmon Company said: 'We are naturally disappointed but respect the decision of the reporter.'

Fiona Brown, a Pennyghael resident and member of Mull Community Council, had objected to the plans.

She said: 'The whole community of the Loch Scridain area are delighted that this has been turned down and we thank Argyll and Bute Council very much for supporting us in this. Without their refusal in the first place and their ongoing support we wouldn't have won.'

'It is an enormous sense of relief that this has been turned down and we are so grateful.'

'There are so many areas fighting the same thing, now they see we have managed to win they might fight even harder.'

## Trust commissions new Saint Columba book

A NEW book has been commissioned by Iona Cathedral Trust to celebrate the arrival of Saint Columba to the shores of Scotland 1,450 years ago.

*Columba's Iona - A New History*, written by Rosalind K Marshall, will feature in events on the island to mark the anniversary between May 18 to 24.

The author, a historian, has used a wide variety of sources and has taken into account the results of the most recent historical and archaeological research.

She also charts the many developments on Iona, investigating why it has such an enduring influence on people - attracting thousands of visitors every year.

## Community trust looks to boost island training opportunities

NEW TRAINING opportunities are to be made available for residents and businesses on the Isle of Mull.

Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) are running a consultation to find out exactly what training and development needs there are on the island. Research should be complete by the end of July.

Sián Scott, project manager, said: 'This exciting new project

is in response to various research highlighting the lack of access to training on our islands.'

'For most people, training involves significant travel time and expense to the mainland and as a result skills improvement is often not possible.'

'However, for islanders to take advantage of new employment and business opportunities and to help ensure a thriving local economy into the future, local

skill development is essential.' The project follows a series of successful business courses organised by MICT and run in the new, purpose-built training suite at An Roth, Craignure.

Sián added: 'The recent business and crofting courses, both over-subscribed, prove the need for more local training.'

'So to make sure the right opportunities are provided we need you to help identify what

other courses are required.' Consultants will be conducting interviews and focus groups to establish the training needs of islanders. Online and paper questionnaires will also be used as part of the consultation process.

If you would like to be involved in this important project, or want further information, please contact Sián on 01680 812904 or [scott@mict.co.uk](mailto:scott@mict.co.uk).

## RECRUITMENT

**COOK/ DECKHAND**

**Kylebhan Charters**

Required for a charter vessel.  
Catering for small groups.  
Operational area from Oban

Please apply in writing to PO Box 89,  
Oban Times, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

**KNOX MARINE** **Position of Deck Hand**

Knox Marine (a division of W & J Knox Ltd), wish to recruit a suitably experienced deckhand, to assist the crew onboard its 24m commercial workboat. The vessel will be based near Oban, Argyll but will undertake duties anywhere around the coast of the UK so candidates should be prepared to be flexible in their working hours.

The role will involve all aspects of assisting with mooring work, net changing, towage and all projects that the vessel undertakes in its role to provide a service to the Aquaculture Industry and candidates should be practical and willing to learn and adapt to new skills.

This position would suit a young person wanting to start off in this industry and ideally the candidate will have already gained the basic STCW 95 certification requirements (or RYA equivalent) although help with this may be provided. (First aid, Sea Survival, Fire fighting, VHF etc).

The role of a deckhand is a vital position that works closely with the Skipper and other crew to ensure the safety of the vessel, the passengers and the crew on board a commercial vessel, it is also the starting point for career progression to becoming a commercial skipper.

If you feel that you have the experience and commitment to apply for this position then please apply in writing enclosing an up to date CV including details of at least two referees and copies of any marine related certificates to: Dave Hutchens, Marine Director - W & J Knox Ltd, PO Box 1, Kilmorie, Ayrshire, KA25 7GY. Closing date for applications is Friday 10th May 2013

**Stockman**

Our client is looking for a responsible stockman for their farming and sporting estate near Dalmailly in Argyll.

**Duties to include:**

- Care of 25 Highland Cow fold and 300 Black Face Sheep flock.
- General estate work & maintenance and assistance with sporting activities.

House with 3 Bedrooms. Experience with livestock and farm machinery is essential.

For information/application pack call Donald MacKinnon on 01631 563093 or send your CV to SAC Consulting, Glencruitten Rd, Oban, PA34 4DW or email your details to [donald.mackinnon@sac.co.uk](mailto:donald.mackinnon@sac.co.uk)

Closing date for applications 17 May 2013

**Ambitious for Scotland**

Operating across half of Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise is one of Europe's most highly-regarded development agencies. HIE's unique integration of economic and community development is central to its success in generating sustainable economic growth in every part of the Highlands and Islands.

**Account Manager - Strengthening Communities Lochgilphead**

£24,268 per annum Ref: 259

As an Account Manager, you will have a key role in delivering the strengthening communities targets relating to social enterprise and community account management across Argyll and the Islands. This will be a pro-active, client facing role in which you will provide advice, guidance and support for the sustainable economic growth of social enterprises and to facilitate community account management, predominantly in fragile areas.

You will have a keen interest in community development with experience of working with social enterprises, voluntary boards and rural communities and excellent relationship building skills.

Closing date: 12 May 2013.  
Interview date: 31 May 2013.

If you are interested in being considered for this position, please apply online by visiting our website at [www.hie.co.uk](http://www.hie.co.uk) For a hard copy application pack, email: [recruitment@hient.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@hient.co.uk) or call 01463 244 414 quoting the reference number.

[www.hie.co.uk/vacancies](http://www.hie.co.uk/vacancies)

**Scottish Sea Farms**

**Marine Husbandry Vacancy - Oban Area**

Scottish Sea Farms is a leading aquaculture company producing high quality Atlantic salmon for specific UK and international markets. We operate a unique training and personal development programme designed to add to the skills of our staff and enable rapid career progression. The following opportunity exists for enthusiastic, self motivated individuals with a clean UK driving licence.

**Husbandry Staff:**

You'll have at least 2 years fish farming experience and be able to bring relevant skills e.g. boat handling, fish health, moorings, appetite assessment etc. You may be already working with other marine species or within a freshwater environment. Above all you'll be keen to improve your career by taking greater responsibility and being rewarded accordingly. Exceptional inexperienced candidates would also be considered for fast-track progression.

In return, SSF can offer an attractive remuneration package including bonus incentive plan, personal pension support, subsidised gym membership/cycle to work scheme and occupational health support.

Please contact Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email [claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com) to obtain an application pack. Closing date for the position is Friday 10th May 2013.

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**KILMARTIN MUSEUM** **Development Project Manager**

Kilmartin Museum is seeking to appoint a Development Project Manager to take our major re-development project to the next stage. The Manager will work in the key areas of capital fund raising and business development. This is a one year full time project funded contract with the possibility of further extension subject to funding. The salary is in the region of £29,000 per annum.

For more information and an application pack please email [admin@kilmartin.org](mailto:admin@kilmartin.org) or phone Claire on 01546 510 278.

Closing date 03.05.13.  
Some remote working may be considered.

**MEARS**

**Have you ever Considered a Career in Care?**

Mears is one of the leading domiciliary care providers delivering care Services at home to over 20,000 people of all age groups each week.

**We are currently looking to recruit care Workers to join our friendly teams based across Oban and surrounding area.**

- Full time, part time roles available, flexible hours to suit, Shift patterns also available - 7am-3pm/3pm-11pm
- Weekend only positions available
- No experience necessary as full training will be given
- Opportunity to complete your SVQ in Health and Social Care
- Drivers preferred but not essential
- Competitive rates of pay

**We are also looking for an experienced co-ordinator and a Visiting Officer**

**For more information and to apply please contact our Friendly team at our Oban Branch on 01631 572060 (Monday - Friday 9am-5pm)**

**ALIENERGY**

**Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency**

**Affordable Warmth for Sustainable Rural Communities Project (funded by The Big Lottery)**

**Affordable Warmth Advisor: 3 posts**

You will help to tackle fuel poverty in Argyll by providing advice, support, education and mentoring to low income households on fuel budgeting; benefits/schemes and social tariffs and by helping them to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Duties will include offering home advice visits; delivering training to public and voluntary sector groups and recruiting, training and supporting volunteers. Experience of providing advice/support to individuals and knowledge of energy efficiency issues essential.

35 hours per week; job shares and secondments considered; location: flexible within Argyll. These posts will involve extensive travel in the Bute, Mid Argyll/Kintyre and Oban/Lom areas.

Salary: £24,509; contract until May 2018.

Closing date: 5pm on 3rd May; interview date: 15th May.

Further information available on [www.alienergy.org.uk](http://www.alienergy.org.uk) or contact Dr Mandie Currie on 0791 937 3097 or [mandie@alienergy.org.uk](mailto:mandie@alienergy.org.uk)

LOTTERY FUNDED

**SALES REPRESENTATIVE**

**Tithebarn**

Tithebarn Ltd has been manufacturing animal feed supplements at its Cheshire factory since 1935. Due to recent boundary changes we are looking to appoint a sales representative in the well established territory of **North Argyll**. Our products are sold direct to farmers, so therefore knowledge of ruminant livestock is **absolutely essential**. This might have been gained on farm or in a related occupation but you must be able to speak to farmers on their level.

Previous selling experience, whilst useful, is not essential as full training and support will be provided.

We offer a competitive salary, commission, car, pension, BUPA and full business expenses.

**Interested?**

If you feel you have got what it takes to succeed in agricultural sales, please apply in writing to: Mrs. Julie Thomas, Tithebarn Ltd, Road Five, Industrial Estate, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 3PG, or for an informal chat contact John Dalziel on 07977 987270.

**Closing date for applications: 3rd May.**

# Business

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan

sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568021

## Energy industry employs more than 15,000

MORE than 15,000 people are employed in the energy industry in the Highlands and Islands, according to development agency Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The figure emerged from a new interactive map, launched by HIE this week, displaying employment figures in the region's energy sector.

The jobs map, managed by HIE in partnership with the wider industry, went live on the HIE-energysite on Monday and includes employment within approximately 130 energy-related businesses working in renewables, oil and gas and nuclear decommissioning.

The launch coincided with a National Renewables Advisory Group summit in Inverness, chaired by energy minister Fergus Ewing. Mr Ewing said: 'Scotland is a world leader in the energy sector and the Highlands and Islands are leading the way with a strong workforce.'

'The Highlands and Islands is making, and will continue to make a major contribution in delivering Scotland's energy potential.'

'The expertise, energy infrastructure, and vast renewable energy potential available in the area has secured thousands of jobs and will continue to see the benefit from our significant energy resources.'

'I welcome therefore this interactive map which will help document the range and scale of activity across the energy sector.' Calum Davidson, HIE's director for energy and low carbon, said the map would be 'a stepping stone' towards documenting all energy activity within the region.

He said: 'While we estimate that there are currently over 15,000 employed in the sector, we believe the real figure is higher still.'

'It is important to capture this information to demonstrate what Scotland is currently achieving within the sector and to show how this industry is significantly contributing to the economic growth of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.'

He added: 'The [region] has a growing reputation as the energy power house of Europe. Its strong legacy in the oil and gas industry and abundance of renewable energy resources, coupled with excellent infrastructure and a skilled workforce means the region is ideally placed to be at the fore of the energy industry.' The 15,000 figure includes over 5,000 oil and gas employees in the North Sea and another 2,000 direct and contracted staff working on transmission and distribution upgrades for Scottish and Southern Energy in the region. Also detailed on the map are planned and operational offshore wind, wave, tidal and demonstration projects around Scottish waters.

## Fort biomass firm expands into England

A FORT William biomass heating firm is set to expand its reach over the Border after signing a deal with a north Yorkshire company.

And the new partnership agreement between Torlundy-based HWEnergy and Pennine Biomass Ltd could see the Lochaber enterprise capture a significant slice of the northern English market.

Working together, the companies will design, build and operate biomass heating systems for non-domestic buildings and properties as well as providing wood fuel, servicing and maintenance.

Bruno Berardelli, managing director of HWEnergy, has set an initial target of £1.5million in sales for 2013.

He said: 'This is a really exciting partnership which has the potential to offer significant benefits to both businesses.'

'HWEnergy's established track record of 200 complex projects complete, combined with the locality of Pennine Biomass'



HWEnergy boss Bruno Berardelli: English deal.

'With rising fossil fuel prices, and the introduction of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), biomass heat is quickly becoming a very attractive option for a wide range of sectors including rural farms and estates, schools, healthcare facilities and public sector buildings - especially those not on the gas grid and reliant on expensive oil.'

Edward Milbank, director at Pennine Biomass, said demand for biomass heating solutions in northern England has grown rapidly in the last 18 months.

He said: 'It was important that we found a partner that was able to support us in offering a whole package biomass heat solution and with HWEnergy's experience as one of the oldest non-domestic biomass heat providers in the UK they were the natural choice. Together we have the experience, and technical and engineering resources to provide a turnkey biomass solution across the north of England.'

## Dive in and help marine scientists



Bottlenose dolphins in Hebridean waters.



HWDT's research yacht Silurian.

## Volunteers sought to aid trust with whale and dolphin research

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to work alongside marine scientists researching the lives of whales, dolphins and porpoises off Scotland's west coast.

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT), based on the Isle of Mull, has announced details of its 2013 surveys which are carried out from the charity's research yacht Silurian between May and September.

The surveys will gather data on the numbers and behaviour of whales, dolphins and porpoises, known collectively as cetaceans, in Hebridean waters.

Research findings will support effective conservation of the creatures and help develop future management plans for cetacean populations.

Olivia Harries, HWDT biodiversity officer, said: 'Given environmental and climate change, action to monitor and conserve Scotland's spectacular

whales, dolphins and porpoises is more important than ever.'

'With 2013 being the Year of Natural Scotland, we're keen for people to take part in our surveys.'

'Volunteers will effectively become marine mammal scientists during their time with us - contributing directly to knowledge and conservation of cetaceans, and with opportunities to develop new skills and to visit some of the most remote and wild parts of the British Isles.'

**Priorities**  
A total of 24 species of whales, dolphins and porpoises have been recorded in the waters off the west coast of Scotland, and many are national and international conservation priorities.

Each survey trip will see up to six volunteers join marine scientists to work onboard Silurian for between seven and 10

days. Volunteers will contribute directly to research work, receive training in scientific techniques and in species identification, and gather comprehensive data through acoustic and visual methods.

Without the participation of volunteers, much of the groundbreaking research carried out over previous years would not have happened.

Volunteer Lars Rumpel said: 'Those 12 days sailing around the Hebrides changed my life. If I could, I would dedicate my whole life to the aid of nature.'

Places on the surveys, which depart from Tobermory on the Isle of Mull, are available for May 17 to 26 and September 16 to 26 and cost between £900 and £1,200.

Income generated supports HWDT's research programme. For more details visit www.hwtd.org.

## Rural cash plan on roadshow agenda

PLANS to provide financial support for rural communities in Scotland are to be discussed at a series of roadshows, kicking off in Portree next Wednesday.

The event at Camanachd Social Club at 7pm will be chaired by Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) manager Billy McKenzie. It comes ahead of a Scottish Government consultation on how to deliver measures to boost rural areas from 2014 to 2020.

Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead said: 'The current SRDP will deliver around £1.2 billion of support to rural Scotland. Unfortunately the budget will be tighter

than previously as the UK Government has not argued strongly enough for a fairer share of funding for Scotland in the CAP reform negotiations. However, we're determined to make sure there will still be excellent opportunities to continue to support economic growth, develop vibrant rural communities and further use Scotland's natural environment and heritage. I would encourage any member of the public with an interest in it to come to the meeting and have their say.'

The SRDP distributes money to eligible projects from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the government.

## RECRUITMENT

**hwenergy**  
the biomass heat specialists  
Celebrating 10 years of making biomass heat work!

**Finance Manager**  
Competitive Salary Package

As a successful business in a growing industry the HWEnergy team continues to expand. In the past 12 months we have doubled the size of our team and as a part of that growth we are now looking for a professional Finance Manager to become a key player in our management team.

The ideal candidate will be a qualified accountant or equivalent with a strong commercial background, preferably having experience in construction, manufacturing or project management. The role also requires strong financial analysis and reporting skills

This varied role will include responsibility for:

- Monthly Management Accounts
- Year end accounts
- Weekly Management reports
- Monitoring cash flow
- Budgeting and Forecasting
- VAT
- Project Costing
- Work in Progress and Stock Control Analysis
- Commercial support for all projects
- Ensuring the financial control environment is maintained

To apply send C.V and covering letter to [craig.sutherland@hwenergy.co.uk](mailto:craig.sutherland@hwenergy.co.uk)

Closing Date for Applications: **Friday 10th May 2013**

**making biomass heat work for you**

**MACLEOD**  
MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

**REQUIRE**  
MATERIAL PROCUREMENT CO-ORDINATOR

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT WILL BE REQUIRED TO NEGOTIATE WITH SUPPLIERS AND LIAISE WITH SITE STAFF; ENSURE DELIVERY TARGETS ARE MET; MAINTAIN AN EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATIVE AND FILING SYSTEM

APPLICATIONS IN WRITING AND/OR CV TO MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LTD KILMORY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LOCHGILPHEAD, PA31 8RR. OR e-mail - [ll@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:ll@mkmacleod.co.uk)

**OBAN 1794**

**Temporary Seasonal Guides - £8.01**

Oban Distillery Visitor Centre, a five star Scottish Tourist Board attraction and the home of Oban Single Malt Whisky, are looking to recruit Temporary Seasonal Guides to carry out tours of the Distillery for visitors.

We are looking to recruit confident individuals who should possess a high standard of communication and customer service skills with the ability to work within a team. You will need to have a flexible approach to hours of work over a seven day working week and some evening work is also integral to this role.

Interested candidates should call 0141 272 8104 and ask for Andrea Verrall of Brightwork Ltd. Interviews will be held locally.

Brightwork Ltd offers the services of an employment agency for permanent work and an employment business for temporary work.

**Gordon & Strathern Ltd**  
**HOME IMPROVEMENT**  
Looking for a New Career?  
We are currently looking for 2 sales agents to work in the Oban, Lochgilphead and Fort William areas

No experience required as full training will be given. In return you can earn 20k + Bonuses in your first year. You must have your own car.

Contact Ronald Gordon  
01631 720074 or 07776402550

**PK SHELLFISH LTD**  
**Live Shellfish Export Merchants**  
Currently recruiting for a committed ADMINISTRATOR

To assist a small team with specific duties that include:

- Transport management administration systems
- SAGE book-keeping & accountancy systems
- Assist in the general administration of the company as required
- Based in our Oban office
- 24 hours per week, Wed - Fri, with flexibility to suit as required
- Basic Salary £20,800 pro rata (based on 40 hours)

Please submit a full CV and covering letter to Paul Knight, Managing Director at [paul@pdkshellfish.com](mailto:paul@pdkshellfish.com) or 2 South Pier, Gallanach Road, Oban PA34 4LS by 10th May.

**Visitor Centre Manager**  
Full time 2 year post Salary: £20,765 - £22,011  
Must be able to work weekends April - end October

This summer SAMS is opening 'The Scottish Ocean Explorer Centre' to inspire visitors to explore the marine environment. Our small visitor and outreach centre aims to demonstrate the relevance of the sea and marine research and to provide a truly outstanding visitor experience.

We are looking for a competent and enthusiastic manager, who shares our vision, to operate the centre and small shop.

**THE JOB**  
You will deliver the operation of the visitor centre and develop it into a popular 'edutainment' attraction. You will manage the staffing, health and safety, security, maintenance, finance and marketing of the centre. During the winter season you will help develop or procure new display components, films and merchandise. You will also have a leadership role in defining the future development of the facility.

**THE PERSON**  
We are looking for a responsible, independent, energetic, proactive and organised person with a management background in a customer-focused sector. You must be comfortable working in a high-tech facility with people from diverse backgrounds. You care about the environment, are positive about science and will be a good ambassador for SAMS.

The post is funded for two years. During that time it is your responsibility to develop a facility that brings in the funding to maintain itself including staff costs.

Interviews will be held at SAMS between 8-10 May and you should ideally be in a position to take up the post early June.

For further information and to apply for this position online, go to: [www.sams.ac.uk](http://www.sams.ac.uk). Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Visitor Centre Manager, (Job Ref. D04/13.AM), The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA or e-mail [recruitment@sams.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@sams.ac.uk)

**Closing date: Friday 3rd May 2013**

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

**Visitor Centre Assistants**  
Fixed term appointment until 31st October (may continue in 2014)  
0910 - 1710 Saturday and Sunday  
0930 - 1730 two days during the working week (flexible)  
Salary: IRO £7.90 per hour

This summer SAMS is opening 'The Scottish Ocean Explorer Centre' to inspire visitors to explore the marine environment. Our small visitor and outreach centre aims to demonstrate the relevance of the sea and marine research and to provide a truly outstanding visitor experience.

To operate the centre, we are looking for competent staff, who share our vision.

We are looking for staff who care about the environment to support the Centre Manager in running the facility and small shop. You will be reliable and organised with experience in a customer-facing role, ideally in tourism or retail. You must be computer literate, and capable of turning your hand to the full range of activities that make up our visitor centre.

Duties include initialising the exhibition system, greeting visitors and guiding them through the use of the facility, managing admissions, ensuring that the displays and facilities are clean and tidy at all times, displaying and selling merchandise, stock taking, and supporting the marketing of the facility e.g. by distributing news via the centre's website, Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Interviews will be held at SAMS between 8-10 May and you should be in a position to take up the post in the week starting 17 June.

For further information and to apply for this position online, go to: [www.sams.ac.uk](http://www.sams.ac.uk). Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Visitor Centre Assistant, (Job Ref. D05/13.AM), The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA or e-mail [recruitment@sams.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@sams.ac.uk)

**Closing date: Friday 3rd May 2013**

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

**The healthiest life possible for the people of Ayrshire & Arran**

**NHS**  
Ayrshire & Arran

Arran War Memorial Hospital, Isle of Arran  
Community Staff Nurse  
Band 5: £21,176 - £27,625 pa

The Isle of Arran, often described as 'Scotland in miniature' is an island some 20 miles long by 10 across, separated from mainland Ayrshire by an hour long ferry crossing from Ardrossan to Brodick, and in summer, by a shorter ferry from the Mull of Kintyre to Lochranza.

Arran's stable population of just over 5,250 increases approximately 3 fold during the summer months. Working as a member of the Community Nursing and wider multidisciplinary/multiagency team you will provide care to this diverse patient population.

Nursing care in the community is provided over a wide geographical area by our nursing team working flexibly throughout an extended day including weekend work and On-Call. Local patient care services are provided by a wide range of clinicians from both Primary and Secondary care settings including one General Practice and a local community hospital. Specialist links exist between clinicians and Care of the Elderly specialists.

As a first level registered nurse you will be able to provide evidence of work experience in a variety of secondary care settings with further experience gained in a Community Nursing or Care of the Elderly setting.

A car owner/driver is essential.

Hours: 37.5 per week, including weekend work and On-Call.

Informal enquiries to Vera Ransome, District Nursing Sister, Tel: 01770 600777 between 8.30am - 4.30pm.

For an application form please contact the Department of Q&HRD, 63 Lister Street, Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock, KA2 0BE. Tel: 01563 825736 or email [carol.belli@nhs.uk](mailto:carol.belli@nhs.uk)

Closing date: 17 May 2013.  
PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE NUMBER ON ENQUIRY.

To find out more about NHS Ayrshire and Arran and services visit [www.nhsayrshireandarran.com](http://www.nhsayrshireandarran.com)

**TEMPORARY DISTRIBUTORS REQUIRED**  
TO DELIVER THE BT PHONE BOOK IN DUMBARTON, JAMESTOWN, HELENSBURGH, DUNOON, OBAN, ISLAY, MULL, LOCHGILPHEAD, CAIRNDOW, CAMBELTOWN AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

GOOD RATES OF PAY AND FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS  
YOU WILL NEED A CAR TO TRANSPORT YOUR DIRECTORIES

**CALL 0844 742 1333**  
[www.thomsondirectories.com/distribution](http://www.thomsondirectories.com/distribution)  
Text BTLOMONDN to 07786 208008

**J.M. BRECKENRIDGE**

**TELESALES/ ADMIN ASSISTANT**  
Full Time hours, Mon-Sat  
Good rates of pay and full training for the right candidate

For more information contact  
**J M Breckenridge on 01631 563711**

**The Oban Times**  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**Advertising Sales Executive**  
BASED IN OBAN

£ Excellent Basic + £ Bonus + Private Health Care + Pension + Good Holidays

Based in our Oban office the successful applicant will be part of a small team selling advertising and features for our well established, award winning publications.

You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships. The successful applicant will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort.

Please apply by email with full CV and covering letter to: [all@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:all@obantimes.co.uk)

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)



**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](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00356/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 07/01533/DET - Erection of dwellinghouse	Site South of Ardchnonnell Farm Oban Argyll	Oban Area Office
13/00648/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and erection of detached studio/garden room.	Glen Carraig Port Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4DE	Sub Post Office Ledaig
13/00681/PP	Erection of three 5 kilo watt wind turbines (10 metres high to hub height).	Land South West of Community Centre Eraid Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dervaig
13/00712/PP	Erection of detached garage	Plot 7 Land North of Forestry Houses Aros Isle of Mull	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
13/00714/PP	Change of use of land from agricultural to residential garden. Erection of three sheds and a chicken house, installation of a rainwater system comprising of 2 underground storage tanks and associated pipework. Removal of condition 4 (private water supply) relative to planning consent 12/02777/PP	Arnsabot Cottage Isle of Coll Argyll and Bute PA78 6TE	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
13/00764/PP	Alterations and change of use to form sit in area associated with existing hot food takeaway premises.	13 - 15 George Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5RU	Oban Area Office

**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
13/00617/PP	Installation of photovoltaic panels	Carraig Beag Isle of Iona Argyll and Bute PA76 6SP	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
13/00678/PP	Demolition of existing extension and erection of replacement extension	2 Argyll Terrace Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6PB	Tobermory Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00709/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South West of 7 Distillery Houses Caol Ila Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Port Askaig

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.

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (GLENMORE ROAD, ARDCONNELL TERRACE AND ARDCONNELL ROAD, OBAN)(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2013

On Monday 22 April 2013, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to drive, cause, or permit to be driven any vehicle on the lengths of road as described in the Schedule hereto. Exceptions will apply to vehicles associated with the works and emergency services vehicles. Access to affected properties will also be maintained. These restrictions are required to allow resurfacing work to be carried out.

The restrictions imposed by this Order which will be effective when indicated by signs, will come into operation on the dates and times indicated in the Schedule hereto or until the works are completed, whichever may be the earlier.

**SCHEDULE - PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

- a. 0800 hours on Wednesday 1st May 2013 until 1700 hours on Friday 17th May 2013 (0800 hours to 1700 hours daily) Glenmore Road between its junctions with Glenshellach Terrace and Pulpi Drive.  
Diversion route: Via Craignaig-a-Mhinister, Albany Street, Shore Street, Campbell Street and Glenshellach Terrace.
- b. 0800 hours on Monday 20th May 2013 until 1700 hours on Friday 7th June 2013 (0800 hours to 1700 hours daily) Ardconnell Terrace between its junctions with Rockfield Road and Ardconnell Road.  
Diversion route: Via Rockfield Road and Ardconnell Road.  
Ardconnell Road between its junctions with Rockfield Road and Laurel Road.  
Diversion route: Via Rockfield Road and Ardconnell Terrace

Sandy MacTaggart, Executive Director, 1A Mansie Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD PA31 8RD

**COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES**

**Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W.4 Oban South and the Isles)**  
Councillor Roddy McCuish will be holding a council surgery in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban on Friday 3rd May 2013 from 3.00pm - 5.00pm.  
Councillor McCuish can also be contacted by e-mail - [roderick.mcuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:roderick.mcuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Councillor Louise Glen-Lee (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)**  
Councillor Glen-Lee will NOT be holding a surgery during the month of May  
Councillor Glen-Lee can be contacted by phone - Tel: 01631 567 955 or by email - [louise.glen-lee@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:louise.glen-lee@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://www.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/00578/FUL	Land 100m South of Bayview, Cleadale, Isle of Eigg	Erection of house
13/01066/FUL	Land North of 1 Burnbank Acharacle	Removal of two residential caravans and timber shed and erection of house (renewal of 10/01664/FUL)
13/01172/FUL	104 High Street Fort William	Proposal for pavement cafe
13/01287/FUL	Plot 6, Bohemie Road Development Roy Bridge	Erection of house and garage (renewal of 10/02503/MSC)
13/01294/FUL	Allt Na H-Airigh Land 170m West of Sunart House, Ardgour, Fort William	Installation of hydro-electric scheme (amended scheme to 12/01959/FUL)
13/01311/FUL	Plot 2 West of Garmore Morar, Mallaig	Erection of house (amended design to 05/00270/FULLC)
13/01374/FUL	Achdaleiu Cottage Achdaleiu, Fort William	Extension to house
13/01391/FUL	House Plot Number 15 Moss, Acharacle	Erection of house and garage

Time period for comments is 14 days.  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 Private Mooring: Seil Sound, Argyll**

Notice is hereby given that Mr David Ainsley has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of a private mooring at: 56 18.402N 05 35.317W (WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Oban Library, 77 Albany St, PA34 4AL. 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.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk), quoting reference: FKB/J222

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**  
**Slipway Reinstatement Works:**  
**Ardsheal House, Ballachulish**

Notice is hereby given that Mr I Mcintosh has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of slipway reinstatement works at: **Ardsheal House, Ballachulish**

Cost	£20,000	
Description	Latitude	Longitude
Location	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
	56° 40.1597' N	05° 16.1862' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Bidwells, Carn Dearg House, North Road, Fort William, PH33 6PP

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.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk), quoting reference: FKB/A1408

**CROFTING COMMISSION COMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION**

Applicant: Mr W A MacLean and Mr J B Kemp Croft

1 Heilyoil, Tiree

Extent/Purpose: 0.149 ha - Existing house site and Amenity ground

Case number: 4.86.43375

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 or [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

**Sheila Loach is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the Croft at Duich Moor, Port Ellen Isle of Islay to Craig McCuaig of Allwyns, Glenegadale Lotts, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, PA42 7DD**

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (email [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)) within 28 days from the publication of this advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments will also be released under a freedom of information enquiry.

**CROFTING COMMISSION COMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD PUBLIC HEARING**

A Public Hearing will be held by the Crofting Commission into the application by Mr & Mrs D A MacGillivray to decroft part of the croft at 37 North Ballachulish, Kilmallie extending to 1.3 Ha.

The Hearing will take place in the Ballachulish Village Hall, Ballachulish on Monday, 13 May 2013 at 7pm and anyone interested may attend. A statement of the facts and relevant issues may be obtained by writing to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW by 7 May 2013 quoting the reference number case number: 4.86.30323

**AGMs**  
Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mór and Taic Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mór  
Saturday 25th May 2013  
from 12 noon,  
Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre.  
[www.lismoregaelicheritagecentre.org](http://www.lismoregaelicheritagecentre.org)

**Visit us online**



**click**

**VISIT US AT**  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)



**50% OFF EVERY WEEK!**

**Get your copy from 6am on publication day**

**Receive and read your newspaper wherever you are!**

**Delivered straight to your inbox - never miss an issue**

go to [www.obantimes.co.uk/digital](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/digital) and download a digital edition of your newspaper now

**Follow us on facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/obantimes](http://www.facebook.com/obantimes)

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

**MOTORS AND DRIVE TIMES**

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011**

**APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION**  
**RUBH'AN TRILLEACHAIN MARINE CAGE FISH FARM, SHUNA SOUND**

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Kames Fish Farming Limited for authorisation to carry on a controlled activity at, near or in connection with a proposed new marine cage fish farm on the Shuna Sound, namely:

Description of controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Discharge of effluent from marine cage farming of atlantic salmon and/or trout with a maximum weight of fish held at any time of 2500 tonnes including residues arising from medicines and sea lice treatments.	Shuna Sound	NM7563 0742

SEPA considers that the above controlled activity may have an impact on the water environment and the interests of other water users.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) and by prior arrangement at 2 Smithy Lane, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8TA. Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: [www.sepa.org.uk/water/water\\_regulation/advertised\\_applications.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/water_regulation/advertised_applications.aspx)

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1109280

**Registry Department, SEPA Dingwall Office, Grassier House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB**

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact in 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 the application.

**2006 MITSUBISHI CANTER: 3C13**



Curtain-sider van. 115,000 miles, taxed until end Sept. Dealer-fitted new engine at 100,000 miles. Less than 5m, economic for travel on Calmac ferries. Curtain sides could be replaced with solid sides, or alternative curtains.

Call Joe, 01688 302223, or 07766 241505 for more info

**£5,000 o.n.o.**

**MAZDA BONGO 1996.**



Elevating roof, 7 seater, towing gear, 6 month tax and MoT. 111k mileage.

Tel: 07540 404430

**£5,000 o.n.o.**

**VOLKSWAGEN GOLF**

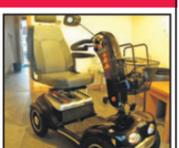


1.6 Cabrio. Excellent Condition Must Be Seen

Tel: 01583 421324 or 07450726773

**£1,295 o.n.o.**

**MOBILITY SCOOTER**



Sterling Diamond Mobility Scooter. V.G.C. Will deliver within reason

Telephone Neil: 01631 563979 / 07789286828

**£800 o.n.o.**

**SEAT IBIZA 1.9TDI SPORT**



1 owner, 1st Reg 13.04.06, Mot 28.02.14, Tax 31.07.13, F54, 87k, 100bhp, 58mpg. Just serviced, recent brakes & tyres. Quick, economical and dependable car.

Telephone: 07766 918 810 or 01631 770384 (Kilmore)

**£2,500**

**2011 PIT BIKE**



EXCELLENT CONDITION LIFAN 125cc 4spd man.

Tel: 01770 700743

**£400**

**HYUNDAI I10**



April 2011, 3 year of Hyundai warranty remaining, 11,000 miles Full service history. Tax £20 per year. Currently Taxed till 04/14

Telephone: 07760446391

**£5,350 o.n.o.**

**ORKNEY FASTLINER 19**



50 horsepower Honda engine and brand new De Graaf break back roller coaster style trailer. Just serviced by Andy Jackson

Telephone: 01967 402226 Email: [sukie@bluebellcroft.co.uk](mailto:sukie@bluebellcroft.co.uk)

**£5,750 o.n.o.**

**WANTED**

**REIDS**  
Wanted Sports cars, cars, motorhomes, commercials, instant payment.

Telephone 01463 898693 or 07754653608 or 01224 543314 or 0845 6007668

**WANTED**

All types of motor homes & caravans. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

Telephone : 01250 884306 or mobile: 07885 203020

**VOLVO XC70 2.4 D5 SE LUX 185 BHP**



March 2006, 6 Speed Manual, 54,000 Miles Fsh, Good Condition, Tax Aug 13, Mot Mar 14

Tel: 07768 790396

**£8,000 o.n.o.**

**12' 6" GRP DINGHY**



With oars, rowlocks, road trailer and 5hp Yamaha 2 stroke outboard, all in good condition

Telephone 01631 720414 or 07775501658.

**£1,399 o.n.o.**

**CABIN CRUISER**

Myra Plast 21ft cabin cruiser, Bukh 20HP diesel engine, 12 volt electrics, GPS, VHF, fish finder, 2 berth with toilet and cooker, Navigation lights and many extras. Moored at Mallaig. Road trailer negotiable.

Telephone: 01687 460386

**£5,500**

**69%**  
of the business community read the regional press



Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

# MOTORS AND DRIVE TIMES

**WANTED**

All types of light commercial vans, pickups, etc. We also buy rough or high mileage, non-runners considered. Also all types of 4x4 vehicles, land rover, Toyota, etc...

Telephone : 01250 884306 or mobile: 07885 203020

**WANTED**

Touring Caravan or Motor Home, Camper Van, Caravanette etc.

Will travel

Tel: 07864035750

**ORKNEY 520 FISHING BOAT**

First registered 2003. Lightly used. Well equipped and regularly maintained. Cockpit covers, comprehensive electronics - radio, GPS, Fish Finder etc. Road trailer, Outboard engines - Mariner 30 HP, and Mariner 3 HP

Tel: 01852 300577 (after 6.00 pm)

**£9,500 o.n.o.**

**HYUNDAI I30**



59 Plate, M.O.T & Road Tax to October 2013, 1 Owner, Full Service History, Manufacturers Warranty Till October 2014

Telephone: 01546 600444

**£4,950**

**VW LT35 EXTRA LONG WHEEL BASE VAN**



131,000 miles, taxed and MOT, new clutch, brakes, tyres, exhaust. Just serviced, reversing camera, towbar included.

Telephone: 07788855764

**£2,700**

**FORD TRANSIT**

Long wheel base, 04 plate, High road, 71,000 miles, Taxed 31/5, 11 Months MOT

Telephone: 07733316424

**£2,000 o.n.o.**

**WANTED**

Any 4x4 vehicle Landrover 90 or 110, Mitsubishi, Toyota etc, any 4x4 considered, any condition.

Telephone: 07864035750

**MITSUBISHI L200**



Double cab 4 work, (54 reg), 97,000 miles. Tax/MOT to August. SJS pro canopy with sliding windows, witter towbar. Light work, good condition, regularly serviced, 2 owners.

Tel: 0750 390 8836 (Tayvallich)

**£3,800 No VAT**

**VW GOLF SE**



1.6 Petrol, '03 reg, 4 good tyres, 12 months MOT, Full electric pack, cruise control, all new brakes and callipers, very good on fuel, very dependable, good condition, good to drive, service history.

Telephone: 07928 888128

**£1,450 o.n.o.**

**FORD TRANSIT**

Short Wheel base, 4 Seater Mid roof conversion, 09 plate, 46,000 miles, MOT 24/4, Taxed 30/9

Telephone: 07733316424

**£5,900 o.n.o.**

**MOTORING CLASSIFIEDS**

**Gunns Garage**  
Tyneribbie, Appin PA38 4DB

For all your servicing and mechanical needs. Contact us on 01631 730279

**LJC HAULAGE RECOVERY**

24hour call out  
7 days a week  
365 days a year  
Baxters Industrial Estate  
Muir Of Ord

Tel: 01463 871488 Mobile: 07748 032200

**energy saving trust**

save money on every journey you make

You could be saving up to 20p off every litre of fuel you buy.

Join thousands of other people saving money on fuel by calling your local Energy Saving Scotland advice centre today on 0800 512 012.

**save**

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

**FORD TRANSIT**

07 plate, Low road, 69,000 miles, Taxed 31/7, MOT 26/11

Telephone: 07733316424

**£4,200 o.n.o.**

**RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIC S**

55 plate, MOT January 2014, taxed end June, 60,000 miles, alloy wheels, very clean car

Telephone 07760400153

**£2,700**

**WANTED**

Scrap cars wanted, cash paid.

Telephone : 01389 721278 or mobile: 07557109385

**E.M. COMMERCIALS LTD**

10 NISSAN NAVARA ACCENTA Double cab pickup, Cruise Control, Epac, Alloy, Side Steps, Met Grey, 20k miles..... £10,750
10 MITSUBISHI L200 Animal Double cab pickup, Long bed, Auto, Sat Nav, DVD, 70k, Leather, Met Blue 50k miles..... £13,750
10 MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR Double Cab Pickup, Manual, Leather, Cruise, Epac, Met Silver..... £13,450
10 MITSUBISHI L200 RAGING BULL Double cab pickup, Auto, Canopy, Leather, Alloy, Met Grey 45k miles..... £13,450
59 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior Double cab pickup, Auto, Leather, Cruise Control, Alloy, Met Blue, 30k miles..... £12,750
59 MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR Double cab pickup, Manual, Canopy, Leather, Alloy, Met Grey, 70k miles..... £10,950
59 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior Double cab pickup, Alloy, Side Steps, Roller Shutter, Black, 50k miles..... £10,750
58 MITSUBISHI L200 4WORK Double cab pickup, Manual, CD player, Tow bar, Met Green, 20k miles..... £8,750
08 MITSUBISHI L200 4 WORK, Single Cab Pickup, 4WD, Truckman canopy, cd player, towbar, red..... £9,950
07 MITSUBISHI L200 4.0Lc, Single Cab pickup, 4WD, White, 30k..... £7,950
06 Mitsubishi L200 4work double cab pickup, manual, Met Williams canopy, Black..... £4,950
60 NISSAN NAVARA TERENA Double cab pickup, Manual, Heated leather, Sat Nav, 30k miles..... £13,450
58 Nissan Navara Outback dbe cab pickup, manual, alloy cover, epac, alloy, black..... £9,950
57 Nissan Navara Frontier 6c pickup, auto leather, sat nav, 6 speed, Canopy, black..... £9,950
09 FORD TRANSIT 350, Crew cab Super, Epac, Towbar, White..... £7,450
58 FORD TRANSIT 350, 115hp, Crew cab, Alloy drop side, 6 speed, E-pack, CD, Black, 75k miles..... £7,950
08 FORD TRANSIT 350, 15 seater minibus, Epac, Heated Screen, Front Fog, White, 51k miles..... £9,750
08 FORD TRANSIT 350 Double Cab, Alloy Oraside Tigger, tow bar, Blue 50k miles..... £8,950
08 FORD TRANSIT 350, 115HP Alloy Drop Side Pickup, Fitted Maxill 160 HAAB, Rear Roller Shutter Tool box, White..... £9,950
08 FORD TRANSIT 350, Single cab Alloy Drop Side Pickup, Fitted Maxill 160 HAAB, White..... £8,950
57 FORD RANGER Super cab pickup, 4WD, Manual E-pack, CD player, Black, 25k miles..... £9,450
07 Ford Ranger double cab pickup, manual, high top truckman canopy, epack, met silver, choice..... £9,450
08 Landrover Discovery 3 TDV6 auto commercial, cruise control, air con, met green..... £12,950
60 VAUXHALL ASTRA Van 1.4 VTL, Manual, E-pack, CD player, Met Silver, 60k miles..... £5,750
08 VAUXHALL COMBO CDTA VAN, side door, silver, 50,000..... £4,250
08 ISUZU NAR 3.1 DIE, 3DR, FLAT BED, Twin Wheels, 3000 kg, 4.5M long, Epac, White, 50k miles..... £7,950
08 ISUZU RODEO DENVER MAX Pickup, 3.0l, manual, Sat Nav, Alloy, Black..... £5,950
07 VW TRANSPORTER, 4 Motion, LWB, Panel van, 130hp, Semi high top, Twin side doors, 6 speed, White..... £7,950
59 VW TRANSPORTER 4 MOTION, Combi Van 2.5 TDI 150, 4WD, 5 seater, Twin SLD, White..... £9,950
59 VW Caddy CROSS EX LWB High top van, 150 HP, Epac, SLD, White..... £9,450
58 VW Caddy CROSS TDI Crew Cab, Drop Side Pickup, 5000 kg gross, Epac, 118 body, Green, 30k miles..... £9,950
08 VW TRANSPORTER Combi Van 1.9 TDI, 5 seater, Twin SLD, White..... £7,950
57 RENAULT KANGOO DCI 70 VAN SLD Epac Central Locking, White, 60k miles..... £3,950
06 HEDD TSE17 EUROCARRO 7.5 tonne hook loader multi-4t year, 1 drop side body direct council, 60k miles..... £3,950
FORD WILLIAMS 10ft flat bed trailer, 70 axle, 70 wide, Long ramps, Light cone..... £2,250

**EM COMMERCIALS LTD**  
Tel: 01294 954098 or 077696 88110  
Fax: 01294 554560  
www.emcommercials.co.uk

**new car index**

**ISUZU S & S Services**  
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr  
Tel: 01292 880080 / 880440

**S & S SERVICES**  
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr  
Tel: 01292 880080 / 880440

**SUBARU S & S Services**  
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr  
Tel: 01292 880080 / 880440

**W.D. SEMPLE**  
www.wdsemple.com  
Inveraray - Shore Street  
Tel: 01499 302150  
Lochgilhead - Highbank Park  
Tel: 01546 606767 / 01546 606272

**TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000**

**RS used cars CAR FINANCE SPECIALISTS!**

in association with **First Response** **Whatever Your Credit History!**

take care of your finance

Its as easy as... **1** Apply... **2** Approved! **3** Choose from over 70 cars!

If you can tick all 3 boxes, then we can help!

- You are aged 21 or over
- You have a driving licence
- You have a recent pay slip

**CALL RS USED CARS TODAY ON 0141 892 0047 / 07733 888 392**  
**WWW.RSUSED CARS.CO.UK**

**99 BLACKBYRES RD, BARRHEAD, GLASGOW G78 1TN DUNOLLIE ROAD, OBAN, NEXT TO FARMFOODS.**

**Ford**

**FORD KA EDGE 1.2 3DR**

- Stop/Start
- Cd Player with MP3 Connection
- Trip Computer
- £30 Road Fund Licence
- Twin Airbags
- ISOFIX
- LIST PRICE £9,725

OUR PRICE **£7995** PER MONTH

YOU PAY **£7245** AFTER

**£750** Finance deposit allowance

**SAVE £1730** Against List Price

**FORD FIESTA 1.0 125PS TITANIUM 5DR NEW SHAPE**

- Air Conditioning
- CD Player
- Central Locking
- LIST PRICE £17,070
- Hot Magenta
- F/R Parking Sensors

OUR PRICE **£14995** PER MONTH

YOU PAY **£14745** AFTER

**£250** Finance deposit allowance

**SAVE £2325** Against List Price

**FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.0 100PS 5DR**

- CD Player with MP3 Connection
- Trip Computer
- Twin Airbags
- ISOFIX
- LIST PRICE £17,545

OUR PRICE **£15495** PER MONTH

YOU PAY **£13495** AFTER

**£2000** Finance deposit allowance

**SAVE £2050** Against List Price

**FORD B-MAX ZETEC 1.0 100PS 5DR**

- 15" 5-spoke alloy wheels
- Front fog lights
- Chrome window finisher
- DAB digital radio/CD with AUX connection
- Quickclear heated windscreen
- Air conditioning
- LIST PRICE £16,195

OUR PRICE **£13495** PER MONTH

YOU PAY **£12495** AFTER

**£1000** Finance deposit allowance

**SAVE £2700** Against List Price

**Ben Nevis Motors** Fort William | 01397 700110  
view our full list of used cars online at [www.bennevismotors.co.uk](http://www.bennevismotors.co.uk)

**The Best Choice for New & Used Cars in the Highlands**

**ANNUAL & SUMMER BERTHS AVAILABLE. VISIT OUR WELL STOCKED CHANDLERY.**

**CRAOBH MARINA**  
Craobh Haven by Lochgilphead

Tel 01852 500222 [craobhmarina@talk21.com](mailto:craobhmarina@talk21.com)

**CRAOBH marina**

**ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES**

**MODELS FOR SALE** Effe Leyland titan double deck bus in west coast motors livery in original box, can post for £2.60 extra, £21 Telephone 01369 706726.

**MODELS FOR SALE** Corgi Bedford O.B. coach Macbrayne livery, in original box, can post £2.60 extra, £22 Telephone 01369 706726.

**MODELS FOR SALE** G.M. Chevrolet 1955 style pick-up in original box, can post at £2 extra, £10 Telephone 01369 706726.

**BABY EQUIPMENT**

**ACTIVITY CENTRE** sit in, turn round. Jungle theme, as new, buyer collects, £25 Telephone 01546 600330.

**BUSHBABY CHILD BACKPACK** Carrier, includes sun/rain cover, suit 6mths-4years. Integral storage pocket, adjustable straps. Good for everyday or long walks, vgc, £49 Telephone 07715 105816.

**LINDAM BABY BOUNCER** attaches to door, boxed, hardly used at Granny's. Buyer collects, £15 Telephone 01546 600330.

**TRAVEL COT** good condition, £15 Telephone 07715 105816.

**BUILDING / DIY**

**HEAT GUN** Black & Decker, heat gun, removes, paint, adhesives & varnishes, in seconds, on any surface, used once, to strip doors, Oban, buyer uplifts, £20 Telephone 07749 521916.

**SCAFFOLDING** large amount suit self build, £2,750 Telephone 07968 086184 work 01738 639429.

**CAR ACCESSORIES**

**HEAVY DUTY JUMP LEADS** as new, £30 Telephone 07769 553720.

**CARAVAN EQUIPMENT**

**2 HEAVY DUTY EXTENSION CABLES** for caravan to mains etc. Complete with plugs, each approx 60ft, £49 Telephone 07769 553720.

**CAMPING GAZ** 907 BOTTLES one 80% full with regulator. One empty bottle with carrying handle, £40 Telephone 01880 740204.

**DOMESTIC APPLIANCES**

**ELECTROLUX TABLE TOP SILENT** Fridge, ideal for student rooms, small flats, caravans/campers. 240V power supply, fitted 3-Pin UK Plug. Clean & undamaged condition, £49.99 Telephone 07999 680085.

**ESSE SOVEREIGN OIL FIRED RANGE** Model select v 40, 100mm wide, 2x ovens, Brown. Good condition, serviced yearly. Buyer to dismantle and remove, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720586.

**FREEZER** four drawer under counter freezer, £40 Telephone 01586 552787 or 07898 963119.

**FRIDGE** its a great sooper dooper fridge freezer, with amazing shelves, £40 Telephone 01866 822245.

**HOTPOINT AQUARIUS** Condenser Dryer, good condition and in full working order. Buyer collects, £49.99 Telephone 01631 770286.

**KENWOOD CHEF EXCEL MIXER** classic mixer used but good condition. 2 bowls (glass and plastic) and 3 mixer attachments (balloon, K and dough hook), £20 Telephone 01866 822773.

**MATSUI TABLE TOP FRIDGE** ideal for student rooms, small flats, caravans/campers. 240V power supply, fitted 3-Pin UK plug. Good condition, can deliver, £49.99 Telephone 07999 680085.

**MICROWAVE** 800watt oven, in good working order. Oban, buyer collects, reason for sale, upgraded to 1200watt microwave oven, £20 Telephone 07749 521916.

**TRICITY BENDIX TABLE TOP** Freezer, ideal for student rooms, Oban Times PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

**DOMESTIC PETS**

**5 YEAR OLD VISZLA DOG** healthy, vaccinated, not neutered. Great nature and very healthy, looking for new home. Telephone 07917 887330.

**COCKER SPANIEL PUPPIES** for sale, two brown dogs and two black bitches, Killocrow Farm. Telephone 01586 820468 after 6pm.

**FIREARMS**

**SHOTGUNS FOR SALE** Winchester diamond grade, 12 gauge, O/U trap shotgun, 32" barrels, £700. C Batchelor & Co, Dundee, 12 gauge, S/S hammer gun, 30" barrels, £800. Aya Yeoman, 12 gauge, O/U shotgun, 28" barrels, £200. Firearms certificate required. Telephone 01583 431313.

**FIREWOOD**

**FIREWOOD** Hardwood Logs, priced per cubic metre, split and delivered, £75 Telephone 01546 510271.

**FURNITURE**

**PINE DOUBLE BED** 190 cm long x 135 cm wide, includes headboard, very good condition. Buyer collects, £49.99 Telephone 01631 564048.

**SIDEBORD/OFFICE UNIT** Ikea beech, 195 long x 40 wide x 77 high, 4 cupboards with glass shelf in each and opaque glass inset in doors, £30 Telephone 01631 710466.

**SINGLE BED WITH HEADBOARD**

storage underneath, comp mattress, good condition, £30 Telephone 01631 710882.

**TV/MEDIA UNIT** 160 long x 45 wide x 58 high, 2 cupboards with up-and-over doors, 2 drawers, teal colour, £40ono Telephone 01631 710466.

**PETROL LAWNMOWER** Flymo L 47, in running order, £49 Telephone 01586 553804.

**HEALTH AND FITNESS**

**EXERCISE MACHINE** v fit 2 in 1 Cycle/cross trainer MCCT1 2 months old, Cost £130, £80 Telephone 01546 510574.

**HOBBIES AND CRAFTS**

**PEARLISED PAPER & CARD** White, Baby Blue & Baby Pink colours in stock available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

**HOME OFFICE**

**COMPUTER TABLE** good condition, £15 Telephone 01631 563188.

**KITCHEN AND BATHROOM**

**BATHROOM MIRROR** with shelf, large, £10 Telephone 01546 606085.

**BATHROOM RADIATOR/TOWEL RAIL** chrome, 1 metre high x 400 wide, £30 Telephone 07770 623486.

**BATHROOM UNIT** 4 shelves high, white, £15 Telephone 01546 606085.

**CORNER UNIT FOR SHOWER** stick on, 12 inches high, £5 Telephone 01546 606085.

**LARGE CORNER SHOWER UNIT** with base, £49 Telephone 01546 606085.

**TOILET BOWL & CISTERN** pedestal & basin, very pale green, £30 Telephone 01546 606085.

Oban Times PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

**LOST AND FOUND**

**LOST** Ardmore Forest, Isle of Mull, Tuesday April 16, black/white, Springer Spaniel cross Jack Russell, 2 1/2 years old stands approx 24" wearing red collar, name Lucky. Telephone 01688 302133.

**MAIL ORDER**

**SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS**, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

**OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR**, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

**MARINE**

**YAMAHA LONGSHAFT OUTBOARD** in running order. Offers. Telephone 01586 553804.

**MARINE UNDER £250**

**LIFEJACKETS** Kru child/junior auto lifejackets with harness as new, never used. Sturdy bag for protection and storage, £49 Telephone 01631 565560.

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

**ACCORDIONS** refurbished Stella 40 bass accordion ideal for beginner, red, with carry case. Crucianelli 48 bass accordion, black, as new, only played a couple of times, in original packing. Please contact for price and more information. Telephone 07513 911203.

**TANGLEWOOD GUITAR** Old Tanglewood guitar in excellent condition, recently re-strung, hard case included. Contact for more details and price. Telephone 07513 911203.

**OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT**

**CANADIAN CANOES** 2 - 3 man 17ft plastic £400 each, 3 - 2 man 15ft glass fibre £350 each Telephone 01397 772467.

**SEA KAYAKS** 5 - Glass Fibre, £400ono Telephone 01397 772467.

**PRINTING AND STATIONERY**

**LAMINATING** Keep your important documents safe from dust, dirt, tears and creases. A4-E2, A3-E3. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

**PARTY INVITES** Customised to suit any style or occasion, come supplied with envelopes. 50 invites & envelopes for £28.00. From Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

**TICKETS FOR SALE**

**JOURNEY/WHITESNAKE** TICKETS for May 18 in SECC. Journey/Whitesnake & Thunder, seated. Price of each ticket £40. Telephone 01631 564745.

**WANTED**

**PIANO** in fairly good condition, can collect. Telephone 01586 554501 or 07796 507880.

**SCRAP METAL** all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

**WANTED**

**HARDY FISHING TACKLE** Old and Modern Also other makes of old tackle

Please Telephone 01786 823361 Email strathmore-tackle@gmail.com

# LOCAL services

**confectionery**

*Lorissa's Sweets n Treats*

Let us make your day special. We can cater for Weddings, Christenings, Birthday Parties, Corporate events, or any other celebration. No event or gathering is too small.

Telephone: 07585 975750 Email: sweetsbylorissa@gmail.com www.sweetsbylorissa.co.uk

**home hardware**

McDougall's homehardware

Dulux Weathershield Exterior Masonry Paint - White - 7.5L

Our Price **£21.95**

SAVER DEAL BUY 3 FOR **£60.85** SAVING OF **£5.00**

32-34 Combie Street Oban 01631 567627

**windows & doors**

**W B Clarke**  
Improving local homes since 1985

Windows and doors, Roof Line, Garage Doors, Conservatories, GRP Flat Roofs, Driveways & Paving.

Tel: 07789488805 Fax: 01866 833049 Email: w962clarke@btinternet.com

Everest

**FIT THE BEST FOR LESS**

**woodburning stoves**

**AFFORDABLE**

Country Kiln

Woodburning & Multifuel stoves

Delivered Nationwide

**01560 483966**

www.WoodburningStovesLimited.com

**laundry services**

**Grants Laundry**

KILLIN-OBAN-APPIN-GLENCOE-KILLIN

Let us fulfil all your laundry needs

We pride ourselves on delivering an outstanding flawless personal service. We are large enough to cope but small enough to care. If your business deserves a unique quality service then give us a call or email

Tel 01567820235 Email grantslaundry@btinternet.com

**windows**

**Window & Conservatory Repair Company**

We provide a reliable and quality service. All work guaranteed.

We install: quality windows, doors, patio doors, conservatories, decking

We replace: fascias, soffits, gutters, PVC, no more painting

Repair window and door locks, hinges, handles & damaged door panels & gaskets. Repair broken or misted double glazed units. We also clean and service conservatory roofs.

Mobile 07768269912 Tel/Fax 01436 672882

**WE COVER ARGYLL AND THE ISLANDS**

**home improvements**

**Gordon & Strathern Ltd**

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Roofline Conservatories/Porches Fascias, Soffits & Gutters

GRP/Flat Roofs Composite Decking

Garage Doors Doors & Windows

Carparks and Door canopies

Ronald or Lachie 01631 720074 or 0776402550 gordon96@btinternet.com

**blinds**

**Chris Craft** window blinds

OBAN 01852 300174 FREEPHONE 0800 371 250

FREE MEASURING / FREE ESTIMATES FREE FITTING / MADE IN SCOTLAND ALL BLINDS MADE TO MEASURE

Check out our Customer Views at www.customers.chriscraft.co.uk

**mobility**

**Tower Mobility**

Everything from walking sticks to scooters

Matheson, Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban. Tel: 01631 565195 www.towermobility.co.uk

**stoves**

**OBAN STOVE CENTRE**

Experienced and Established Suppliers of Heizomat Biomass Boilers

TRADE SUPPLIES AVAILABLE

Scotland's Premier Stove, Spares & Flue Suppliers

Oban Stove Centre, Old Crofters Yard, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4HU Tel: 01631 564790

**funeral directors**

**D & A MUNN LTD.**

FUNERAL DIRECTORS | EST. 1880 JOINERS AND BUILDERS

BREADALBANE STREET, OBAN

24 hour Family run business

Owned and run by Ian MacInnes and son. TELEPHONE: 01631 562562 WWW.MUNNS-OBAN.CO.UK

**electrician**

DOMESTIC HEAT RECOVERY VENTILATION SYSTEMS PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL NEW BUILDS PERIODIC & PAT TESTING

**WALTON ELECTRICAL**

All aspects of electrical work undertaken

Member of SELECT

Mob - 07771 732 925 Tel - 01631 565 812 www.electrician-oban.co.uk e-mail - lorne@waltonelectrical.plus.com 15 Airds Crescent | Oban | Argyll | PA34 5SQ

**psychic medium**

**JOANNE** Psychic Medium

Spiritually guided readings

Let me help empower you to take control of your life

Call 01389 388426

**removals & storage**

**MACQUEEN BROS LTD**

Removals/Storage & Self Storage

Full range of packing materials

Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG Tel: (01631) 564848 www.macqueenbros.com

**household goods**

**new start HIGHLAND** transforming highland lives

Fantastic Quality at Amazing Prices

Pre-owned Furniture New Household Appliances • Linen Bric-a-brac • And Much More

Donations Welcome Too!

Open Mon - Sat, 10am - 4pm

Donate on 01397 701 624

Unit 39, Ben Nevis Ind. Est. Fort William, PH33 6P3

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

**69%** of the business community read the regional press

Source: Business Choice & The Newspaper Society

**Regional Press** CDSR 10 10/12

Great stories, news, views and photos are just a click away

as well as sport, leisure, what's on, recruitment, property section and much more - you can even order a copy online

**VISIT US AT** www.obantimes.co.uk

**Spring Edition**

Spring 2013

**holiday west highland** FREE

Downton heads west Inveraray Castle on small screen

The Fife and coming to Argyll's Secret Coast

Skythral! Cloak yourself in the wonder of vast, beautiful sky

Cairnbaan Hotel & Restaurant

Delightful hotel overlooking the Oban Coast, serving only the very best of our local produce.

300,000 READERS EVERY SEASON

Available throughout the west Highlands or online at www.holidaywesthighland.co.uk

Great stories, news, views and photos are just a click away

as well as sport, leisure, what's on, recruitment, property section and much more - you can even order a copy online

**VISIT US AT** www.obantimes.co.uk

**BIRTHS**

**BANNERMAN** - Gilbert and Sheila (nee Henderson) are delighted to announce the birth of Iseabail Mary on March 12, 2013, a granddaughter for Chrissie and the late John Bannerman, Balnaha and Jean and James Henderson, Carradale.



**WRIGHT - MILLOY**

Adam and Lauren are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful baby boy, Findlay Eastland Wright, born April 15, 2013, weighing in at 9lbs 8oz! Grateful thanks to midwives at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley and Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban.

**ENGAGEMENTS**

**ORMISTON - HOY** - John and Eilidh Ormiston, Barcaldine are delighted to announce the engagement of their eldest son, Saul Alasdair Iain Ormiston to Kimberley Ailisa Maria Hoy, only daughter of Angela and Peter Hoy, Glasgow on Saturday April 13 on the summit of Ben Lomond. All family and friends delighted.

**MARRIAGES**

**MONCRIEFF - SORESENSEN** - On April 21, 2013 at The Huntingtower Hotel, Perth, Claire to Johnathan.

**GOLDEN WEDDING**

**MALONE - MACVICAR** - Colin to Christine, married on May 1, 1963, at Appin Parish Church by the Rev Kenneth MacMillan.

**DEATHS**

**CHRISTIE** - Kaye (nee Finlayson). On April 22, 2013 after many illnesses bravely borne, passed peacefully away surrounded by her family at Hairmyres Hospital. Beloved wife of John, loving mum of Jan and Craig, dear gran of Kyle and Jay, greatly missed by all. Funeral will take place at 1.15pm on Tuesday April 30, 2013 at South Lanarkshire Crematorium, Blantyre to which all are respectfully invited to attend.

**MACKINNON** - Peacefully in Grandview Nursing Home, Grantown on Spey, on April 18, 2013, Connie formerly of Lynn Court, Oban, dearly loved mother to Andy and Fraser and a loving granny and great granny. Funeral service at Inverness Crematorium on Friday, April 26 at 10.30am. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Enquiries to John Ross Funeral Services on 01479 872222.

**STRACHAN** - Duncan George (Oban Rare Breeds Park/Rothienorman). Tragically as the result of an accident while at his home in Sella, Spain. In his 67th year. Beloved partner of Kay Simpson, brother of Grant and Sandy, brother-in-law and uncle and also a dear friend to many. Will be sadly missed by all. A ceremony to celebrate his life will be held at Skipinnish Ceilidh House (formerly McTavish's), George Street, Oban at 3pm on Thursday 2 May. Dress Casual.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**CAMERON** - Sandy, Grant and Denise wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for all the cards, flowers and many expressions of sympathy received following their recent sad loss of Fiona. A very special thank you to Dr Niblock and all the doctors and nurses in Ward 32 Ninewells Hospital, Dundee and Dr Leiper and all the doctors and nurses at Roxburgh House, Dundee for their unfailing attention to Fiona. Many thanks to Drs Vernon and Bruce of Hawkhill Medical Practice, Dundee for their ongoing care. Special thanks to the Rev Richard Corbett for his support and comforting service, to Mike McFall Funeral Director and all his staff for all their compassionate assistance and to all who paid their respects at Kilmallie New Cemetery, Corthach. Donations generously given raised £600 for Ward 32 Ninewells Hospital, Dundee and Roxburgh House, Dundee. Fiona will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.

**CAMPBELL** - The family of the late John 'Iain' (Scapa) Campbell would like to express their sincere thanks for their many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers and cards. Thanks to Dr Jespersen and nurses for visits to dad. Special thanks to Rev D Cameron for his compassion and his comforting service. Thanks also to D and A Munn for their excellent, professional assistance and to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside. Total of £258.81 raised for British Heart and Dementia Scotland.

**LAUDER** - Elaine and Graham would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for

their many kind messages of sympathy and condolence; flowers, visits, phone calls and love expressed by all touched by the recent sudden sad loss of Adrian. Grateful thanks to all medical staff at Lorn & Islands Hospital for their dedicated care; and to Hamish Hoey & Son for their seamlessly efficient funeral arrangements. Warmest appreciation to the Rev Bill Gray for his guidance, understanding, consoling words of comfort and memorable service. Our thanks to all who joined our service of celebration of Adrian's life and at Cardross Crematorium - your kindness has been overwhelming and so deeply appreciated; and through your generosity over £750 has been raised so far for the RNLI and the ME Support Network.

**MACLEAN** - Carole and Stewart wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their many expressions of sympathy, phone calls, cards, flowers and visits following the recent sad and sudden passing of Linda. Our thanks also to Morag Muirhead for conducting the funeral service so beautifully, to Mike McFall Funeral Directors for their efficient and caring arrangements and to the Alexandra Hotel for their services following the funeral. Our thanks also to the overwhelming number of relatives, friends and colleagues who attended the church service and the graveside to pay their respects, your kindness and support are most appreciated and required at this difficult time. The retail collection will go the Belford Hospital.

**MACLULLICH** - Annette, Alasdair and Ishobel, would like to thank everyone for kind expressions of sympathy on the loss of Duncan. Sincere thanks to Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, ambulance service and Tarbert Medical Practice for care and support. Special thanks also to Rev Tommy Bryson for a comforting and moving service, Stan Lupton for excellent handling of the funeral arrangements, Tarbert Hotel for excellent catering and to all who attended at church and graveside. The retiring collection for Beatson and RNLI raised £505.

**MEMORIAMS**

**BANNATYNE** - In loving memory of my darling daughter and sister Caroline Norma McGregor who died April 30, 1968. 45 years gone, but never forgotten. - Dad and Christine

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of Angus D Campbell taken from us on April 27, 1981.

Never far from our thoughts. - Inserted by family in Bunnassan, Oban & Glasgow

**COOPER** - Cherished memories of a much loved wife, mum and nanny Iseobel who sadly passed away on April 29, 2012.

Always loving, caring and kind. What wonderful memories she left behind. A friend to all, her family too. An inspiration to all she knew - Victor and all the family.

**DEMPSTER** - In everlasting memory of a much loved husband, father and pappy Donald John, who passed away April 30, 2011, also remembering with love Robert Dempster, who passed away on May 23, 2010.

Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered every day. No longer in our lives to share. But in our hearts you're always there. - 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 dear husband Ronnie, who passed away April 26, 2003. Time passes, memories stay. Loved and remembered everyday. - Wife May.

**GILLIES** - Ronnie. In loving memory of our dad and grandad. Every day in some small way. Memories of you come our way. Though absent you are always near. Still missed, loved and always dear. Tenderly we treasure the past. With memories that will always last. - Donald and Anne, Martin, Paul, Kayleigh and Theo

**GILLIES** - In loving memory of Ronnie a dear father, papa and great-grandfather who passed away April 26, 2003. Sorely missed. Always fondly remembered. - Love Theresa, Ian, Catherine, Laura, Richard, Seamus and Sorcha.

**BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS**  
**Oban Times**  
**BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS**  
**Oban Times**  
**BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS**

**GILLIES** - Ronnie, passed away April 26, 2003. Very sadly missed and always in our thoughts. - Angela and David.

**HAMILTON** - Precious memories of my dad and grandad Brian Hamilton, died April 22, 2003. We do not need a special day to bring you to our minds. The days we do not think of you are really hard to find. - Jim, Pamela, James and Christopher.

**MACCORMICK** - Remembering and missing my dear sister Morag who passed away on April 23, 2012. Bella and family.

**MACEWAN** - Loving memories of our parents Ian and Maimie. - From all the family

**MACGREGOR** - In loving memory of Robert, who passed away on April 25, 1999. Always in our thoughts. Mum, Duncan and Anne.

**MACGREGOR** - In loving memory of Robert taken from us on the April 25, 1999. Always in our thoughts, Ally, Kathleen, Ewan, Jamie and Rachel. Cluaran House, Ardconnel.

**MACLEAN** - Treasured memories of Neil my dear husband and father, who died April 29, 2011, also our loving sister and auntie Cac (Brenner), who passed away May 3, 2012. Precious memories silently kept. Of those we love and will never forget. - Inserted by the family at home and away.

**MACPHEE** - Margaret. Precious memories of a loving aunt (Manda), who passed away on April 28, 2006. Sorely missed and always in our thoughts. Catriona, Margaret, Christina and Lorraine.

**ROBERTSON** - Remembering my cousin John (Lochaline) who died April 28, 2008 aged 48. 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.

**CHARITY DONATIONS**

**Oban Hospice**  
CARING FOR THE FUTURE  
Donations always gratefully accepted  
Please contact  
**Jack Tolan**  
Birch Hill  
Achnacreebeag  
North Connel, PA37 1RE

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**

Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer  
West of Scotland Fundraising Office  
1st Floor, Erskine House  
North Avenue, Clydebank  
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR  
**Tel 0808 100 6000**  
In memory of Dawn Joyce

**CANCER RESEARCH UK**

**Fighting Cancer on all fronts...**  
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation  
**Commitment of over £15 million each year**  
Cancer Research UK  
407 St John Street  
London EC1V 4AD

**MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE**

**Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch**  
Donations always gratefully accepted  
Please contact  
**Mrs Lillian Kermode**  
Tynwald, Glenburn,  
Soroba Road, Oban  
01631 571009

**MEMORIAMS**

**Stokes Memorials**  
Serving Argyll and the Highlands & Islands for over 35 years  
Established 1973 - Fraser Downie, Master Sculptor  
• New and traditional memorials. • Work carried out in any cemetery.  
• Additional lettering. • Free estimates and advice.  
• Cleaning and renovations. • House signs.  
• Pet memorials.  
312/314 Argyll Street, Dumfries • Tel/Fax 01369 702162 • Email: info@stokesmemorials.co.uk



Duncan Strachan reads The Oban Times beside his famous modified Landcruiser in Vladivostok, Siberia en route to Oban.

**Oban adventurer dies in Spain**  
'He was happy with life and with helping people'

THE MANY friends of Oban's Duncan Strachan were distraught to learn last week of his death while he worked on his terraced property in Sella, Spain. The adventurous extrovert and his partner Kay Simpson were well known as the couple who established Oban Rare Breeds Farm Park and also for their passion for travelling. During their many travels, which included the Overland Route and the Trans-Siberian Highway, large parts of Africa, Asia and South America, the

couple wrote a column of their experiences for The Oban Times. The couple, who met when the presumptuous Duncan brought his toolkit to an interview for a mechanic's job, first came to Oban together in 1982 and bought Barranrioch Farm, on which they built the rare breeds park attraction. They had just spent two years travelling to Scotland from Australia in a boat they had built. Kay told The Oban Times: 'Duncan was a workaholic but

also a good and kind man, who was happy with life and with helping people. 'He has crammed 100 years into his 66. It is a tragedy that he died but it helps when I think of how much he managed to achieve.' After leaving Oban, the couple opened a veterinary practice in Bradford, Isle of Skye, before moving to Spain. Duncan's best friend, Robert Cruickshank, who often travelled with the couple, said: 'Everyone who has sent me a

message of condolence has said they couldn't believe it has happened. They all thought he was invincible. 'He gave a lot of people, who were down on their luck, a chance to work and he was the kind of guy that would give you his last pound if he thought you needed it more than he did. 'He could always get the best out of people.' A celebration of Duncan's life will be held in Skippinsh Ceilidh House, Oban, next Thursday, May 2 from 3pm.



Pictured with some of the best entries are, from left: Isabel Smith, Madalene Lee, Argyll federation treasurer, Catriona Stuart, Pat McLeod, treasurer of the Loch Awe Institute and Jenny Moody, president of the Oban Institute that won two prizes. 16. 1175wrally1

**Lorn's finest craftwork on display at SWRI rally**

MORE than 300 exhibits of fine craftwork and baking were on display at the biennial SWRI Lorn Group Rally on Saturday. Members from Kilbrandon, Kilmore and District, Oban, Taynuilt, Loch Awe and Glenorchy were on hand at Connel Village Hall for the event, celebrating the members' creative talents. Among the items up for judging were baking, preserves, confectionery, handcrafts, flowers, art and photography. Judging this year were members from the Appin and Benderloch institutes, the North Lorn Group. Lorn Group secretary Catriona Stuart said: 'The event was a great success and it was encouraging

to see members of the public coming in to see the exhibits.' **Winners** Lorn Group president Isabel Smith presented the prizes after judges had the hard task of picking winners. They were: Wright Quaiach for the highest number of points: Oban. Banner for the highest number of points per member: Oban. Cameron Quaiach for best entry to handcrafts: Alice Campbell, Taynuilt. Smith Cup for best entry in baking: Helen Gibson, Glenorchy.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 28 April 2013  
5th of Easter  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Communion.....08:00  
Sung Eucharist.....10:15  
Sunday School and Creche  
Loop System  
Large Print Hymn Books  
All Welcome  
Nicki McNelly, Provost.  
(01631) 562323  
St James, Ardbrrecknash, Cladich  
Holy Eucharist.....11:00  
St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
Holy Eucharist.....11:00  
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona  
Holy Eucharist.....08:00  
Evensong.....20:15  
Holy Eucharist.....  
..... Wed 1 May 14:30



Committee members enjoy some of the local treats on offer during Saturday's fundraiser. Henry Woodman, sitting, is served by, from left, Anita Marshall, Sheila McKie, Pauline Evans, Maimie Cattanach and Chris Hammond. 16. 1172zoffee1

**Tasty treats on offer at Alzheimer's annual coffee morning**

TASTY treats, refreshing drinks and a good gossip was the order of the day when the Oban branch of Alzheimer's Scotland held its 21<sup>st</sup> annual coffee morning. Held at the Glenclurrit Church Centre on Saturday, the hall was packed with people as fundraisers did their bit to help raise cash for important local services. **Popular** The event has remained popular since it was started by councillor Elaine Robertson in 1992.

**Thought for the week**

**Gifts from God**  
PERHAPS the recent near-drought conditions, six weeks without rain, have made us realise how much we take the rainfall for granted. In fact, most of us moan about the rain. We so easily forget the necessity of moisture, or water, to prevent the land becoming parched, with ensuing struggles for plant life, livestock and the cycle of new life and growth. In our multi-choice wasteful ways of living, we expect commodities to be readily and cheaply available at all times - when we want or wish for, but not always need. We often display a 'take-it-for-granted' attitude towards food, in how we shop for it, in how and what we eat. Food is more than just fuel. It is a gift and a blessing upon which we all depend. Yet many of us shop in supermarkets for food and never give a thought to where it comes from or how it is produced. What we eat and how it is grown should mean more to us than this. Considering a few questions might give us 'food for thought', such as whether we can grow our own food, whether we support local farmers and growers, and what priorities we have linked to food waste, to food shopping and to eating out. Perhaps the answers lead us to think about using land and water resources more responsibly, how food can affect our well-being and choosing to buy only what we need. The Psalmist recognised God's gifts: '...You send rain... make grass grow for the cattle and plants'. (Ps 104) Here is 'Food for Thought' and 'Thought for Food!'  
Rev Carol Leech

**Advertising**

- Advertising Executive**  
Rhona McKillop  
adverts@obantimes.co.uk
- Advertising Sales Executive**  
Nadine Ross  
ross@obantimes.co.uk
- Advertising Sales Executive**  
Mairi Auld  
mauld@obantimes.co.uk
- Advertising Executive**  
Eilidh MacLennan  
emacLennan@obantimes.co.uk
- Advertising Executive**  
Fiona Bennett  
fbennett@obantimes.co.uk

**Branch Offices**

- Fort William**  
Tel 01397 703003  
Fax 01397 702495
- Lochgilhead**  
Tel 01546 602345  
Fax 01546 602661
- Campbeltown**  
Tel 01586 554646  
Fax 01586 553006
- Aran**  
Tel 01770 302142  
Fax 01770 302021

**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 Wyves Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyves Media Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space thereon or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications. 1. Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes. 2. The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement. 3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice. 4. An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person. 5. Cancellation of display advertisement must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement. 6. The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose. 7. The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement. 8. Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose. 9. The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order. 10. Advertisers under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance. 11. Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice. 12. A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyves Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, FKA4 4BE. Tel: 01631 568000 Fax: 01631 568001 www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Tel: 01631 568000 Fax: 01631 568001

**The Oban Times**

& West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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

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

**Editorial**

**Editorial Director**  
Stewart Mackenzie  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

**Northern Editor**  
Stephen Norris  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

**News Editor**  
Euan Paterson  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

**Senior Reporter**  
Steven Flanagan  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

**Reporter**  
Faith Orr  
for@obantimes.co.uk

**Reporter**  
Richard Haddock  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

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

**Newsdesk**  
01631 568060  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising**

**Advertising Executive**  
Rhona McKillop  
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Sales Executive**  
Nadine Ross  
ross@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Sales Executive**  
Mairi Auld  
mauld@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Executive**  
Eilidh MacLennan  
emacLennan@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Executive**  
Fiona Bennett  
fbennett@obantimes.co.uk

**Branch Offices**

- Fort William**  
Tel 01397 703003  
Fax 01397 702495
- Lochgilhead**  
Tel 01546 602345  
Fax 01546 602661
- Campbeltown**  
Tel 01586 554646  
Fax 01586 553006
- Aran**  
Tel 01770 302142  
Fax 01770 302021

www.obantimes.co.uk

# Saints pick up vital points at Eaglesham

## Two goals apiece from Miller and Cassells see Saints continue their quest for the league title

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division Eaglesham 0 Oban Saints 4

SAINTS made the journey to take on Eaglesham in a premier division league match and an excellent first half display earned the Argyll side all three points.

The visitors were without skipper Keith Millar, who called off on the morning of the game with a rib injury. It was too late to call in a replacement so the team travelled with four subs instead of the usual five.

However, Keith's absence was not missed as they boys turned in a great first half display against a stubborn Eaglesham outfit.

It didn't take the visitors too long to get used to the conditions, a heavy pitch with the wind making it difficult for the players to get the ball down and play it about.

Saints got the early goal they

were looking for and it came in the fourth minute. Craig MacEwan beat his marker on the left before cutting inside to set up Alan Miller and the Saints front man didn't hang about as he thumped a low shot past the helpless Hams' keeper Gordon Taylor.

This goal settled the team down and they started to play excellent one-touch football. They increased their lead in the 20th minute with another well worked goal. Alan Miller made a great run off his marker out wide on the right flank before delivering a low cross into the box for Dene Cassells to knock the ball home from close range.

Eaglesham lost the services of striker Tony O'Neill who went over on his ankle on the uneven surface as did midfielder Ross McCorquodale a few minutes later, both big blows to the home team.

The Oban side increased their lead in the 32nd minute when a well-worked one-two between Donald Campbell and Myles McAuley resulted in Myles racing forward up the right before sending over an inch-perfect cross into the box for Dene Cassells to fire home his second goal of the game.

The visitors were playing some good stuff on the tricky surface and it was no surprise when they killed the game off as a contest just before the half time interval.

Again the move started on the right with Dene Cassells, Donald Campbell and Myles McAuley combining to send Dene clear

and again another pinpoint cross found Alan Miller and the Saints striker wasted no time in slotting the ball home to make the score 4-0.

With the wind in their favour in the second half you would have thought Saints would have gone



Dene Cassells.

on to score another two or three goals at least, but this didn't happen. Instead they turned in a pretty lack-lustre second 45 minutes.

With the game won, manager Iain Jackson made four substitutions early in the half. He did this to give all his subs a good amount of game time with the difficult league run-in and cup games coming up.

Although they had most of the territorial advantage, Saints huffed and puffed their way through the second 45 minutes, not looking as sharp as they were in the first half, although some credit should go the Hams

### FOOTBALL

boys who were defending well. The visitors didn't create too many scoring chances in the second half, but Ross Maitland was just inches away from connecting with a cross from the right.

Eaglesham were never going to get back into the game as the clock ran down and the game just petered out with Saints good value for their 4-0 win.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted to get the three points but a wee bit disappointed with the second half performance.

He said: 'We played some good football in the first half and the goals were all well worked and well taken which I was pleased about, but the second half was disappointing. We just stopped doing what we did well in the first half - getting the ball down and passing it about. I made four changes early in the second half to give the subs a good run out and maybe this disrupted play a bit, but I would still have expected a much better performance from the players we had on the pitch in the second half.'

This Saturday the Oban side are on their travels again when they take on Rolls Royce EK at The Murray, East Kilbride, in a premier division league match. Kick-off is 2pm with referee Allesandro Saverese in charge.

On going to press Saints were due to play in the Centenary Cup final against Alba Thistle at Millburn Park, Alexandria. Full report next week.



A red flag in John McPhee's maiden race in Texas cost him dearly. Photo: Bonnie Lane

## Luck deserts Connel road racer

LUCK continues to desert Connel road racer John McPhee as he finished a disappointing 21st at the inaugural Grand Prix of the Americas in Austin, Texas.

The Caretta Technology RTG Moto3 rider had climbed to 18th from 28th on the grid when the race was red-flagged with seven laps to go.

The stoppage was followed by a short five-lap sprint with the starting order based on the lap 10 finishing order.

McPhee lined up 19th but this time round the chance of a repeat rise up the order was scotched by a poor getaway and an early scuffle that pushed him wide and off-track. With only five laps to go, catching and rejoining the five-rider battle for 16th was a forlorn hope.

### MOTOR CYCLING

'As will be clear to anyone who has watched the weekend unfold, I've really struggled to find a setup that I've been comfortable with, which has left me a long way off the pace,' said McPhee.

#### Major disadvantage

'Starting from 28th was always going to be a major disadvantage but the race pace I had enabled me to climb to 18th before the red flag. Unfortunately when we got underway again my restart was not good and I got run wide which dropped me off the group I'd been battling with.'

Moto3 returns to Europe in two weeks for round three of the championship at Jerez.

## Janice wins her first national event

AN OBAN horse rider says she is proud to have won her first national event, the Wee Burgie British Eventing Competition, near Forres.

Janice Burnip, who keeps her horses at Brough Croft, Taynuilt, won the BE 80 class on Saturday on her Irish draught cross thoroughbred Ali-Dante.

The day event requires riders to compete in dressage, show-jumping and cross country.

Janice, whose class had 39 entries, said: 'I am really proud of this. I have finished top ten in this competition before but never thought I could win it.'

Janice, who now plans to compete in the same class at Hopetoun in July, travelled north with Louise Smellie, who was placed 25th in class in what was her first competition.

### RIDING

Janice, who now plans to compete in the same class at Hopetoun in July, travelled north with Louise Smellie, who was placed 25th in class in what was her first competition.



Alan Miller.

## Annual open show at Lunga

### RIDING

ENTRIES are now open for Argyll Riding Club's annual open show.

The show takes place on Saturday May 18 and, for the second year running, will be held at Lunga Riding School, Croabh Haven, by kind permission of Patricia O'Reilly.

Showing classes include working hunter, ridden hunter and family horse. And there are special sections for coloured horses and ponies and for heritage breeds.

Show jumping classes will take place in the afternoon.

Schedules are available in tack and feed merchants, from the Argyll Riding Club Facebook page or by emailing info@vindicat.co.uk.

Classes are open to everyone and entry fees are discounted for Argyll Riding Club members.



Julie Shaw and Alsace, overall Argyll Riding Club show champion 2012.



D & G Flooring Shoot-out Shield, The Lochnell.

## Lochnell prove to be the big shots in pool Shoot-Out Shield

THE LOCHNELLS lifted the first Shoot-out Shield in the pub's first final in the Oban Pool League set-up.

The competition, held in the Lancaster Hotel last Saturday, saw the four remaining teams compete for honours.

Once again a round robin format was in place to determine the seedings for the semi-finals as the Lochnell, Claredon, Lancaster 'B' and the Cellar battled it out for the last team trophy of the season.

Newly crowned league champions Cellar rightly started the day as favourites after an impressive qualifying campaign, however, it was the Lochnell who topped the final group stage and entered the semi-finals as number one seed. Lochnell's Sid Cornelius ended

### POOL

the Claredon's participation in the contest and the Lancaster 'B's John Kinvig's decisive black knocked out the Cellar.

With neither Lochnell or Lancaster 'B' previously having lifted silverware, both sides were tentative so, just as had been the case in the preceding two semi-finals, onlookers were treated to a 'penalty shoot-out'.

Lochnell's Dougie Swan maintained his composure to clinch the honours for the North Connel outfit.

The league committee would like to thank all teams for such an exciting competition but most of all to sponsors D & G Flooring, who financed the tournament.

### ATHLETICS

LOCHABER runner Finlay Wild smashed the course record in Lochaber Athletic Club's Beinn Lora hill race on Sunday.

The event, which drew a field of 43, saw Dr Wild, from Fort William, come home in a time of 24mins 28secs.

Four other athletes broke 30 minutes - Colin Donnelly (26:53); Alan Smith (27:47); Tim Brand (28:22) and Jon Gay (29:43).

First woman home was Diane Baum in 32:33. The race started and finished at Benderloch, north of Connel.

Right: Finlay Wild reaches the top of Beinn Lora on his way to beaking the course record.

## Susan qualifies for world championships after superb run in the London Marathon

FORMER Oban High School pupil Susan Partridge was the first Briton to cross the finish line in Sunday's London Marathon after beating her personal best time by more than three minutes.

Finishing ninth in the women's race in a new PB of 2.30.26, Susan has done enough to qualify for the British team competing in the world championship in Moscow this summer.

After recording her best time, the fifth quickest ever in the Scottish rankings, she is also eligible for the Scottish team at the Commonwealth Games.

'I was the top British woman and inside the standard so the only question would be if I wanted to go - and I do said the Leeds-based runner.

'Mind you, it does mean that I need to run the marathon again and August does feel quite soon. I didn't realise how close I was to 2.31 as I was finishing because the pace had been so fast earlier on.

'I was on for sub 2.30 for a long time, which would have been nice, but I am still delighted with my time. It is a big personal best. It sets me up for the world championships again.'

Well wishers and followers on her Twitter account have inundated the 33-year-old with messages.

Susan said: 'I still haven't got through all my congratulation messages yet, there are so many. I'm totally overwhelmed and touched.'



Right: Finlay Wild reaches the top of Beinn Lora on his way to beaking the course record.

### MARATHON

Father Alan, who lives in Appin and was at the race, said: 'It was a tremendous run and we are over the moon for her. I know the commentary team were a bit worried she had overcooked it at the start but she dug in and to be among the top 10 elite runners was very pleasing.'

Susan's brother, Colin, also ran in the marathon and recorded a time of 2.46 - a six-minute personal best.

### MARATHON

Father Alan, who lives in Appin and was at the race, said: 'It was a tremendous run and we are over the moon for her. I know the commentary team were a bit worried she had overcooked it at the start but she dug in and to be among the top 10 elite runners was very pleasing.'

Susan's brother, Colin, also ran in the marathon and recorded a time of 2.46 - a six-minute personal best.

## Finlay breaks Ben Lora race record

### ATHLETICS

LOCHABER runner Finlay Wild smashed the course record in Lochaber Athletic Club's Beinn Lora hill race on Sunday.

The event, which drew a field of 43, saw Dr Wild, from Fort William, come home in a time of 24mins 28secs.

Four other athletes broke 30 minutes - Colin Donnelly (26:53); Alan Smith (27:47); Tim Brand (28:22) and Jon Gay (29:43).

First woman home was Diane Baum in 32:33. The race started and finished at Benderloch, north of Connel.

Right: Finlay Wild reaches the top of Beinn Lora on his way to beaking the course record.



Right: Finlay Wild reaches the top of Beinn Lora on his way to beaking the course record.

### OBAN SAINTS YOUTHS RESULTS AND FIXTURES

#### YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results:

League Cup semi final - Under 13s 3, Dumbarton Riverside 1. Saints goalscorers were Martin Rennie (2) and Craig MacMillan.

League Cup semi final Drumchapel 3, Under 14s 5. On target for Saints were Evan MacLellan (2), Jay Cooper, Patrick MacIntyre and Ben Coates.

Under 15s v Kilpatrick, postponed; Lenzie Colts Thistle 4, Under 16s 1. Fraser MacFarlane netted for Saints. Under 16s 0, Lochgilphead Red Star 2.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Drumchapel United North; Under 14s v Drumchapel United; Dalvair v Under 15s; Under 16s v Ardencaple.

## Bob wins Argyll and Bute Matchplay

### GOLF

BOB MacIntyre of Glencruitten tightened his grip on the areas trophies by winning the 2013 Argyll and Bute Matchplay championship at Machrihanish.

His win meant that he was now in possession of all the scratch trophies available to him ranging from boys under 16 through to the men's strokeplay and matchplay titles.

His win at the weekend was even more remarkable as he has only just returned after fracturing an elbow. This was his first tournament of the year after having to withdraw from the Scottish Boys at Monifieth and also the Champion of Champions at Leven.

His victory over Bobby Willan of the host club capped a fine performance with an emphatic 6&5 win to continue his dominance of Argyll and Bute amateur golf.

Results: 1st round - B.MacIntyre bt A Mullen 4&2; L.Pirie bt D Graham 4&3; A McKie bt P Murphy 4&2; D Standaloft bt R Currie 1 up; B Willan bt R.McEwan 6&5; S Campbell bt I McGougan 1 up; C Pirie bt K Mackie 19th

2nd round - B.MacIntyre bt L.Pirie 7&6; A McKie bt D Standaloft 4&2; B Willan bt S Campbell 2&1; G Bolton bt C Pirie 7&6

Semi Finals - B.MacIntyre bt A McKie 19th; B Willan bt G Bolton 4&3; Final - B.MacIntyre bt B Willan 6&5.

### TAYNUILT

TAYNUILT Golf Club: Gents Inverlorn Plate 1st Round - 21 April 1 James MacGregor 37 pts (21); 2 Donald Cattanach 37 pts (6); 3 Ian MacMillan 37 pts (11).

Salen Cup - Inter Club Match with Craignure GC at Taynuilt. Taynuilt retained the trophy 3 and 2.

### ISLAY

RESULTS from Islay Golf Club: Higginbotham Trophy played April 14 - 1 Nigel Carmichael 35 Pts; 2 Norman MacDonald 34 Pts; 3 Sam Johnston 34 Pts. C.Ss 74 Laphroaig Trophy played 21st April - 1, Ross MacMillan 39 pts; 2 Calum Davey; 3 Kevin Johnston 35 Pts. C.Ss 71.

### GLENCRUITTEN

STEVEN Davidson won the Lifeboat Trophy at Glencruitten at the weekend with a score of 79 - 18 = 61. John Gibb 70 - 8 = 62, and Andrew Matthews 71 - 9 = 62 led the qualifiers for the Stokes Trophy. John MacKinnon, Gavin Owens, and Ian Harris all returned net 63.

This Saturday is the first round of the Isis Cup and Captain of Dunstaffnage Trophy and on Tuesday there is a Stableford.

### TOBERMORY

GENTS Section: The Jimmy Reid Trophy (Tombstone) was won by Peter MacCrone who reached the 17th hole.

Ladies Section. April Stableford, 1 Margaret Ingram 33 point, 2 Doris HarGreaves 31 points, 3 Kathy MacAdam 29 points.

Junior Section: The Junior Willy MacAllister Trophy, 1 Scott Paterson 92-28-64-2, William MacCrone 75-06-69,3 Ross MacCrone 84-13-71.

Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL COMPETITION

## WIN £500

#### ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

#### Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

#### Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

WE HAVE A WINNER! CONGRATULATIONS TO A MacIntyre, Shuna Terrace, Oban WHO WINS THE JACKPOT OF £1750

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Please tape your £1 coin here

Name .....  
Address .....  
Tel No. ....

# Second round Sutherland Cup games this weekend

'Some Oban Celtic players are just not committed enough.' - David Hamilton

**FORT WILLIAM** have never clicked since taking Newtonmore down to the wire in a bloody MacTavish Cup encounter at The Eilan four weeks ago - now the An Aird men face a strong-going Lovat at home in the Orion Group Premiership.

Fort joint coach Adi Robertson will be without long term injured Liam MacIntyre and Sean Cameron, Gordie MacKinnon's broken hand is still two to three weeks away from being healed and Stevie Stewart's hamstring problem continues to cause concern.

Robertson knows points in the bag are a must but is fully aware of the challenge Lovat will present.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'They are a pretty young but fit team, a good technical side who are good in the air as well.'

'They had a hard game on Saturday [a 3-3 draw at Lochaber in the MacTavish] but their forwards Greg Matheson and Kevin Bartlett will be a handful.'

**LOVAT** switch back to Orion Group Premiership duty at Fort William on Saturday after squeezing past Lochaber in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup on penalties last weekend.

Coach Allan MacRae reports no major injury worries save for long-term casualty Jamie Matheson, who had a scan on his damaged knee last week which revealed ligament damage.

Martin Mainland received a knock to the leg in the cup clash with Lochaber but should be fit to face the Fort, who MacRae reckons will prove a difficult test.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It will be a tough challenge down there. They have a younger team than before and I think they will be really up for it.'

'We are undefeated in cup and league competitions so far and we have to try to keep that going - although a few less draws would be good.'

**INVERARAY** will face the toughest test of their title credentials when defending Orion Group Premiership champions Newtonmore come to the Winterton.

The Royal Burgh currently sit top of the league after a surprisingly strong start to the campaign.

Player-manager Garry MacPherson said: 'This will be a big test but we always believe we can get something from our home games, no matter who we are playing. Hopefully, there will be a big crowd behind us to cheer us on.'

MacPherson said there would be no wholesale changes in the team for the visit of Newtonmore.

'There is no point in changing a winning formula,' he said.

Last weekend Inveraray easily negotiated a potential stumbling block in the AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup by knocking out Aberdeen.

A Lewis MacNicol goal in the first minute settled the team, which went on to win 8-0, thanks to a further strike from MacNicol and goals from David Robertson, Peter MacIntyre (2), Neil Campbell and Euan McMurdo (2).

**NEWTONMORE** will again have to contend with a number of injured players for their potentially crucial visit to league leaders Inveraray this Saturday.

The only two unbeaten sides in the Premiership will go head-to-head in a match which could have a big say in this season's title race.

Manager PJ MacKintosh told *The Oban Times* he was expecting a good game.

Danny MacRae is rated as doubtful after missing last weekend's 2-0 derby win over Kingussie.

MacKintosh said: 'We were missing a number of players, but the young guys that came in did really well. It was probably our worst performance of the season, but they didn't have a single shot on target, and that says it all really.'

**KINGUSSIE** face another tough weekend with the visit of Kyles Athletic on Saturday.

A win for the home side would see them move level on points with their south opponents having played one game less. But Kyles will be desperate to get the win to close the gap between themselves and the league's top two, Lovat and Newtonmore.

Kingussie are a young side, a fact reflected in the unpredictable nature of their results so far this year.

Russell Jones' men lost out in the first Badenoch derby of the season last weekend, going down 2-0 to Newtonmore at the Eilan.

Kings lost key man Lee Bain to injury early in the first half and found themselves 2-0 down by half time thanks to two Callum Stewart strikes. Keeper Craig Dawson had to be on top form to keep the scoreline at 2-0 after the break as his side crashed out of the MacTavish Cup.

**KYLES ATHLETIC** warmed up for a tricky tie at The Dell this weekend with a 12-1 hammering of Taynuilt in the Celtic Society Cup.

Roddy MacDonald bagged five goals and David Zavaroni got his hat-trick, with further goals from Duncan Kerr, John Whyte (2) and Roberto Zavaroni completing the scoring.

Kyles trainer James Perlich said: 'We took our goals well, which should help for this week against Kingussie.'

'We love playing up there and the games we have are always very competitive.'

'Our squad is still stretched and not 100 per cent fit but all the boys involved will do their best for the campaign.' He added:

'The Drumadrochit men have only won once in seven league games so far, and know a victory against bottom side Camanachd would help propel them from the

relegation zone. Manager Drew McNeil told *The Oban Times*: 'It's all well and good winning in the cup but it doesn't get us any points in the league. It's two teams probably looking for a bit of a spark, and we'll maybe both get a boost from good results last weekend.'

'I'm looking forward to it. Mossfield is always a great place to go.'

Liam Girvan is likely to miss the game due to a broken nose.

Two early Fraser Heath strikes looked to have put Glen on easy street against Kinlochshiel. But despite the result never being in any real doubt, 'Shiel put up a strong fight to end up 3-2 losers.'

McNeil said: 'At 2-0 it looked like we were going to run riot, but they brought on Findlay MacRae at full back and I think he helped settle their team.'

Glen will host Newtonmore in the semi final of the cup.

**KINLOCHSHIEL** have no game this weekend, which will provide a welcome opportunity for key players to recover from injury.

'Shiel's form has been patchy of late but successive defeats to Newtonmore in the league and to Glenurquhart in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup on Saturday were at least partly down to manager Johnston Gill having a much reduced squad at his disposal.'

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Having no game will give the injuries a chance to get healed up before our next match against Inveraray.'

'Fraser MacRae played part of the game against Glenurquhart but he's not fully fit, so hopefully he will be back at full fitness. We also hope Duncan 'Ach' MacRae will be back along with Fraser MacVicar, who is another experienced player we have been missing.'

Gill was disappointed with the 3-2 cup loss at Blairbeg Park, which saw Fraser Heath grab two quick goals to set the Glen on their way.

'Shiel made a better fist of things in the second half and reduced the deficit through Oliver MacRae before Neale Reid made it 3-1. Gordie MacDonald gave the visitors hope with a fine strike but 'Shiel could find no more.'

Gill said: 'We started where we left off against Newtonmore - we were awful. We came back into it in the second half but we are not playing well just now for some reason. We did not deserve anything from the game.'

'The score last Saturday was not a true reflection of the game. Taynuilt's young team showed a lot of promise and determination but we were just more dangerous in attack.'

**OBAN CAMANACHD** manager Gussie Campbell says the next two league matches are two of the most important his side will face this season, as he welcomed a club legend back into the fold.

The home games against Glenurquhart and Lochaber could make or break the season for the Oban side, who had Fraser Inglis at training on Monday night.

Inglis, who has won every title in the game, has so far only committed himself to a coaching role but manager Campbell has made it clear the door would be open should he want to return to playing.

Campbell has urged his current squad to believe they are good enough to be in the Orion Group Premiership. He said: 'The next two weeks are very important.'

We lost 2-1 at Glenurquhart but both teams were very evenly matched, so I hope the boys believe they can take something from this match.'

Camanachd had a welcome break from the league last Saturday with a 6-1 win over Glenorchy, thanks to goals from Ian Campbell (2), Lewis Cameron, Malcolm Clark, Andrew MacCush and Aidan MacIntyre.

Manager Campbell said: 'I think we were fitter and benefited from playing in the premier league. I was impressed by our two younger players, Malcolm Clark and Shaun Morgan.'

Gavin Stobart should return to the squad this week but James MacMillan is still unavailable.

**GLENURQUHART** will look to take heart from their MacTavish Cup win over Kinlochshiel and pick up two points from their trip to Oban.

The Drumadrochit men have only won once in seven league games so far, and know a victory against bottom side Camanachd would help propel them from the

relegation zone. Manager Drew McNeil told *The Oban Times*: 'It's all well and good winning in the cup but it doesn't get us any points in the league. It's two teams probably looking for a bit of a spark, and we'll maybe both get a boost from good results last weekend.'

'I'm looking forward to it. Mossfield is always a great place to go.'

Liam Girvan is likely to miss the game due to a broken nose.

Two early Fraser Heath strikes looked to have put Glen on easy street against Kinlochshiel. But despite the result never being in any real doubt, 'Shiel put up a strong fight to end up 3-2 losers.'

McNeil said: 'At 2-0 it looked like we were going to run riot, but they brought on Findlay MacRae at full back and I think he helped settle their team.'

Glen will host Newtonmore in the semi final of the cup.

**KINLOCHSHIEL** have no game this weekend, which will provide a welcome opportunity for key players to recover from injury.

'Shiel's form has been patchy of late but successive defeats to Newtonmore in the league and to Glenurquhart in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup on Saturday were at least partly down to manager Johnston Gill having a much reduced squad at his disposal.'

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Having no game will give the injuries a chance to get healed up before our next match against Inveraray.'

'Fraser MacRae played part of the game against Glenurquhart but he's not fully fit, so hopefully he will be back at full fitness. We also hope Duncan 'Ach' MacRae will be back along with Fraser MacVicar, who is another experienced player we have been missing.'

Gill was disappointed with the 3-2 cup loss at Blairbeg Park, which saw Fraser Heath grab two quick goals to set the Glen on their way.

'Shiel made a better fist of things in the second half and reduced the deficit through Oliver MacRae before Neale Reid made it 3-1. Gordie MacDonald gave the visitors hope with a fine strike but 'Shiel could find no more.'

Gill said: 'We started where we left off against Newtonmore - we were awful. We came back into it in the second half but we are not playing well just now for some reason. We did not deserve anything from the game.'

LOCHABER finally found their feet in front of goal against Lovat last Saturday but found their luck ran out in the penalty shootout.

Shaun Nicolson put the home side ahead in the 15 minute, only to see Greg Matheson equalise 10 minutes later. Lovat were awarded a penalty which was slotted home by Kevin Bartlett, but Lochaber refused to back down and found themselves level before half time through Scott Paterson.

## SHINTY



Lochaber's Ben Delaney battles for the ball with Lewis Tawse of Lovat during Saturday's match at Spean Bridge.

Lovat's keeper made some fine saves to deny Lochaber, with Matheson and Bartlett both finding the back of the net to send Lovat through.

Lochaber have a free Saturday this weekend.

**TAYNUILT** were always going to struggle against Scottish cup holders Kyles last weekend but with four of their senior players missing, a victory was all but impossible.

The 12-1 scoreline reflected the gap between the teams' respective divisions and showcased how deadly and unforgiving the Tighnabraich attack could be.

One positive for Taynuilt, however, was the lively performance from Taynuilt's front two, Fraser MacMillan and Ryan Gillies. With a combined age of 32, the energetic pair pestered the Kyles defence with tireless running and 15-year-old Gillies, son of manager Willie, took great delight in beating Kyles' keeper Kenny MacDonald to score his side's only goal.

Willie Gillies said: 'We had late call offs and experienced guys like Stuart Scott, Willie Neilson and George Reid were missing, so it was a bit of a shambles, but to be honest, what can you say about the scoreline? We did the best with what we had but they are just an unbelievably good side.'

Reid will be among the players welcomed back for this Saturday's trip to Bute.

Gillies admitted his side were expecting to take something from the game.

**GLENORCHY** travel to Glasgow this weekend in what, at the start of the season, would have been considered an important game in the race for South Division One title.

But while GMA are flying high in the table, Glenorchy have made limited progress but still believe a result in Glasgow is possible and could kick-start their campaign.

Coach John Smith said: 'This game is a big challenge but we are determined and hopeful.'

'It is a big game in this league and it is amazing the confidence we would get from beating a team at the top of their game.'

Last weekend, Glenorchy were outplayed and outrun by Oban Camanachd at The Mart.

John McNulty's opener looked to have given the Dalmally men a chance but the fitter Camanachd chalked up a 6-1 win in the end.

Fulton Ronald and Alex MacPherson should return for Glenorchy this Saturday.

**OBAN CELTIC** president David Hamilton claims his side will need to show more commitment to get their season back on track after a disappointing home defeat to Kilmory.

The Oban side travel to play Aberdeen this weekend but Hamilton warned players they will get nothing from the game unless they apply themselves better.

He said: 'Last season we were picking up points from the teams around us but we are not doing that now. Some of the boys are out there giving 150 per cent every week but others are just not committed enough.'

'Aberdour are on form just now and if we play like we have done the past two weeks we won't get anything from the game.'

Celtic had the majority of the play last Saturday but an indecisiveness in front of goal was their undoing and neither goalkeeper had much to do.

A breakthrough from Kilmory, coupled with a Celtic defensive mix-up, brought the only goal of the game.

Centre Neil Carmichael, who suffered a nasty head injury two weeks ago, should start against Aberdeen.

**LOCHSIDE ROVERS** will be firm favourites to beat ColGlen in this weekend's Sutherland Cup tie.

The Oban side have been in a rich vein of form that has taken them to the summit of South Division One but they may lose players to Oban Camanachd, who have an important premier league match against Glenurquhart.

Last weekend Craig 'Winky' MacDougall scored both Lochside's goals in a 2-2 draw at Strathcru.

**BALLACHULISH** got back to winning ways with a 5-3 away win over Inveraray last Saturday.

Lorne Brown opened the scoring as late as the 40th minute and Duncan MacDonald and Scott Henderson put the visitors 3-0 up.

Inveraray threatened a comeback through goals from Ross Anderson (2) and Darren Pirie but not before Henderson and John MacDonald had made sure of the points. This weekend Ballachulish face a tough away tie against Kingussie in the Sutherland Cup.

**KILMALLIE** return to Marine Harvest North Division 1 duty on Saturday having safely booked a Co-operative MacTavish Cup semi-final spot following a fine 3-0 win against Beaulay at Canal Parks.

Opponents Caberfeidh will present Kilmallie coach Duncan Kelly with a different challenge but he is looking for his men to carry over the intensity they showed against Beaulay.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We should take the points but we have to play to our full strength to get any result these days.'

'If we show the same attitude

in this week's game it should be good but Caberfeidh are always hard to beat.'

Against Beaulay, the return of Grant MacKenzie and Michael Rodger to the forward line made a huge difference and it was the burly MacKenzie who opened the scoring after half an hour.

Another stunning stop from keeper Kevin Toye preserved the lead before a late double from the quicksilver Rodger made the tie safe.

Kelly said: 'It was a good win after the defeat the week before. I thought Martin Stewart at half back was superb - he made the difference.'

Kilmallie were also buoyed by the return of international forward John Stewart to the touchline and of 'Shorty' Graham, who played the last 15 minutes.

**SKYE CAMANACHD** take on bottom club Strathglass in Marine Harvest North Division 1 at Pairc nan Laoch on Saturday having closed the gap on leaders Kilmallie and Beaulay to just three points.

Last weekend's 1-0 victory at Inverness may not have been pretty - Aonghas MacDonald's goal on the stroke of half time proved just enough - but Skye won't be caring as they seek to secure one of the three promotion spots to the new National League Division 1 next season.

Skye coach Willie MacRae still harbours hope of the championship - not least because Kilmallie still have to come to Portree twice in the league.

'It is back in our hands,' he said.

**GLENGARRY** will be looking to book their spot in the last eight of the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup when they welcome Ardnamurchan this Saturday.

Ardnamurchan pulled out of the league system this season, but are still competing in the cups. Glengarry manager Ewen Cameron will be hoping his side can take advantage of any rustiness in the visitors' line up.

Manager Ewen Cameron said he knew 'absolutely nothing' about Saturday's opponents. He told *The Oban Times*: 'It seems strange they're not in the league but they're playing in the cups. I'm just hoping they're able to put a team out.'

'That's the difficulty though, you take it easy because they haven't played a game and you end up a goal down. Hopefully that won't happen.'

'Garry moved up to fifth in Marine Harvest north division two with a 2-1 win against Kingussie at Invergary last weekend. They fell behind early on but secured the win with second half goals from Martin Cameron and Kenneth Henderson.



## Results

**Saturday 20 April**  
Co-operative MacTavish Cup Quarter Finals  
Newtonmore 2-0 Kingussie  
Kilmallie 3-0 Beaulay  
Lochaber 3-3 Lovat  
Glenurquhart 3-2 Kinlochshiel

AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup Quarter Finals  
Bute 0-2 Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Glenorchy 1-6 Oban Camanachd  
Inveraray 8-0 Aberdeen  
Taynuilt 1-12 Kyles Athletic

**The Balliemore Cup 1st Round**  
Strathglass 2-0 Caberfeidh

**Sutherland Cup 1st Round**  
Col Glen 3-2 The SCOTS

**Strathdearn Cup 1st Round**  
Aberdeen Uni 3-1 Kilmallie  
Fort William 3-0 Lochaber

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Inverness 0-1 Skye

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Oban Celtic 0-1 Kilmory  
Strachur 2-2 Lochside

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Glengarry 2-1 Kingussie  
Kinlochshiel 0-2 Skye  
Lovat 2-1 Glenurquhart  
Newtonmore 4-2 Beaulay

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Aberdour 3-1 Bute  
Glasgow MA 0-5 Kyles Ath  
Inveraray 3-5 Ballachulish

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Caberfeidh 0-5 Lochcarron  
Inverness 3-2 Lochbroom  
Strathglass 2-6 Strathspey

**Camanachd Association Youth Results**  
Tuesday 16 April  
Marine Harvest Under 17 League - London Shield  
Oban Celtic 1-3 Kingussie

**Marine Harvest Under 14 League Friday 19 April**  
Kinlochshiel 2-2 Newtonmore  
Fort William 4-2 Kilmallie  
Skye 11-0 Kinlochshiel  
Strathglass 0-3 Lovat

**Marine Harvest Under 14 9-a-side League**  
Oban Celtic 0-5 Inveraray  
Milngavie 5-6 Kyles Ballachulish  
1-10 Oban Cam

## Fixtures

**Saturday 27 April**  
(Throw ups 2.30pm unless stated)  
Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup - 2nd Round  
Newtonmore v Kyles Athletic  
Fort William v Glenurquhart  
John MacGregor - 12pm  
Kingussie v Ballachulish  
Ronnie Campbell  
Beaulay v Lovat  
Daniel MacRae  
Glengarry v Ardnamurchan  
Willie MacRae  
Inveraray v Lochcarron  
Alex MacVicar - 1pm  
Kilmallie v Lochaber  
John Angus Gillies - 12pm  
Col Glen v Lochside Rovers  
Euan Pearson

**Orion Group Premiership**  
Fort William v Lovat  
Graham Cameron - 3pm  
Inveraray v Newtonmore  
David Mitchell - 3.30pm  
Kingussie v Kyles Athletic  
Evan MacRae  
Oban Camanachd v Glenurquhart  
Ted McDonald

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Inverness v Beaulay  
Neil Ferguson  
Kilmallie v Caberfeidh  
Innes Wood - 3pm  
Skye v Strathglass  
Deek Cameron

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Aberdour v Oban Celtic  
Ewan MacDonald - 3pm  
Bute v Taynuilt  
Dunkie Kerr - 3pm  
Glasgow MA v Glenorchy  
Lachie Wood  
Strachur v Kilmory  
Billy Wotherspoon

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Aberdeen Uni v Kinlochshiel  
Archie Ritchie

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Aberdour v Tayforth  
Douglas Ferguson - 12pm  
Bute v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Neil MacDonald - 12 pm

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Caberfeidh v Inverness  
Rah Douglas  
Strathspey v Lochbroom  
Calum Girvan

**Camanachd Association Youth Fixtures**  
Friday 26 April  
Marine Harvest Under 14 League  
Newtonmore v Caberfeidh  
Fort William v Glenurquhart  
Skye B v Kinlochshiel  
Beaulay v Strathglass

**Marine Harvest Under 14 9-a-side League**  
Milngavie v Inveraray  
Oban Camanachd v Oban Celtic  
Ballachulish v Kyles  
(at Dalmally)



Kilmallie forward Sebi Macmillan puts pressure on the Beaulay defence in the first half of the North Division One match in Caol.

## League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inveraray	6	5	1	0	13	5	11
Newtonmore	5	4	1	0	20	6	9
Kyles Athletic	6	4	0	2	13	7	8
Lovat	6	2	4	0	10	5	8
Kingussie	5	3	0	2	10	6	6
Kinlochshiel	6	2	2	2	11	18	6
Glenurquhart	7	1	2	4	7	11	4
Fort William	6	1	2	3	6	13	4
Lochaber	6	0	2	4	1	10	2
Oban Camanachd	7	1	0	6	8	18	2

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilmallie	6	5	0	1	23	4	10
Beaulay	6	5	0	1	16	8	10
Skye	6	3	1	2	12	7	7
Caberfeidh	5	2	0	3	9	11	



A jubilant Oban Lorne squad celebrate after receiving the National Bowl trophy at Murrayfield. Photos: Stephen Lawson

# Green Machine bowl them over in national final at Murrayfield



Oban Lorne president Dee Bradbury congratulates centre Craig Wright as he collects his winners' medal.

## RBS National Bowl final Oban Lorne 19 Grangemouth 14

ROARED on by more than 700 fans, all decked in green, Oban Lorne made history on Saturday at Murrayfield by winning their first ever national title in the club's 50th anniversary season.

Grangemouth, their much-fancied opponents, later admitted they had expected a straightforward win but had no answer to Oban's mighty forward play and heroic defending.

### Elated

Elated Oban Lorne RFC president Dee Bradbury praised the travelling army of vocal supporters, who helped make the difference on the day.

She said: 'The atmosphere was electric, a sea of green clothing, flags, hats and chants of 'Green Machine'.

'Speaking to the players afterwards, they said that they could hear the overwhelming

support throughout the entire match, urging them to dig deep, chase every ball and make every tackle. The crowd was the 16th man who brought them to victory.'

At a sun-kissed Murrayfield, Grangemouth threatened to spoil the Oban party with a try three minutes into the game but Oban's line breakers immediately worked their way up the other end to level the tie through flanker Struan Smith.

As Grangemouth hit back in this end-to-end first half, Oban then needed a try-saving tackle from Struan's twin brother, man-of-the-match Cameron. The athletic twins seemed to cover every blade of grass, giving tireless performances.

As the half continued at a frenetic pace, the sides again exchanged scores, with a quick tap penalty and drive from Andy MacDougall and a second conversion from young Craig

Wright, levelling the scores at 14-14. Then, in the 36th minute, Oban took the lead for the first time when second row Jamie MacMillan barged his way through the defence to touch down on the line.

### Nervy finish

At the end of an energy-sapping second half, in which there was no further scoring, a late Grangemouth surge made for a nervy finish but Lorne's solid scrum and tough tackling repelled any attack on their line.

Captain Robin MacQueen, who had returned to the team last season after retiring with a serious ankle injury, said: 'We are all absolutely over the moon but we really deserved this.'

'The boys have worked hard on their fitness and it showed.'

'We knew the forwards had to dominate today and I don't think Grangemouth had come up against a pack like ours this season.'

Argyll and Bute Council deputy leader Roddy McCuish was among the supporters in the stand.

He said: 'This is a great achievement for the club in its 50th year and I think the importance of this win was evident from the number of people who travelled down to Edinburgh.'

'I know how hard everyone has worked to bring the National Bowl back to Oban and the whole town should be very proud of this team and this club.'

'The fact Argyll and Bute's rugby development officer, Allan Wright, was among the players involved proves the future of rugby in the area is in safe hands.'

Team: R Jackson, C MacLachlan, C Wright, C Smith, A Cadzow, R Aitken, D Pender, L Burns, R MacQueen, T Sutherland, J MacMillan, N Rimmer, S Smith, A MacDougall, C Louw. Subs: A Johnston, M Tighe, F Matheson, L MacLachlan, A Wright, R Wright, C Ferris.



Morven Wright was at Murrayfield to support husband Robert and sons Allan, left, and Craig, all Oban Lorne players.



A 'good luck' banner welcomes the Oban Lorne players onto the Murrayfield pitch.



There was a sea of green in the stands as Oban Lorne supporters got into the party mood.

## Lorne Ladies all but promoted

A WEARY Oban Lorne ladies team all but secured promotion ahead of next season's league re-structuring with a 41-0 away victory on Sunday over Stewartry.

The penultimate National League match was always going to be tough for the ladies, who had celebrated the men's success at Murrayfield the previous night.

But some solid, last-ditch defending set the foundation for an on-form Oban attack that saw tries scored through Donna Smith (3), Karen MacCorquodale, Jemma Campbell, Shannon Reynolds and Kelly Lamont.

Captain Katie Ritchie said: 'This is the biggest squad we have had for an away game and considering the day we had on Saturday at Murrayfield everyone did well to make it, never mind win the game the way we did.'

'It's definitely the icing on the cake after an amazing weekend for Oban rugby.'

Changes in the women's game will see Oban Lorne play in a new league called National 1, if promoted.



Centre Cameron Smith has brother Struan in support as he makes the hard yards.



Jamie MacMillan touches down for what proved to be the winning try on Saturday.

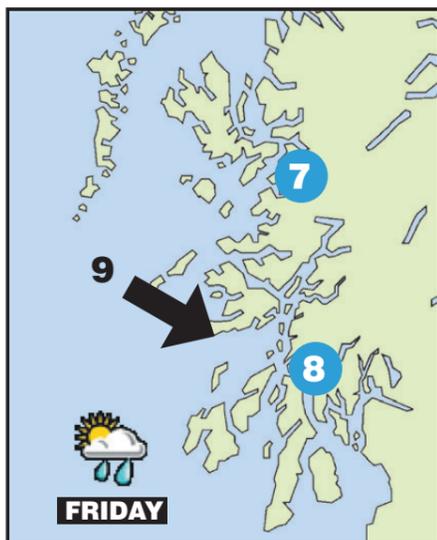
## Weather

**Thursday** Heavy rain showers  
Winds moderate, south westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 7°C

**Friday** Sunshine and showers  
Winds light, west north westerly  
Temperatures 3°C to 8°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Sunshine and showers  
Winds light, north north westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 10°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 25, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 05.06	3.9 11.30 0.6	17.28 3.9 23.36 0.3
Fri 05.43	4.0 12.06 0.5	18.03 4.0 *** **
Sat 00.20	0.3 06.20 4.0	12.46 0.4 18.41 4.0
Sun 01.06	0.3 07.00 3.9	13.28 0.5 19.23 3.9
Mon 01.54	0.5 07.43 3.7	14.15 0.6 20.09 3.7
Tues 02.45	0.7 08.30 3.4	15.06 0.8 21.00 3.5
Wed 03.42	0.9 09.24 3.1	16.04 1.0 22.01 3.3

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

## The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with



website: [www.northwestmarine.co.uk](http://www.northwestmarine.co.uk)  
Address: 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG  
Ph: 01631 565740 Fax: 01631 565780  
email: [enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk)

# **The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.**

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION**

Established 1861 No 8144

Thursday 25 April, 2013

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence



### Successful launch for Yes Skye

Page 2



### Ben Nevis challenge

Page 5

**SPORTS NEWS**  
Fort fight night draws the crowds



### Jobs go as doors close on DE Shoes

STAFF at a Fort William shoe shop have been given final notice the store will close in coming weeks.

It had been hoped DE Shoes on the town's High Street would be sold to another company, but the shop will close along with 25 other branches across Scotland.

Managing director Robert Sinclair said: 'I am immensely sad that in the company's 146th year it has proved necessary to wind it up. The last months have been incredibly difficult for everyone but I have been grateful for the ongoing support from members of the public who do not want to see their local shoe shop close. Unfortunately shopping habits have shown a move away from local High Streets and in these difficult economic times even loyal customers have had to cut back on their footwear purchases.'

'During this time we will, of course, continue to consult with interested parties looking to take on any of the remaining stores as going concerns.'

### Lights out in Inverlochy

INVERLOCHY residents have been left in the dark since Friday night after street lights in parts of the village went out.

A fault has meant Wades Road, Abrach Road and parts of Montrose Square have been in pitch black throughout the night, making a walk from Fort William to Inverlochy after dark a perilous exercise.

Graham Cairns, who works in local chip shop Ben Nevis Takeaway, said the lack of streetlights was having an effect on his workplace. He told *The Oban Times*: 'I've been doing deliveries and you have to put on your full beams to see anything. We have a few young members of staff and we have to give them lifts home, we can't let them walk home in that.'

### Fèis Glèann Albainn

YOUNG musicians from across the Highlands will have the chance to learn from expert tutors at this year's Fèis Glèann Albainn from July 15-19.

Now in its tenth year, the week long fèis offers traditional Gaelic music tuition to youngsters aged five to 18.

Contact fèis organiser Tracey MacCallum on 01809 501468.



Driving for success: Fort William golfer Alastair Ross is heading for the US to pursue his dream. 20. f17alastair01

# Young Fort golfer tees up US scholarship

A LOCHABER High School pupil has teed up a golfing scholarship in the United States after impressing a US college.

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

Sixth year student Alastair Ross has secured a provisional place at Union College in Barberville, Kentucky and will fly out to America in August if he passes the final Highers he needs to get through the admissions process.

Fort William Golf Club member Alastair, from Tomonie, plays off a handicap of one and has impressed on the Scottish junior circuit.

The talented 17 year-old has signed up with Pro Dream USA, an ad company which helps the UK's best young golfers find scholarships with US colleges. He twice had to sit a standard US aptitude test for college admissions - and passed with flying colours both times.

Soon Union College was knocking on Alastair's door after viewing videos of his golf shots, together with his competition and academic results.

Alastair told *The Oban Times*: 'I have signed my letter of intent and given my commitment to the college. At the moment I'm

going through the paperwork process and getting everything formalised.

'By signing the letter that means I'm going - if I manage to get through admissions and show I can financially back it up.'

'If it all goes to plan I'll be leaving in August - I can't wait. It's quite nice because it's a dream I have had since I was pretty young. When I was about 11 I found out you can go to the States. That captured my imagination - and has been a goal for me ever since.'

'Everything I have done has been working towards that - so it's pretty sweet to have come through to achieve it and have a good chance of going out there.'

Alastair added: 'I'd like to study business management or sports management but I'd hopefully want to combine the two. My main aim is to get a degree but my plan is to have four successful years playing

on the US college circuit, then go on mini-tours then hopefully on to the PGA tour. That is my ultimate goal and dream.

'Two years back I watched [Scottish golfer] Martin Laird on Sky Sports and he had to make a 15-foot putt to keep his PGA playing privileges. He holed it - and that was a real inspiration for me.'

Alastair's dad John, Fort William GC junior coach, and mum Jane have backed their son all the way as he chases down golfing glory - while younger brother Lorne could soon be a rival.

Alastair said: 'I would like to thank mum and dad for giving up so much because playing competitive and amateur golf at junior level is very expensive and time consuming. They had to give up a lot of weekends to take me around the country. And Lorne already plays off seven - so there's a bit of competition there!'

Lochaber High School head teacher Jim Sutherland praised the dedication Alastair has shown in excelling both in golf and the classroom.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'To my knowledge Alastair is the first pupil from Lochaber High School to secure a golf scholarship in the United States. 'It is a great achievement both for him and Lochaber and we wish him well.'

## West Highland College open day success



Students of the Outdoor Activities Management course display some of the equipment they use to help encourage new students to join them in WHC Lochaber.

STAFF and students opened the doors of West Highland College UHI in Fort William for their annual open day event on Saturday.

And there was plenty for prospective students to see and do with traditional and contemporary music performances, cookery demonstrations, displays, a college tour and talks with tutors about courses.

Assistant Principal Georgina Morrison said: 'We were delighted to greet local people interested in studying as well as those from further afield.'

'New technology will allow learners to study from any of our 10 college centres throughout the West Highlands.'

The college is already well known for its unique BA (Hons) Adventure Tourism Management degree course delivered in its School of Adventure Studies.

But the open day also featured practical demonstrations of the college's construction and rural skills courses, pictures of the college's new Mallaig-based boat 'Lannair - part of the Maritime Skills Certificate course - and a display of art and textiles from the art and design course in Portree.

Meanwhile, students playing traditional music highlighted the NC music course in Fort William with tuition arranged through a partnership with the National Centre for Excellence in Traditional Music in Plockton.

### Call to fund 3G pitch with crime fund

A CALL has been made for a proposed 3G pitch in Fort William to be partially paid for through the Scottish Government's proceeds of crime fund.

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson has written to Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill to ask for the pitch plan to be considered

when the next round of finance from the fund is allocated. Mr Thompson said: 'A redeveloped 3G pitch at Fort William will be an invaluable resource for football and shinty teams in the wider Lochaber area. This would be an excellent investment for the proceeds of crime.'

See pitch crisis meeting, page 3.



Lochalsh Trails Club Present

## LOCHALSH DIRTY 30 CHALLENGE WALK AND MINI CHALLENGE 12 MILE WALK 30 MILE TRAIL

**June 8th 2013**

This walk is suitable for experienced and enthusiastic walkers and will take them through some of the most spectacular scenery in Britain

For further details visit [www.lochalsh-trails.co.uk](http://www.lochalsh-trails.co.uk)

GO Outdoor, Forestry Commission Scotland, The Highland Council, Lochaber & Badenoch MSP, The Royal Society of Edinburgh

### Improving rural healthcare part of much bigger picture

TACKLING the wider problems in Highland life is the only way to improve rural healthcare, a Caol conference was told on Friday.

Portree GP Steve McCabe told Dewar 2013 the 'bigger picture' needed to be tackled to solve the current GP recruitment crisis.

Dr McCabe said: 'We have to tackle public transport, and secondary education in rural areas is failing. How can we attract workers to the Highlands when the high schools are failing? He added: 'We need to see healthcare as part of a much bigger picture.'

Other issues discussed at the conference in Kilmallie Free Church included fist responder schemes and a lack of local youngsters going into medicine.

### Man admits sending inappropriate text and Facebook messages to three underage girls

**EXCLUSIVE**  
By RICHARD HADDOCK  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

A MORAR man could be placed on the sex offenders' register after admitting sending thousands of inappropriate texts and Facebook messages to three underage girls.

Tom Crawley, of 1 Camus Crescent, admitted contacting the girls after the communications were found by the youngsters' parents.

The 27-year-old former fisherman sent more than 1,100 texts to one of the girls in less than a month, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Prosecutor Fiscal Alison Wylie said some of the messages contained 'possible sexual references' and innuendoes.

In one text read out in court, Crawley called the girl 'sexy' and ended the message with 'love you loads' followed by 42 kisses.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose argued it wasn't clear if there had been a significant sexual element to the communications, saying out of the 'huge volume' of messages, very few had contained any innuendo or sexual comments.

**Motive**  
But Ms Wylie argued: 'What other motive could there be for a grown man to strike up relationships with three children?'

'By the very age of the accused and the type of contact, you could consider there to be a significant sexual element.'

'This is not a young lad who's just turned 16 talking to schoolmates, this is a 27 year-old man who should know better.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin deferred sentencing until May 22, and said he would wait to see what social work reports say before deciding if there had been a significant sexual element.

Crawley pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or aggressive manner by sending inappropriate text and Facebook messages to a 12 year-old girl between October 1 and December 19.

He also admitted sending messages to a 15-year-old girl between May 1 and December 18 and a 13-year-old girl between November 11 and December 20.

## Don't dig deep for TOOL HIRE

For all your TOOL HIRE visit Jewson Fort William Today!

45% OFF WHEN YOU QUOTE Oban 45

Access equipment - Power tools - Earth moving - Mixing - Floor preparation - Site equipment - Landscaping - and much more...

Hiring to all of the Fort William, Oban, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown area

North Road, Fort William PH33 6TQ • Call Kevin on 01397 701086 / 07920 826502  
Email: [kevin.orr@jewson.co.uk](mailto:kevin.orr@jewson.co.uk) or [www.jewson.co.uk/toolhire](http://www.jewson.co.uk/toolhire) for more information

Offer applies to hire of a single piece of equipment only. Offer does not apply to sale items, carriage charges or items Jewson re-hire from other companies. Excludes current arrangements.

**JEWSON TOOL HIRE**

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH**

### FREE PUBLIC TALKS

**Gaelic Culture of Lochaber**  
Lifting the Night— A' fuaich na h-oidhche

**Prof. Hugh Cheape and Prof. Donald Meek FRSE FRHistS**

This talk will discuss the Gaelic Culture of the Lochaber region, focussing on the poets and storytellers of the area. This event will comprise a bi-lingual approach.

**Tuesday 7 May 2013, 7.00pm**  
**The Sunart Centre, Strontian**

This event will be finished in time to catch the Corran Ferry back towards Fort William

**Women in Science: Antarctic Experience**  
**Alison McLure**  
National Officer (Scotland), Institute of Physics

The Antarctic is a remarkable continent - remote, hostile and uninhabited. Yet it is of key importance to our understanding of how the world works. For the early explorers, Antarctica was the ultimate survival contest. For scientists, it remains a place of intellectual challenge.

**Wednesday 15 May 2013, 7.00pm**  
**Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William**

For further information and to register:  
Tel: 0131 240 2780 [events@royalsoced.org.uk](mailto:events@royalsoced.org.uk)  
[www.royalsoced.org.uk/events](http://www.royalsoced.org.uk/events)  
Refreshments served from 6.30pm

The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland's National Academy, is Scottish Charity No. SC000470

**Thieves snatch power tools from Onich shed**

POWER tools worth more than £1,000 were stolen from a shed in Onich - the latest in a spate of break-ins near the village.

The outbuilding was broken into sometime between 7pm on Wednesday April 17 and 3am on Thursday April 18, a police spokesperson said.

A number of sheds have been broken into in the area since the start of the year, as well as the local village hall.

One Onich resident told The Oban Times the thefts had made locals think more about home security, saying: 'We've always been very relaxed about locking our doors, but now we make sure our garage and outbuildings are locked. That's something we've never done before.'

**Caol man denies violent sexual attack on woman**

A CAOL man has denied carrying out a violent sexual attack on a woman in Fort William town centre last summer.

Artur Papadimitriu, of 12 Banavie Road, pled not guilty to sexually assaulting the woman with intent to rape in Viewforth car park in the early hours of June 24.

The 20 year-old is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on May 7.

**Two Fort William trials postponed**

TWO TRIALS were postponed at Fort William Sheriff Court on Monday due to a lack of time.

Kevin Cairns, of 4 Lorn Cottages, Ballachulish is accused of assaulting a woman to her injury by repeatedly seizing her throat and compressing it, and holding her on a couch on February 16.

The 34 year-old is now due to stand trial on June 17.

Gillian Mann, aged 22, was due to appear accused of dangerous driving on Lochail Road, Inverloch and a track at Black Parks but saw her case put off.

Mann, of Coilleras, Tomonie, now faces trial on June 5.



**Young boxing stars shine at show**

FORT William's finest young boxers put on an entertaining display for a big crowd at the Nevis Centre on Saturday night.

Two of the stars of the show were Cameron Whyte and James Aitchison, who both scored unanimous points victories.

Aitchison, aged 15, was named fighter of the

night after his display of power and speed led him to victory over Scottish finalist Hairie Razul.

Scottish champion Whyte, aged 11, was named as young boxer of the night after an impressive display against Glasgow fighter Keiron Yardley.

For a full report and photos from the night, see the sports section. 20\_f17boxing01

**Kinlochleven gears up for litter pick**

KINLOCHLEVEN residents will help get the village ready for the upcoming summer

tourist season with a litter pick this Saturday. Organised by the community

council, volunteers will meet at the community centre at 10am, with refreshments available.

**A890 road upgrade going nowhere fast**

Lochalsh campaigner fears he won't see work completed in his lifetime

A LOCHALSH community leader fears he will be in the grave before a vital upgrade on a rock-fall-prone road is completed.

Plockton Community Council chairman Charlie MacRae has campaigned for over two decades for a replacement route for the A890 Stromeferry bypass.

The vital link, which connects Lochalsh to the north, was shut for four months early in 2012 for stabilisation work to a rock face following a landslide.

It closed again for several days around Christmas for further rock removal after more debris came down.

Highland Council spent £2.8million stabilising the rock face, realigning the road and the laying on extra ferry and train services.

Drivers were faced with a disruptive 140-mile diversion via Inverness during the closures, prompting Highland Council to canvass for an alternative.

Now Mr MacRae, along with other local residents, will attend a council 'drop-in' session in

**EXCLUSIVE**

REPORT by

STEPHEN NORRIS

snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Lochcarron Village Hall on Saturday to view possible solutions. But the veteran community leader, who celebrated his 75th birthday last Wednesday, has given up hope the new route will ever materialise.

He told *The Oban Times* last week: 'Even after we have seen all these options it will be next spring before we know what the best one is - then only after that they have to go for the money.'

**Too long**

'I was 75 yesterday, so I don't see a solution in my lifetime at Stromeferry. There is no money and they are taking too long to find the best route.'

'Twenty years ago I was at a meeting in Achmore and Highland Council were asking then what option we wanted - a bridge or a different road. Now, 20 years later, they are asking us the same question. It just goes



Charlie MacRae: not hopeful a solution to the A890 will be found in his lifetime.

Inverness traffic for 10 minutes it would be better to transfer the money to get our road built.'

Lochalsh and Wester Ross residents can view and discuss options for the new A890 route in Lochcarron Village Hall from 1pm to 5pm.

The event follows preparatory work last year to draw up ways to build around the vulnerable section.

Nine choices will be on display in the hall, including a bridge over Loch Carron - which many locals favour - a tunnel, reclaiming land from the loch for the bypass and a new road over the hill through Attadale Estate.

Mr MacRae said: 'Practically everybody I have asked here wants the bridge. But why do they need nine options after the meetings we had?'

Speaking ahead of Saturday's event, transport, environmental and community services chairman Graham Phillips said: 'The council has given priority to finding a solution to the recurring rock falls at the Stromeferry bypass.'

**Sheriff finds Caol man guilty of three-hour drunken assault on 17-year-old**

A CAOL man throttled his then girlfriend, ripped her clothes off and threatened to set her hair alight after she tried to break up with her.

Alexander Williamson's three hour drunken assault left the 17 year-old woman with a black eye, cuts on her chest and ear, and marks on her left arm.

The woman told Fort William Sheriff Court Williamson punched and slapped her, poured drink and aftershave over her head, stubbed out a cigarette out on her hand and set her clothes

**EXCLUSIVE**

By RICHARD HADDOCK

rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

ablaze in the back garden in the early hours of June 23 last year.

However, Williamson, aged 23, claimed the woman had attacked him after he accused her of cheating.

He said: 'She started slapping me on the face, kicked me on the side, and kicked me on the leg. I stood up as she was slapping me and I slapped her on the face. Then I grabbed her by her

underwear and flung her onto my bed.'

Prosecutor Alison Wylie pointed out Williamson had given three different versions of events - to hospital staff, to police and in court. She said he had variously claimed to have been hit by a vase, an aftershave bottle and a 5kg lifting weight.

Mr Williamson said he did not know why details in his story has changed. Ms Wylie said: 'She gave a harrowing account of a sustained course of violence the accused put her through that

night. Mr Williamson cannot explain the injuries to her.

'It is all consistent with him being very unhappy about the end of the relationship.'

Finding Williamson, of 4 Glenmalie Terrace, guilty of assault, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'Mr Williamson, you have maintained inconsistent positions. I find her to be a credible witness, and I do think the other evidence in the case corroborates her evidence.'

Sentencing was deferred to May 22 for reports.



**Holly's delight at ceilidh cash boost**

A Fort William teenager's attempts to raise funds to allow her to teach English to underprivileged youngsters in India for a year received a boost with fundraising ceilidh on Saturday night. For Lochaber High School senior Holly Fraser this was the latest in a series of events to help towards the total of £5,500 she needs to take part in Project Trust. Music on the night was provided by five of Holly's school mates, while a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses helped boost the total. Holly is pictured with Jemma Halford and Rebecca Gilles at the ceilidh. 20\_f17holly01

**Intrepid climbers honoured with Golden Ice Axe**

NEWTONMORE mountaineer Sandy Allan, together with climbing partner Rick Allan of Aberdeen have been honoured at the sport's 'Oscars'.

The pair conquered the last unclimbed route in the Himalayas range - the eight-mile knife-edge 7,000m-plus Mazeno Ridge leading to the mountain Nanga Parbat.

The men were presented with the coveted Piolet D'Or (Golden Ice Axe) at a three-day event in Chamonix, France and Courmayeur, Italy.

All attempts by the world's best climbers to climb the ridge over the last 20 years failed. Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson introduced a motion in the Scottish Parliament to congratulate the intrepid duo.

He said: 'Sandy and Rick are a testament to the adventurous Scottish spirit and continue the great Scottish tradition of mountaineers like John Cunningham, Tom Patey, and Douglas Haston.'

'I dabble with mountain walking and cannot imagine the level of physical and emotion determination involved in such an undertaking.'

**Fort FC lotto draw jackpot**

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £500 is up for grabs in this week's Fort William FC lotto draw. Last week's numbers were 3, 11 and 19.

**Lochaber Together fun run**

HUNDREDS of local people will complete a 5k route through Fort William and Inverloch to raise money for charity at Saturday's Lochaber Together fun run.

Those taking part can walk, jog or run the circular route which starts from the BA Club at 2pm. As well as the race, the day will see a strongman show, a children's area, a mini Highland Games and a spectacular balloon launch.

**Association's last ditch attempt to save Lochaber indoor sports centre proposal**

LOCHABER Sports Association representatives will meet with Highland Council leader Drew Hendry in Inverness today (Thursday) in a last ditch attempt to save its bid for an indoor sports centre.

LSA chair Jane Blanchard said the group are on the verge of giving up on their plans for a £1 million sports hub next to Lochaber High School because of the council's proposal to put funding towards resurfacing and widening the school's astro turf pitch.

Mrs Blanchard told *The Oban Times* she hoped the meeting would provide the solutions to save the project.

She said: 'We want to see if any of this is salvageable. We want to know how they can think of recovering the astro turf pitch at a cost of £700,000 when we have a quote for £140,000. They want to use all £400,000 of the community gain from Tesco, if that ever comes, plus other council funds towards the astro pitch. None of this has been in consultation with anyone,

let alone ourselves. They are making a mockery of things. We've battled away for four years and it seems at the moment to have got us nowhere.'

Mrs Blanchard continued: 'If something positive comes out of this it will be worth it, but there are some pretty big questions to answer. We want to look at the development of the two facilities and how it might be funded, and we want assurances from the council they're not going to pursue their own agenda on this.'

**Police step up road safety message as 100 are caught in crackdown**

MORE than 100 road users were stopped in the space of five days for driving offences across the Highlands during a police crackdown last week.

More than 60 people were caught speeding, 30 were seen not wearing seatbelts, 19 drivers were using mobile phones and seven were reported for

careless or dangerous driving. Police Scotland divisional road policing unit inspector Neil Lumsden said: 'Although they could be perceived as being relatively low numbers, I would like to reinforce the message that one person committing such an offence, is one too many. There is no

excuse for committing distraction offences or not adhering to simple safety measures, such as wearing seatbelts.'

'Quite simply, losing concentration for just a second and not being secured within a vehicle can cost yours and others lives.'

**Holidaymaker fined £900 for carrying four-inch knife**

CARRYING a four inch blade in his belt while shopping at a busy Fort William supermarket has cost a holidaymaker £900.

Members of the public contacted police after seeing the knife on Antony Higman at Morrisons at around midday on September 13.

And when officers stopped him in the car park, the 49 year-old admitted having a second smaller

knife in his jacket pocket. Defence solicitor Eilidh MacDonald said Higman had been fishing on Loch Shiell and camping nearby, and had been heading back to England when the offence occurred. She said he had forgotten the knife was on his belt.

Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'He said the knives were for fishing but he could not explain why he had them on him while shopping in Morrisons.'

'The fact he was in a supermarket with the knife in open view disturbed members of the public.'

Fining Higman, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'It is a matter of huge concern if someone goes into a supermarket with knives like this.'

Higman, of 40 Malmesbury Park, Runcorn, pled guilty to having the two knives without reasonable excuse.

**We will make you smile**

The Denture Designers @ Argyll and Bute Cosmetic Dentures have over 40 years experience in hand crafting cosmetic dentures.

Postal service available.

Teeth whitening service now available.

As mouth cancer is a serious issue in the West of Scotland, please come into our studio to pick up a leaflet on detecting mouth cancer.

We are not dentists.

We have hundreds of testimonials from satisfied clients from all over Scotland and from countries as far a field as Russia, Argentina, USA, South Africa and most of the Commonwealth countries.

Most importantly we listen to what the client wants

We can provide Dentures on the same day and also a half hour Denture repair service

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

1b Combie Street, Oban  
01631 566 631



# Atlantis subsidy row crisis talks

By STEVEN FLANAGAN [sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk)

A ROW over the subsidy provided to Oban's internationally admired social enterprise, Atlantis Leisure, could see its voluntary board of directors walk away. Chairman Neil Matheson said the board of Atlantis was not prepared to run the facility on an 'unrealistic' basis in light of proposed cuts that could impact on the facility's long-term viability.

He said: 'It's up to the council to sit down with us and find a way forward.' Mr Robb remained defiant ahead of the meeting. He said: 'Thursday may be a difficult day. A leader leads with the support of his colleagues and I have no indication that may be changing.'

Asked about the situation, constituency SNP MSP Michael Russell said: 'I want this administration to succeed and I will continue to work hard to support it. It is a far better administration than the rag bag one it replaced.'

Plans proposed by the council and approved in February's budget would have seen Atlantis' subsidy cut by £12,000 per annum - together with a move agreed in 2011 to remove annual increases in the subsidy linked with the retail prices index.

Any solution would have to be reached by June, with the board required to give three months' notice to hand the building back to council control. The row saw Oban councillor Fred Hall quit the administration and the SNP in protest on Monday over the council's decision to proceed with the cut, despite objections from Atlantis and the community.

Mr Matheson said: 'There was an issue with the council and a decision taken at the last budget that was difficult for us to work with. Atlantis has to be run on a financial basis that's realistic. We are not prepared to run with it on a financial basis that's unrealistic.'

## Green Machine lifts RBS National Bowl at Murrayfield

A large section of Murrayfield, Scotland's national rugby stadium, was awash with green as hundreds travelled to see Oban Lorne lift the RBS National Bowl on Saturday. The victory, in the club's 50th anniversary season, was Oban Lorne's first ever major trophy. Captain Robin MacQueen is pictured lifting the cup as he celebrates with teammates. For more see the back page.

### Well-known Oban adventurer dies in accident

A GLOBETROTTER Oban adventurer has died after his digger rolled on top of him in a tragic accident at his property in Sella, Spain.

Duncan Strachan, who died last Tuesday at the age of 66, was well known in the Oban area as a former owner of the rare breeds park and for his adventurous nature.

He and his partner, Kay Simpson, also ran a veterinary business in Broadford on the Isle of Skye.

A celebration of Duncan's life will be held in Skipinnish Ceilidh House, Oban, next Thursday, to which anyone who knew him is invited.

For more, see page 21.

## Council on brink of collapse

ARGYLL and Bute Council's ruling SNP administration is on the brink of collapse amid furious rows within Kilmory stemming from the 'Valentine's Day massacre' budget.

Councillors have described as 'chaotic' Oban councillor Fred Hall's resignation from the party on Monday. He said he 'could no longer support' new leader James Robb over his decision to impose cuts on Oban's Atlantis Leisure and close Dunoon's Struan Lodge care home - despite strong community support for the ventures.

His is the second departure from the administration in as many months, following Dunoon councillor Michael Breslin's resignation at the start of March.

In what is a serious blow to Mr Robb's leadership, the Argyll and Bute branch of the SNP has supported Mr Hall in his decision to quit the party.

Bob Allan, constituency convener, told *The Oban Times*: 'We support Fred 100 per cent.' *The Oban Times* has also learned that at least two more members of the 'Fragile Alliance'

are considering quitting over concerns about its leadership. While unlikely to happen at today's meeting, speculation is already rife that a new administration could yet be formed before the SNP-led administration celebrates its first anniversary in power.

Dick Walsh, the leader of the opposition, said: 'For me, in my 30 years experience in the council, I've never seen a situation like this. I think people are genuinely worried by what is going on.'

However, Mr Walsh said he would have no interest in leading a movement to form a new administration, adding no member of his group has yet expressed an interest in doing so. The movement already puts the administration in an 'unprecedented' position ahead of today's (Thursday) full meeting of the council. Provost Isobel Strong is to have surgery and deputy provost Dougie Philand is also on holiday, meaning a vote will be held to elect a new provost to lead the meeting. With the opposition now boasting a numerical

advantage, it makes it unlikely any administration motion will pass. Mr Robb remained defiant ahead of the meeting. He said: 'Thursday may be a difficult day. A leader leads with the support of his colleagues and I have no indication that may be changing.'

Asked about the situation, constituency SNP MSP Michael Russell said: 'I want this administration to succeed and I will continue to work hard to support it. It is a far better administration than the rag bag one it replaced.'

## CalMac staff threaten strike action over wage cut plan

STRIKE action is being threatened after wage talks between bosses of ferry operator CalMac and union officials broke down.

CalMac propose cutting onshore workers' wages by up to 25 per cent - to the fury of union leaders. Negotiations between the company and the RMT, Unite and TSSA unions in Glasgow aimed at resolving the dispute broke down on Tuesday without agreement.

Manuel Cortes, leader of the TSSA union which is fighting the cuts, accused ferry bosses of treating staff with 'contempt'. He said: 'It beggars belief that Martin Dorchester [CalMac managing director] should not even bother to attend the talks when he is planning wage cuts of as much as £6,000 a year for our members. I am now inviting him to meet me face to face at our Glasgow annual conference in three weeks time in an effort to resolve this dispute peacefully.'

By FAITH ORR [forr@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:forr@obantimes.co.uk)

'If he continues his hard line stand, we will be looking to enforce our executive decision on calling a strike ballot after that conference. He is treating his hard working staff with contempt.'

A CalMac spokesman said: 'Meaningful talks were held today between management and unions.'

'The company have put forward a number of proposals which the unions have confirmed today are unacceptable to them. The unions have agreed to consult with their members and

come back with specific counter proposals by May 8, which the company has agreed to consider as part of ongoing negotiations. Both parties will meet again in due course to progress discussions.'

TSSA Scottish officer Tom Kennedy will now seek urgent talks with transport minister Keith Brown asking him to intervene in the dispute with the government-owned company.

He said: 'The government cannot sit idly by while a company tries to impose such huge cuts in living standards on workers in some of our most remote communities.'

### Biker injured in high-speed crash

A MOTORCYCLIST has suffered neck, hand and arm injuries in a high-speed crash on the A82 near Loch Tulla, Bridge of Orchy.

No other vehicles were involved in the crash, which happened around 2.15pm on Saturday. The motorcyclist, a 32-year-old Edinburgh man, was airlifted to the Belford Hospital in Fort William for treatment.

## TELFORD CONSTRUCTION

BUILDING & CIVIL ENGINEERING THROUGHOUT THE HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS

THE COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION SERVICE

[www.telford-construction.co.uk](http://www.telford-construction.co.uk)



CIVIL ENGINEERING



EXTENSIONS & RENOVATIONS



INDUSTRIAL BUILDING



HOUSE BUILDING



## Greenflame Stoves Ltd

the finest design in wood pellet stoves

**The Pellet Stove Fire - You really want!**

There is an excellent alternative for heating your home - an elegant, highly efficient cast iron wood pellet stove. It is the easy automatic stove which saves on fuel costs with far less work. With a pellet stove heating your main living areas, you simply turn down your central heating to a minimum cost. Pellets are conveniently packaged within 10kg bags which are simply poured into the top of the stove every 1 to 3 days. No more desperate struggles with damp logs. You set the stove timer and preferred room temperature and then leave the stove to heat your living space without effort. This appliance is seriously powerful at delivering heat consistently and accurately with no hassle. The cleaning routine is only once per week to remove the ash and simply vacuum out the burn chamber. Does this sound easy? Yes it is - a pellet stove automatically heats your living space and provides a magnificent new focal point fire for you to enjoy.

Greenflame Stoves specialise in the finest pellet stoves chosen for their elegance, traditional designs and highest quality. A cast iron pellet stove will cost about £2500 plus vat. It is not designed to be cheap - it is atop of the range, powerful heating stove for your home which saves on your heating costs. The manufacturers are renowned for uncompromised quality, with over 30 years experience to provide a limited lifetime warranty, assured reliability and performance.

For further information visit our website [www.greenflamestoves.co.uk](http://www.greenflamestoves.co.uk) • Tel: 01540 651 591

## BLOCKED DRAIN?

**Drain and septic tank survey, installations and repairs**

Call 24/7 - **01369 840367**

Your No 1 for drainage in Argyll



**ARGYLL & BUTE ENVIRONMENTAL LTD**

[www.aandbel.co.uk](http://www.aandbel.co.uk)

## farsain cruises

Craobh Haven

Cruises and Trips daily from Craobh Haven.

Featuring abundant wildlife and truly spectacular scenery including the Corryvreckan whirlpool.



Over 20 years operational experience. Enjoy daily wildlife and whirlpool cruises from Craobh Marina, 20 miles south of Oban, off A816

**Mobile: 07880 714165**



50th Year Anniversary



## a warm welcome awaits...

Luxury Caravans

Linnhe Lochside Holidays  
Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7NL  
Tel: 01397 772376  
[www.linnhe-lochside-holidays.co.uk](http://www.linnhe-lochside-holidays.co.uk)

Luxury Chalets

Touring & Camping

Park Facilities

BEAUTIFUL GARDENS - STUNNING VIEWS OF LOCH EIL & BEN NEVIS - PET FRIENDLY OPTION - 5 MILES FROM FORT WILLIAM - FREE FISHING - WELL PLACED FOR DAY TRIPS - BROCHURE SENT WITH PLEASURE - OPEN 15TH DECEMBER TO 31ST OCTOBER








SPECIALIST BIKE INSURANCE.

Bikesure Insurance Services has launched a new range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of island life. If you take out a bike insurance policy with us, you can save up to 50% compared with similar policies on the mainland. Call us today for a free, no obligation, quote.

FREEPHONE 0800 089 2000

Quoteline hours: Mon to Fri 9am-7pm | Sat 9am-4pm

[bikesure.co.uk](http://bikesure.co.uk)

Part of Adran Flux Insurance Services  
Authorized and regulated by the Financial Services Authority





## krisp print

For a hassle free service throughout Argyll call Krisp Print on 01631 568015

PO Box 1  
Lochavullin Industrial Estate  
Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

email: [sales@krispprint.co.uk](mailto:sales@krispprint.co.uk)  
[www.krispprint.co.uk](http://www.krispprint.co.uk)

Design  
Copy  
Print

**CalMac gears up for e-ticketing**

PASSENGERS boarding Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) ferries could soon just have to swipe their smart phone instead of producing a ticket. The ferry company is looking at introducing e-ticketing as soon as possible, and it is thought the new system could be introduced as soon as this year.

CalMac's Laura Wohlgenuth told *The Oban Times*: 'E-ticketing is in the pipeline, although I can't say when it will be ready. Now, we have to go and physically get your ticket and hand it over. It would be easier if you just swipe your phone.'

Meanwhile, Ian Fox, area manager for CalMac, said wi-fi for the ferries is also progressing, but it is proving difficult to implement due to infrastructure and technological limitations. He said: 'We are working hard on it.'

**Quality of Poppies baking recognised at awards**

POPPIES Garden Centre near Oban has been recognised by a panel of expert judges as baking some of the best cakes and pastries in Scotland.

Paul Hollywood, artisan baker and TV presenter, will present the centre with an award at Scottish Baker of the Year Awards in Glasgow.

The final results will remain a closely guarded secret until Mr Hollywood names the Scottish Baker of the Year 2013 and the runners-up on May 18.

Alan Clarke, chief executive of Scottish Bakers, said: 'Poppies Garden Centre does a great job day in and day out delivering a quality product and their place in this competition shows their customers agree.'



St Conan's Kirk trustees, from left, Davy McLeod, Robert Campbell-Preston and Halbert Jamieson survey the damage to St Conan's Kirk, caused by thieves.

**Anger as thieves strip St Conan's roof**

A TRUSTEE and caretaker of the magnificent St Conan's Kirk has described how he felt 'sick' at finding the Lochawe church vandalised and part of its unique lead roofing stolen this week.

Davy McLeod discovered the damage at 7.40am on Tuesday, the same day the kirk's trustees had scheduled a meeting at the venue to discuss raising part of the estimated £1m needed to fully restore the building. The lead roofing, which has a unique

moulded design and had been in place since the early 1900s, was taken from the roof of the cloister garth section of the church.

Mr McLeod, who lives next to the church, said: 'I have looked after this place for years and I have never seen anything like this. It made me feel sick and angry.'

'The lead roofing has been there since the local plumber, Mr Bonnington, put it there a century ago and in one night someone has just stripped it off.'

Oban's police inspector Julie McLeish shared Mr McLeod's anger at the theft. She said: 'This offence is of great concern. It is not just about the cost of the damage; this building is of historic importance and is a symbol within the local community.'

'The lead roofing has a distinctive pattern, so we are appealing for help in tracing the thieves that took it.'

Oban Police can be contacted on 01631 510500.

**Roundabout sparks by-pass rethink call**

CALLS have been made for Argyll and Bute Council to take a fresh look at the Oban Development Road (ODR) after plans to build a roundabout at Dunbeg were approved.

Oban councillor Duncan MacIntyre is urging senior officials to revive the road project after Transport Scotland estimated the upgrade would mean 1,500 more vehicle movements on the A85 per day.

West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) is providing the roundabout for access to its new housing development at Dunbeg, and a possible new boutique hotel at Tom Liath by an international developer.

These additional pressures, combined with possible increased ferry traffic when the government's RET fares discount scheme extends to Oban routes in 2016, means the time is right to look once again

By STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

at the bypass, according to Councillor MacIntyre. He told *The Oban Times*: 'All the reports, and there are many, regularly refer to ODR as essential and number one priority.'

'The growth and expansion of Oban in developments such as Dunbeg, Dunstaffnage, Connel and Benderloch - all under the Lorn Arc - and south of Oban and the new Oban High School, wherever that may be, will demand improved access and traffic management and vehicle accommodation.'

'The hotel and WHHA proposals, the Scottish Association for Marine Science [new centre at Dunbeg], the first 50 houses already under construction in Dunbeg Village and a further 40 houses at Glenshellach, plus the Lorn Arc

and RET, is a clear indicator to Transport Scotland of a developing situation that cannot be other than a serious priority.'

Councillors approved WHHA's plan to build a roundabout west of the Halfway Filling Station on the A85 by majority at a planning hearing in the Corran Halls last Tuesday, despite 62 objections.

Among the complainers were Dugald Munro, who owns the fuel station, who not only felt the roundabout would affect passing trade, but that the removal of rock to level the area could cause problems, with the station built on infill. Dunbeg Community Council also said it had doubts over its position.

However, conditions for the approval of the site include provision that work should not start until the construction method is approved and a landscaping scheme approved. Building work on the roundabout must start within three years.

**Farmers 'No' to bear and lynx**

PROPOSALS to reintroduce wild animals including bears, wolves and lynx to the Highlands have enraged a farmers union.

Environmental activist Mandy Haggith believes we should be sharing the countryside with species which roamed the land centuries ago.

Ms Haggith made the controversial call at a debate entitled 'How Wild Can We Go?' to mark Earth Day in Assynt, where the remains of post-ice-age bears and lynx have been discovered.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'It is about restoring balance to our very unbalanced ecosystem and about sharing the land with other animals - not just expecting that human beings are going to dominate. We have got the space in the Highlands to share the land with these beautiful animals.'

But the National Farmers

Union Scotland (NFUS) has said the 'introduction' of the predatory animals would simply add to livestock losses to sea eagles.

The birds are now a common sight after eagles introduced from Norway successfully bred on the west coast.

Lachlan Maclean, from Knock Farm on Mull, the chairman of NFUS' Less Favoured Areas Committee, said he had lost new lambs to eagle predation - and was firmly against lynx and bear stalking farmers' sheep and cattle.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I would be horrified to think there was the possibility of any more reintroductions. They don't know the full consequences of how the sea eagles are going to end up. We are overpopulated in this part of the world - anything further would certainly put some folk out of business.'

'We are in such a fragile position at the moment economically in this part of the world. The sea eagles are having a high impact as it is - any further impact would really be the straw that breaks the camel's back.'

'Any reintroduction would have to be properly set out and funded - anyone who has any problems should be properly recompensed. Even though there is a sea eagle management scheme it doesn't really recompense people for their losses.'

'The eagles benefit tourism - but if you have nothing invested in tourism all it does is affect your day-to-day business.'

He added: 'Sea eagle numbers are increasing year on year and the farmers get less and less. It is not viable for a young person to start up the way things are at the moment.'

See leader, page 10.

**Door-to-door seller charged under Act dating back to 1871**

A MAN who is accused of preying on the victims of the recent power cuts in Argyll by selling suspect generators and other equipment, has been charged under an Act dating back to 1871.

The Irish man was arrested and charged in North Connal last Friday afternoon, under the Peddler's Act 1871, for selling door-to-door without a valid peddler's licence.

Police initially received numerous reports of a group of Irish nationals who were travelling around

Argyll selling generators, flatscreen TVs and power tools. They established a joint operation with Trading Standards and found that although the goods did not appear to be stolen, they were of an 'inferior' quality.

Oban Police Acting Chief Inspector Alistair Davidson said: 'These men first appeared in the area after the power outages and tried to cash in on the fear factor of the power cuts.'

'The Argyll population has been very vigilant in helping us in this operation.'

**Services in training for Oban airport 'emergency'**

RESIDENTS who live near Oban airport are being urged not to panic when they see a full scale emergency response this weekend.

An exercise will be carried out on Saturday April 27 between 10.30am and 1pm to test the response of the emergency services in case of a plane crash at the airport.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council, which runs the airport, said: 'You will see blue lights and hear sirens at the airport but it will all be part of the exercise. This takes place every two years and is being done to meet the requirements of the Civil Aviation Authority and the Civil Contingencies Act 2005.'

**Hopes high SAMS centre will attract thousands of visitors**

A NEW £350,000 visitor centre in Dunbeg is aiming to attract thousands of people to the area to learn about cutting edge science.

The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) will open its new Scottish Ocean Explorer attraction in June to highlight work done by researchers and encourage visitors to explore how the marine environment works.

Based in the former Argyll College building at Dunstaffnage, it will take up about half of the area the college used to occupy.

SAMS is this week advertising for

staff to run the facility, which will feature an interactive exhibition, a small cinema for short documentaries about the sea, an outside marine technology garden with interactive science displays and a small science-themed café and shop.

The centre will also host an underwater observatory, webcams and hydrophones, while Smartphone users can access displays electronically.

SAMS head of communications, Dr Anuschka Miller believes the new base will be a major tourism draw for the area. She said: 'Our open days

have been attracting audiences of up to 800 which suggests that people are interested in what we do.'

'Our new Ocean Explorer Centre will allow locals to come in throughout the year to find out what we are up to and will add an indoor attraction to what we can offer visitors to the area.'

'With the help of the award-winning design team of Edinburgh company Bright 3D, we are developing what we hope will be a truly inspirational visitor experience.'

Local schools will be able to make use of the centre to help students

'dive deeper' into marine science. It will also host regular events and workshops for tourists and locals alike.

Ms Miller added: 'We have worked really hard over the years to engage with the public about our research and the importance of a healthy marine environment, but the centre will allow us to do it 100 times better.'

'Being located adjacent to Dunstaffnage Castle, we hope visitors will start to think of Dunstaffnage as a rare place where the past meets the future.'



Back from left: Ceitidh Garvin, Finlay McLuckie, William MacEwan and Catie MacLennan. Front: Daniel Campbell-Hill, Cameron Harris and Finlay Cameron. 16\_117familyceilidh1

**Touch of colour at family ceilidh**

PUPILS from Rockfield Primary's Gaelic unit brought a touch of colour to a lively family ceilidh at Oban's Glencruitten Church Centre.

The Comunn Gaidhealach an Obain family ceilidh on Friday was a popular affair, with the primary one to four classes putting on a lively performance of Aonghas Isean, Angus the Chick. The pupils brought with them all the vibrant

colours that saw them win best costume at the recent Argyll and Lochaber Gaelic Drama Festival run

**Entertaining**

Band Michael and Joanie Garvin were joined by Margaret MacLellan and the Bradfords, Morag MacNeil, Morag Smith and Andreas Wolff in hosting an entertaining evening.

**New ferry link heralded as huge boost to Kintyre**

A NEW ferry link between Campbeltown and Ardrossan has been heralded as a huge boost to the Kintyre economy.

Peter Stogdale, a consultant and former managing director of Campbeltown's White Hart Hotel, helped launch the new timetable at the VisitScotland Expo in Glasgow last week.

Mr Stogdale said sensible sailing times offered the potential for an influx of visitors. He told *The Oban Times*: 'It's terrific news because you can now get to Campbeltown from Ayr very quickly, via Arran, and on to Ireland by the Kintyre Express.'

'Public transport is so important and this is great news for Kintyre - it is absolutely, really positive.'

Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced the new link on a visit to the Kintyre port last week.

**Rest and be Thankful resurfacing planned**

OVER a kilometre of the A83 at the Rest and be Thankful near Arrochar is to be upgraded after being worn out by the average 4,188 vehicles using it every day.

BEAR Scotland will carry out the work on 1.2km of the trunk road for Transport Scotland. Repairs will be done between 7am and 7pm over two weeks, between May 7 and 17 under traffic lights and a 10mph convoy system. No work is planned at weekends.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north west representative, said: 'The works have been carefully planned to minimise delays to road users. Whilst the convoy system may result in some disruption, this is necessary to ensure the safety of both motorists and road workers during the works.'

**West coast stars in new 'stunning' BBC wildlife series**

VIEWERS of a new BBC wildlife series will be able to see the west coast of Scotland like never before. 'Hebrides - Islands on the Edge', narrated by Ewan McGregor, is the

stunning result of two years of filming by a talented team. Described as a 'landmark wildlife series' by executive producer Nigel Pope, the first three episodes focus on the

wildlife, above and below the sea, while the fourth takes a look at the people of the Hebrides. The work put in to making the show is akin to programmes such as Frozen Planet

or Big Cat Diary. The first episode of the four-part series, acclaimed by Mr McGregor as 'one of the most beautiful films I've seen', airs at 9pm on May 6 on BBC One Scotland.

## DAVID PETRO FORESTRY SERVICES

- ▲ Tree surgery
- ▲ Site clearance
- ▲ Stump Grinding
- ▲ Dangerous tree removal
- ▲ Tree Surveys and Consultancy
- ▲ Forest Establishment work
- ▲ Chipper/Stump grinder hire
- ▲ Fully NPTC Certificated
- ▲ Fully Insured
- ▲ 24 Hr Emergency Call-out
- ▲ Insurance approved
- ▲ Treatment of Japanese Knot weed






**Contact:**  
Office: 01369705564  
Mobile: 07884434257  
Email: petro.glen@btinternet.com  
Web: www.dpforestry.co.uk

**Corporate stationery**  
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

**Personal stationery**  
Matching paper & envelopes,  
postcards, address labels

**krisp print**

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,  
Burnbank, Burnside Street,  
Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD  
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk  
www.krispprint.co.uk



Cameron Whyte was given a unanimous victory after his confident performance against Keiron Yardley  
20\_f17boxing02



The first all-girl's fight in Fort William saw Megan Gordon of Elgin taking on Vikki Glover from Glasgow  
20\_f17boxing03

## Lochaber Phoenix boxers are a big hit at the Nevis Centre

**REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK**  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHABER fighters entertained a boisterous home crowd at the Nevis Centre with a series of impressive displays at Lochaber Phoenix ABC's boxing show on Saturday night.

Nine local boxers, including national and regional champions, took on opponents from across Scotland on a packed bill. Ryan Watson's senior middleweight bout against Ethan Cascarino was named fight of the night as the two exchanged combinations in a fine exhibition of boxing. But Watson's jabs and right crosses were enough to give him the win against the southpaw.

James Aitchison was given the trophy for boxer of the night for his impressive display against Hiaree Razul of Lochend ABC. Although the 15 year-old conceded height and reach he is becoming a master of distance and paired with his steely determination this combination was enough to gain a unanimous decision for the local boxer. Chris Bradley was making his final appearance for Lochaber Phoenix before moving to Peterhead, but was unable to bow out with a win. Hamman Saddique of Leith Victoria ABC calmly tried to pick off Bradley as he attacked, and landed some powerful up-purcuts to the 16 year-old. Bradley showed his disappointment as the judges scores

were read out, giving Siddique a split decision. Topping the bill, Scottish youth light welterweight champion Igor Sliwinski was given a wide points victory over Josh Dunlop of Elgin ABC. Sliwinski, cheered on by a vociferous support, kept Dunlop on the back foot and showed an improved defence. The 16 year-old never look in trouble as he recorded the win. A hard fought encounter between Robert Stewart-MacDonald and Ryan O'Connell of Duries ABC ended with an air of disappointment as a split decision went to O'Connell. Robbie Hall and Kein Johnstone were left with exhibition matches after both their opponents withdrew late on. The night also saw the first all-female bout held in Fort William, with Megan Gordon of Elgin and

the night. Dan Nixon, also 11, took on the taller Alexander Reid of Duries ABC, but negated the physical advantages to pick his way through Reid's defence. Nixon was given a unanimous decision by judges. A hard fought encounter between Robert Stewart-MacDonald and Ryan O'Connell of Duries ABC ended with an air of disappointment as a split decision went to O'Connell. Robbie Hall and Kein Johnstone were left with exhibition matches after both their opponents withdrew late on. The night also saw the first all-female bout held in Fort William, with Megan Gordon of Elgin and

### BOXING



Robbie Hall was left with an exhibition fight against George Reid after his opponent dropped out late. 20\_f17boxing06

Vikki Glover taking each other on in an exhibition match. Lochaber Phoenix official Steve Docherty said: 'With hard

work comes success and the boys in the club are starting to reap the benefits of all the graft they are putting in at the gym.

'Next season can't come quick enough as the potential we have at the club at the moment is tremendous.'

### Comfortable win in first game of the new season

#### CRICKET

FORT William Cricket Club recorded a comfortable win in their first game of the new season against Elgin on Saturday.

Fort started well, with Colin Jennings scoring 74 and Kevin O'Meara adding 43. More good batting from Davy Duncan, Derek Spencer and Lindsay Gordon left Fort with a very competitive score of 226 for five wickets from 45 overs.

In reply Elgin struggled to get anything from Fort's bowlers, with the exception of Rick Wimbles' 57.

Spencer took four wickets for 44 runs as Fort dismissed their opponents for 138 runs in the 41st over, taking 20 points from the match.

Captain O'Meara said: 'We showed good attitude in our first match of the season. We contained their batsmen very well and took wickets at regular intervals.'

Fort play Northern Counties at Fort Augustus this Saturday, with the Sunday team at Ross County.

### Threadbare squad just miss out

#### RUGBY

LOCHABER ran Banff close in a high-scoring encounter to round off their RBS Caledonian League 2 north season.

The Banavie side travelled north with a threadbare squad but a spirited display meant they just missed out on a famous away win.

Lochaber's tries were scored by Mike MacLeish, Finlay Ireland, Niall MacPhee and two from Connor Taylor, with Kenny Turnbull kicking two conversions. Neil Turnbull was awarded with the man of the match display.

Meanwhile, preparations are well underway for Lochaber's sevens tournament, which will be held at Banavie on Saturday May 4.

### Foursomes at Fort William Golf Club

#### GOLF

FORT William Golf Club held a close foursome competition last Saturday, with just one shot separating the top three pairs.

Dougie Duncan and Steven Jamieson won the KMF Cars Foursomes with a net round of 66. Rusty and Willie Duncan's better inward half gave them second after they finished level on 67 with Neil Feggans and Brian Gillespie.

Ken Jerram won the senior medal with a net 68, three shots clear of Henry MacDonald. Ian Mackie was third on net 72.

The ladies par competition on Saturday was won by Iona Cameron, who finished at three under. Kim Topping was second on four down, with Helen Brian third on five down.

Follow us on facebook



Cove striker Martin Johnston climbs above Darren Quigg and Darren Duncan to get a header at goal. 20\_f17for02

## Fort lose to Cove but hope to bounce back against the Broch this weekend

FORT William will look to bounce back from last weekend's loss to league leaders Cove with a good display at home to Fraserburgh.

Saturday's opponents sit in mid table in the Highland League, but put six goals past Fort when the two sides met at Bellslea Park back in August. The Lochaber men will be looking to avoid a similar result this weekend, and although recent results have not looked good, performances have been improved.

With manager Danny Conlon in Spain on an SFA coaching course, coach Michael McEachern took charge for the visit of Cove Rangers last Saturday.

Fort had on-loan keeper Kyle Robertson back between the sticks, with Andy Maclean also returning in midfield.

### FOOTBALL

Lewis Campbell shook off a knock to take his place on the bench, but Scott Hunter missed out.

#### Too strong

It was top against bottom, and few would have expected anything other than a Cove victory. The visitors pressed strongly in the first half and Martin Johnston proved too strong for the Fort centre-back pairing of Iain Foggo and Darren Quigg, grabbing a hat trick.

The industrious Ryan Stott got the reward for his hard running with a sweetly taken left foot volley to add to Cove's lead.

Stott added another in the second half, while substitute Jordan Leyden getting on the scoresheet.



The Railway Bowling Club in Inverlochly launched their new season on Saturday, with vice president Eddie Downs throwing the first jack to open the green. A full calendar of competitions is already planned, with anyone interested at trying their hand welcome to come along. The club are offering a year of free membership to new players.

## Kilmallie gain revenge

### SHINTY

KILMALLIE got revenge against Beaulieu with a 3-0 victory in the quarter final of the Co-operative MacTavish Cup on Saturday.

A strong wind was blowing from Loch Linnhe across Canal Parks, making play difficult for both sides.

#### Only goal

Grant MacKenzie scored the only goal of the first half with a crisp low strike after 33 minutes.

Few chances were created before half time, although home

goalie Kevin Toye had to make a smart save to keep the lead.

In the second half, Jack MacDonald was given a red card by referee Billy Wotherspoon, and Michael Rodger sealed the win with goals in the 70th and 90th minute.

Kilmallie will now play high-flying premiership side Lovat for a place in the MacTavish Cup final. The game is due to be played on May 18.

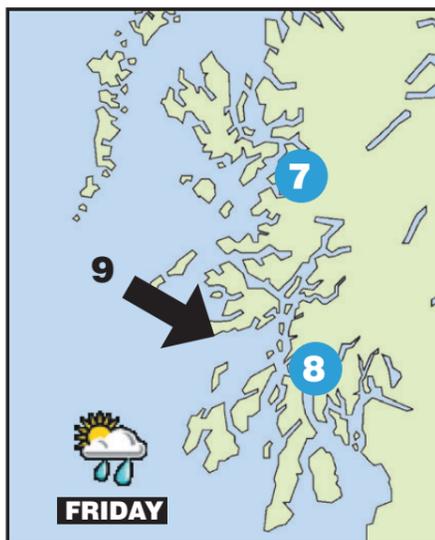
## Weather

**Thursday** Heavy rain showers  
Winds moderate, south westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 7°C

**Friday** Sunshine and showers  
Winds light, west north westerly  
Temperatures 3°C to 8°C.

**Weekend** Sunshine and showers  
**Outlook** Winds light, north north westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 10°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 25, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 05.06	3.9 11.30 0.6	17.28 3.9 23.36 0.3
Fri 05.43	4.0 12.06 0.5	18.03 4.0 *** **
Sat 00.20	0.3 06.20 4.0	12.46 0.4 18.41 4.0
Sun 01.06	0.3 07.00 3.9	13.28 0.5 19.23 3.9
Mon 01.54	0.5 07.43 3.7	14.15 0.6 20.09 3.7
Tues 02.45	0.7 08.30 3.4	15.06 0.8 21.00 3.5
Wed 03.42	0.9 09.24 3.1	16.04 1.0 22.01 3.3

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with



website: [www.northwestmarine.co.uk](http://www.northwestmarine.co.uk)  
Address: 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG  
Ph: 01631 565740 Fax: 01631 565780  
email: [enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk)