

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8041

Thursday 5 May, 2011

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## It's full steam ahead for Phoenix Cinema

### Campaigners seal the deal with bank

OBAN'S PHOENIX Cinema is one step closer to belonging to the community after the bank which owns the building agreed a purchase price with the steering group.

Nailbiting negotiations with Santander ended in a deal suitable to all parties.

While final details are still to be hammered out and it will be a few months until the community group brokering the deal takes possession of the former Highland Theatre building, the bank deal was described as 'great news'.

Campbell Cameron, vice chairman of Oban Phoenix Cinema group, said: 'This is a great day for the people of Oban.'

'This whole project came about because of surveys being carried out on behalf of the Business Improvement District (BID4Oban) scheme in the town.'

'Time and again people said they wanted a cinema. With the hard work and dedication of a

**REPORT**  
by LOUISE LEE  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

team of volunteers that dream is now becoming a reality.

'There is no doubt that this is the beginning of a process but over the coming months and years people will see an incredible cinema in the town, something each and every one of us can be proud of.'

'We will be looking for support

**"With hard work and dedication the dream is becoming a reality."**

**Vice-chairman Campbell Cameron**

from individuals and business to set it off on a strong footing.'

Backing for the project has come in from all quarters - both in the town and the surrounding areas.

Jane Nichols, of behalf of Seil and Easdale Community Council, said the project was just what was needed. 'A community project that could enhance the area for visitors and locals alike.'

Appin Community Council last week gave its support to the project.

Others from as far apart as Kilmilver and Kilmelford, Luining and Iona have backed the campaign to reopen the cinema - with more letters of support coming in.

Craig Tosh, of Trinity Hair Salon, said: 'When the cinema was open I probably didn't use it as much as I should have. I wish I had used it more.'

'I now have children who would really benefit from having a cinema. We have a collection can in the shop and promote it every

time we can.'

Despite the great funding efforts there is still work to be done and the group is looking for cash to reduce payments on a loan from the Scottish Investment Scheme.

Chairman, Councillor Donald MacDonald, said: 'We have been shown overwhelming community support for this project - and we hope that everyone will get behind the next phase of the campaign.'

'People can support us in a number of ways - through The Oban Times Ticket Campaign, by sponsoring a seat for £200 or £1000, or by simply making a donation to the campaign.'

'All the details are online at [www.obanphoenixcinema.co.uk](http://www.obanphoenixcinema.co.uk) or by contacting [obanphoenixcinema@gmail.com](mailto:obanphoenixcinema@gmail.com).

'We are also looking for people to pick up a paintbrush or tradesmen to offer their time to get the cinema up and running. If you can help I would be grateful if you would contact us.'

## Angler presumed drowned after tragedy on loch

AN ANGLER is missing, presumed drowned, after getting into difficulties on Loch Etive on Saturday evening.

The 33-year-old man, from the Glasgow area, went missing after a fibreglass boat he and four friends were fishing from tipped them into the loch during Saturday afternoon.

Police were called after 4pm but it is understood the man had been in the water for a few hours when officers were called.

A major search of the coastline carried out by the coastguard was called off shortly after lunch on Sunday.

It is understood the boat took on water and the five men aboard were tipped into the loch.

Four of them, who were camping at the north end of the loch near to Gualachulain, Glen Etive, made their way to the shore.

It is believed the missing man removed his life jacket, after it had inflated, as he was struggling to get to the shore. He subsequently went out of view of his friends.

The coastguard and police conducted an initial search with the support of Oban's Fire Service appliance from the pier, breaking during darkness. Oban's coastguard retrieved the 15-foot Loch Lomond-registered boat with its outboard motor and oars during the early part of Sunday

afternoon. Farmers in Glen Etive used a canoe to remove all the camping gear from the inaccessible campsite.

An angling expert said: 'The water at the north end of Loch Etive is only 100-150 feet deep - but there was a strong easterly wind for a number of days.'

'Fishing message boards are saying that many boats had come off the loch due to the strong winds. The water temperature was no more than nine or 10 degrees at the weekend, similar to the temperature in the North Sea. Hypothermia would have set in within a few minutes.'



Volunteer Coastguard return the Loch Lomond registered boat to shore after it overturned putting five men into the water. 16\_t18angler1

## Dressed to kill at festival



When Barra dancers from the Jane Douglas School of Dance took to the stage at the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival they were wearing killer outfits. The group's clothes came hot off the catwalk from the 'Dressed to Kill' Scottish Tartan Week fashion show in New York City. So tight were the deadlines that one outfit had to be flown straight from the catwalk to Oban just in time for the performance. The outfits were provided by Harris Tweed Textiles designed by Digory Brown while the girls hair styles were created by The Studio, Oban. Pictured are Hazel MacDonald, Debbie MacClean, Kirstie Boyd and Annemarie MacNeil in their Dressed to Kill Harris Tweed outfits. More festival pictures on page 12, results page 19. 16\_t18HIMDF2

## Man attacked on Soroba bridge

POLICE are calling for witnesses after a 62-year-old man was seriously assaulted in Oban.

The man, who suffered serious facial injuries, was walking on Soroba Railway Bridge about midnight when he was attacked.

CID officers blocked off the bridge for a number of hours on Sunday morning.

Strathclyde Police are appealing for information to the suspicious behaviour of anyone in the area from 11pm on Saturday evening.

They especially want to hear from anyone who heard shouting or witnessed unusual behaviour in the vicinity of the bridge or around the Mull Terrace and Soroba Road area.

The man was taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital before being flown to Glasgow for further treatment.

## Heath fire caused closure of A82

THE A82 had to be closed on Tuesday after a fire broke out near Bridge of Orchy.

Fire crews, including the volunteer unit from the village, attended and the road was closed at around 3pm. After the fire was brought under control, the road re-opened two hours later.

The fire was roughly one mile from Bridge of Orchy but residents have become used to seeing heath fires.

It is believed there have been around 10 fires in the past two weeks in the area because of the recent dry spell.

## Shoplifter jailed

A SHOPLIFTER was jailed for four months at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday after breaching the terms of a drug testing and treatment order.

Appearing from custody, Michael MacLellan, 26, of 4 Mull Terrace, Oban, admitted that on January 12 at a supermarket on Lochavullin Drive, he stole a television set worth £160.

He also admitted stealing a £20 perfume set from a George Street chemist the following day.

The drug treatment order was imposed in December last year in connection with a theft from a shop in Glasgow's Trongate.

## Funding blow didn't spoil the show

THE SHOW went on - despite organisers of the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival being hit by a funding blow for this year's event.

Argyll and Bute Council turned down an application for a grant.

Instead of receiving a leisure development grant of up to £2,500, as has been the case in previous years, the council agreed guarantee-against-loss only funding of £1,600 for the festival.

Joanie Garvin, of the festival committee said: 'It's disappointing that Argyll and Bute Council turned down the application for a

grant this year for the first time, offering instead a smaller sum available only in the event of the Festival incurring a loss.'

'We are therefore particularly appreciative of the Oban community which, in spite of difficult economic times, has made a commitment to safeguarding Oban's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.'

'The festival is a key highlight in Oban's cultural and tourism calendar. It brings thousands of people into the town and raises the profile of the area nationally and internationally.'

'We're hugely appreciative

of the many businesses, local trusts and individuals whose support through the sponsorship of individual classes and events helps fund the festival. Without this support, it would simply not be possible to host the event each year.'

The committee accepted this blow until they discovered another event, the West Highland Yachting Week, had received an increased grant. The decision was made at the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee. In April, West Highland Yachting week was backed due to a shortfall in funding to host the event.



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Lonan Properties in partnership with West Highland Housing Association are looking for expressions of interest from first time buyers, who wish to acquire a new quality build home under the Scottish Governments Low Cost Home Ownership Scheme (LIFT) in Taynuilt, Argyll. The development will consist of two terraced houses and four cottage flats. All units will have lounge, kitchen, bathroom, 2 bedrooms, rear garden and private parking.

If you are interested in owning a new home then please contact Ruby Campbell on 01631 566451 or (Email: [ruby@westhighlandha.co.uk](mailto:ruby@westhighlandha.co.uk)).

## New police chief for Oban, Lorn and Isles

OBAN'S new police commander will take up his post today, Thursday.

Chief Inspector Brian Auld's experience in many areas of crime will make him an asset to Oban, Lorn and the Isles, according to outgoing boss Chief Inspector Glen Bland.

Chief Inspector Auld told *The Oban Times* he was ready to listen to people's concerns and put measures in place to alleviate them and he expects drug and alcohol crime and the roads network top of his agenda.

Brian is moving from his post as a detective inspector working in the field of child and adult protection, domestic abuse and serious sexual offences. Brian also has extensive knowledge in detecting crimes in money laundering after working in a specialist unit.

Brian even lectured to the College of European Policing in Bratislava.

Brian is no stranger to Argyll and the islands as he was a liaison officer with Strathclyde Police force making a number of trips to Kilmory and



Oban's new top cop - Chief Inspector Brian Auld (left) with outgoing Chief Inspector Glen Bland. 16\_t18police1

visits to adult and child protection teams in Oban, Campbeltown and Dunoon.

Brian said: 'I am delighted to be coming to Oban, Lorn and the Isles. It is a large area and has many challenges.'

The new area commander is married to a serving police officer who also works for Strathclyde Police.

Moving to Glasgow, area commander and chief inspector Glen Bland has enjoyed his time in Oban. He said: 'It has been a short time but I have enjoyed being involved in policing in the town.'

'Crime continues to fall and with our hard message of zero tolerance in all areas, but particularly in drug crimes, we have made a difference to the day-to-day lives of many people in Oban.'

'I would like to thank everyone who trusted us with sensitive information and I hope intelligence about crimes will continue to come straight to the police office.'

'Oban is moving from strength to strength - it is a good place.'

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Iconic bridge in need of a little TLC

REPORT By STUART LAUNDY slaundy@obantimes.co.uk

AN ATTEMPT is to be made to breathe new life into an iconic bridge at Appin.

The 400-ft Jubilee Bridge spans the tidal marshes of Loch Laich and is particularly popular for the stunning view it offers of Castle Stalker.

However, the wooden structure, which boasts 19 spans and is thought to date back in its original form to Victorian times, is in need of repair.

The plight of the bridge was discussed at last week's meeting of Appin Community Council.

Councillor Elaine Robertson said an informal meeting had taken place with an Argyll and Bute Council expert and that had confirmed the bridge was in need of repair and maintenance.

However, Argyll and Bute Council is not in a position to 'adopt' the bridge and take responsibility for it.

Councillor Robertson said it was now a case of sitting down and working out what could be done.

'The last thing on earth we want to see is there not being a bridge there - we have got to try to save it.

'We realise it needs maintenance and we can probably replace like with like.

'What we are really trying to do is put in place a structure which is sound and follows the lines of the one that is there.

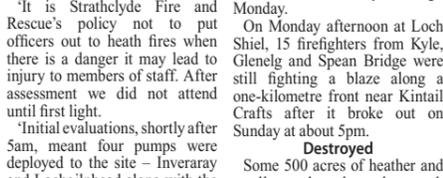
'We have got to sit down and think how we go forward with it,' she said.

Councillor Robertson said one way to progress could be to link a major project to restore Appin's Jubilee Bridge with the Queen's diamond jubilee in 2012.

Mike Rayworth, an Appin resident and engineer whose background is in bridge building, was present at the meeting.

'The vertical piles are sound but the pine beams and deck are a bit doubtful.

'It is a beautiful, iconic structure and no-one wants to see it go.'



In need of repair: The Jubilee Bridge, which crosses the tidal marshes of Loch Laich. 07\_t18castlestalker02



Popular: Gordon and Lorna Silverman, from Glasgow, were out for a walk across the Jubilee Bridge, during a weekend break in the area. 07\_t18castlestalker04

Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

BLIADHNA AIR AIS spreadh beinn-theine ann an Innis Tile agus chaidh stad air sgeith thar a' mhòr-chuid den Roinn Eòrpa airson a' chiad turas ann an ceud bliadhna.

Thug an luath a chaidh a sputadh mìltean suas dhan speur buaidh do-chreidsinneach air eaconamaidh leth-chruinne tuath an t-saoghail agus mar a lean cùisean, cha b' iongnadh gun do thòisich companaidhean sgeith air gearan agus air cur an aghaidh cho-dhùnaidhean nan ùghdarrasan a bha a' riaghladh nan ceadan-sgeith sin.

Gun teagamh, dh'adhbharach seo trioblaid do-chreidsinneach dha luchd-siubhail de gach seòrsa agus tuigear an cràmhan mu na duilgheadasan is mar a bhathar a' feuchainn ri coire a chur air cuideigin!

B'e mo beachd fhìn gun d' rinn luchd-riaghlaidh cheadan-sgeith ceart ann a bhith a' cur stad air na seirbheisean adhair mar a rinn iad.

Bha mi cinnteach gur e sàbhailteachd luchd-siubhail a' phrìomh amas ann an suidheachadh sam bith agus bha e follaiseach às na thachair gun robh e doirbh smachd a chumail far an robh uimhir de chompanaidhean, a bha gun teagamh a' call gu mòr ri linn na bha a' tachairt, a' cur lethid de chuideam air Riaghaltas agus na riaghailtean a lasachadh.

Dhearbh an tachartas seo a-rithist nach eil amasan malairteach chompanaidhean mòra agus còirichean luchd-ceannachaidh idir daonnan co-ionann!

Bha mise làidir na mo bheachd nach bu chòir dhan luchd-riaghlaidh gèilleadh chun an robh cinnt air sàbhailteachd phlèanaichean a bhith siubhal tro sgòthan luatha.

Tha a-nise toradh rannsachaidh saidheansail air co-dhùnadh gun robh an luath seo milleach agus gum fàodadh i a bhith air uimhir de chron a dhèanamh air plean is gum biodh beatha luchd-siubhail ann an cunnart.

Chan eil an luath a thig às gach beinn-theine co-ionann. Ann an cuid a shuidheachaidhean, tha i gu bhith làn de smùr garbh a bhios cuideachd cho biorach is gum bleitheadh e uinneagan gu ìre 's nach fhaicheadh paidhleanan trompach. Tha cuid eile de luath nas mine agus nas dualaiche a bhith air a deacadh a-staigh gu ruige einnsean agus cron mòr adhbharachadh. Nan robh cuid de luchd-stiùiridh a' ghniomhachais air an cead fhaotainn, theagamh gun robh tubaist air tachairt agus gum biodh adhbhar seach call airgid againn airson cuimhneachadh air spreadhadh beinn-theine Innis-Tile.

'S dòcha gum bu chòir dhuinn cuideachd a bhith nas foighidnichte le luchd-stiùiridh sheirbheisean rèile nuair a chanas iad gum bheil an seòrsa ceàr de sneachd ann!

SCIENTIFIC research has confirmed that ash from the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland posed a real risk to air travel safety and that the flight ban imposed by aviation regulators a year ago was the correct decision.

Business losses and travel disruption quickly led to criticism and challenges of regulation, but evidence now proves that relaxation of these regulations could have produced considerably more tragic reasons for remembering the 2010 Eyjafjallajökull eruption.

The quality of this ash was particularly abrasive and dangerous. Perhaps we should also now be more sympathetic to rail operators struggling with the wrong kind of snow!

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

West coast on fire alert

THE HOSTS of a barbecue which is believed to have sparked a huge heath blaze did not report the incident because they thought they would be charged for calling out the fire brigade.

The inferno ruined 15 hectares of heath near Taynuilt - one of a spate of fires in tinder-dry conditions along the west coast.

A 20-strong team of firefighters managed to stop the blaze before it spread into Tillhill Forestry Commission land, at Ichrachan.

Paul Finnigan, watch commander at Oban Community Fire Station, said: 'We did not receive a call until 2.20am, some time after the fire started.

'It is Strathclyde Fire and Rescue's policy not to put officers out to heath fires when there is a danger it may lead to injury to members of staff. After assessment we did not attend until first light.

'Initial evaluations, shortly after 5am, meant four pumps were deployed to the site - Inveraray and Lochgilphead along with the two pumps from Oban attended.

'Appliances from Knightswood, Dumbarton and Helensburgh were brought to Oban to provide cover in case of any other emergencies.

'Firefighters fought the blaze until 8.21pm. Despite the blaze being in an area of up to 15 hectares, which are now lost, it was also feared it may have gone into the forestry land. It is down to the perseverance of the firefighters that this did not happen.

'Argyll and Bute is on high alert for heath fires at the moment. There are many ways in which a fire can be started. Campfires or barbecues should never be left unattended and extinguished.

'A man at the barbecue was under the impression he would be charged if he called us to deal with the fire.

'I would like to reiterate to people this is absolutely not the case and the fire service should be called on 999 if there is any fire - large or small.'

Elsewhere, crews fought four serious moorland fires in Lochaber, Lochalsh and Wester Ross from Saturday through Monday.

On Monday afternoon at Loch Shiel, 15 firefighters from Kyle, Glenelg and Spean Bridge were still fighting a blaze along a one-kilometre front near Kintail Crafts after it broke out on Sunday at about 5pm.

Destroyed Some 500 acres of heather and small trees have been destroyed. A helicopter was waterbombing hot spots to help those on the ground bring the fire under control.

Near Dundonnell, a community response unit was dampening down smouldering heath with the aid of a helicopter after a blaze broke out on Sunday morning.

And on the hill next to Torrindon Youth Hostel, 16 firefighters from Aultbea, Baintore and Gairloch tackled a fire after being called out at 2.30pm on Saturday. Helicopter waterbombing also

assisted their efforts. Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service area manager Scott Hay warned the slightest ember could set off potentially destructive fires in the prevailing tinder box conditions.

He told The Oban Times: 'I would urge anyone, whether they are burning in their gardens or out on the hills, to be extra vigilant and that they consider the possibility that their activities could start a wildfire.

'Not that I am suggesting this happened in these cases, but a discarded cigarette or match, or a spark from garden burning is all it takes to start a damaging blaze.' Meanwhile, crews from Fort William, Spean Bridge, Strontian and Acharacle put out a serious fire on Glenaladale Estate, near Glenfinnan, on Sunday afternoon. About 1,000 acres of moor and young trees were destroyed over two days.

Islanders put on evacuation stand-by after dramatic Colonsay heather blaze

RESIDENTS of Colonsay had to contemplate an evacuation after fire spread across the tinder-dry island.

Without rain for more than a week, high temperatures and an infestation of Heather Beetle, which dries out the shrub, conditions were against the islanders when the blaze took hold at 4.45am on Monday.

After originating in the Carn Mor area of Kilchattan, the fire was blown west by the wind, however, the dry conditions allowed it to easily spread eastwards, at approximately 100 metres per hour.

An emergency headquarters was set up at The Pantry restaurant and the island's seven volunteer firefighters were praised for their efforts in preventing the fire from consuming agricultural and from damaging homes.

Islander Kevin Byrne said: 'The situation was pretty alarming and I heard someone comment that it was like Dante's Inferno. But the whole situation was well co-ordinated by the fire brigade.

'They are very well trained and it showed.'

Kevin revealed that, as part of an emergency plan of action, watchkeepers stayed up overnight to monitor the fire in case an evacuation was necessary.

'A lot of people stayed up that night and we had actually gone into the beginnings of the emergency plan.'

The fire was all but burnt out exactly 24 hours after it started and the damage was being surveyed this week. No-one was hurt in the blaze. Although there were concerns for nesting birds, it is believed the corncrake population was unaffected. As The Oban Times went to press, the cause of the fire was unknown.

Fire blazes on Colonsay.



Fire blazes on Colonsay.

£4,500 boost for foundation

AN AUCTION in Connel has raised £4,500 for the Linda Norgrove Foundation.

Kilchrenan's Sofie Corns, sister of Linda Norgrove, who was kidnapped and killed in Afghanistan last year, thanked everyone who helped to make the event a success.

Although the turn out was not quite what they had hoped for, organisers were delighted at the total raised.

Sofie said: 'We were competing with the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, a shinty match in Taynuilt and probably the hottest day of the year so far.

'The organisation of the event took a lot of time and effort but it would not have been successful without all the help and support of the community.'

The Linda Norgrove Foundation was set up by her family to carry on the aid work she was doing in Afghanistan at the time of her death.

There is a fundraising dance in Kilchrenan Village Hall on May 14, which starts at 7pm. Musicians for the dance include David McCluskey (Bluebells), Finlay Wells and Iain Coates (Ivan Drever Band), Michael Garvin (The Midges) and Kilchrenan's Iain Alexander.

Yacht runs aground in Cuan Sound

THE MULL Lifeboat went out of her way to help a yacht that had run aground in the fast-running waters in the Cuan Sound between the islands of Seil and Luig.

A 36-foot ketch, Jervis Bay, had two people onboard when it ran aground.

When the crew arrived on scene they found the yacht aground with a 60-degree list to starboard, and its rails underwater.

There was a 6-7 knot tide running through the 100m-wide channel, and the lifeboat crew had to wait several hours for the tide to finish ebbing and then flood again so that the vessel could refloat.

Once the yacht was upright and floating, water was pumped out. The lifeboat escorted the vessel to Kerrera, as it was still dark, and its navigational systems had been lost during the incident.

Distressed dogs 'left to suffer'

A WOMAN has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal after she allegedly left her dogs in the boot of a car without access to sufficient water on an extremely hot day.

The dogs were discovered by a passer-by who reported them to the police as they were acting in a distressed manner inside the car on the Esplanade on Saturday at 3pm.

Auctioneers Mike Urwin and David Condie with auction organiser Sofie Corns prior to Saturday's event at Connel Village Hall. 07\_t18auction02

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### Couple rescued from yacht caught in rough seas

A MAN and woman have been rescued from a yacht after getting into trouble off the Isle of Jura.

They were aboard a 21ft (6.4m) sailing boat when they lost their forward hatch in strong winds and rough seas.

The coastguard made a mayday relay to all nearby vessels after the sailors made a 999 call from a mobile phone.

A boat from a nearby regatta took the pair onboard until Islay Lifeboat arrived. The lifeboat towed the yacht to Port Askaig on the Isle of Islay.

The rescue helicopter from RNAS Gannet at Prestwick was also scrambled.

Irene Reid, watch officer at Clyde Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre, said: 'We were very fortunate to receive their mobile phone call, as communications in this area are notoriously difficult.'

'As a result of the mayday relay broadcast, a rigid hull inflatable boat, Red Bay 10, which was at a nearby regatta, was able to offer assistance and soon located the casualties and took them aboard their RHIB.

'The rescue helicopter was soon on scene and stood by the casualty vessel.'

She added: 'We would like to remind boat users to always ensure they are properly prepared when going out in their boat and to monitor the weather and not get caught out.'

### Raising cash as easy as ABCD

AN OBAN firefighter has celebrated his 50th birthday by raising cash for Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD).

Paul Finnegan, group four watch commander at Oban Community Fire Station, suffered a heart attack in late November. He says that the quick thinking of staff in Oban who sent him by air ambulance to Glasgow that ensured he made a good recovery from what could have been a life threatening condition.

Paul, who went back to work in February, decided to celebrate his big birthday in early April by giving thanks to the local charity. So instead of presents he asked family and friends to donate to the charity. He handed over a cheque for £255 and also gave £30 to the British Heart Foundation.

Paul said: 'Things could have been different if staff at the hospital had not acted so quickly.'

### Fitness club in running for award

OBAN'S Energie Fitness Club has been nominated for the 5pm.co.uk Scottish Health and Beauty Awards for the Health and Fitness Venue of the Year.

They are joined by Cameron House by Loch Lomond, which has been nominated for Spa of the Year. The winners will be announced on Sunday May 8 at the Girls Day Out Show at Glasgow's SECC.



John, centre, with Teresa, Catriona, James and Hamish during his birthday celebrations.

## Special Mass for 104-year-old John

LONG life, it seems, is in the Hoey genes, with North Argyll House resident, Johnny last week celebrating his 104th birthday.

John, a former factory worker with McCall's lemonade factory, was surrounded by family as he blew out the candles on his cake and notched up another year of good health and humour.

Still as fit as a fiddle, John, enjoyed the company of son Hamish and wife Teresa, their daughter Catriona MacFarlane and nephew James MacLellan. Hamish said: 'His health is

absolutely perfect but that's down to the good services of the home. It's all down to them that he's going so far.

'While saying that, his sister, Katie, lived a long time too. She died just before her 101st birthday. We just had a wee family celebration; he was always a man that never wasted any time.'

John, who was born in Airds Crescent and started working at McCalls when he was 19, was married to Mary MacInnes, from Barra, but she died aged

95 nearly eight years ago. Plenty of good will and wishes were sent John's way on the day. He has two children - Hamish and Catherine - ten grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren, and one great, great grandchild all of whom said 'happy birthday' to mark the day.

'So what gift do you get someone for their 104th birthday?' 'We got a Mass said for him. His faith plays a big part in his life and having Mass said for him was the perfect gift for him.'

## Mystery wartime bunker at St John's

A SECRET bunker hidden in the bowels of St John's Cathedral on George Street is shedding light on Oban's covert activities during the Second World War.

It is thought that the bunker, hidden behind the boiler room in the lower levels of the Episcopal cathedral, may have been home to operatives from the Special Duties branch of the Auxiliary Units of the British Resistance during the war.

Research into operations there is at an early stage, but local historian and archivist at the cathedral Lindsay Campbell is confident there are many mysteries to be solved yet.

She said: 'Accessible from the boiler room is part of the foundations, which for a long

time I've suspected to have been something more than a rather large coal cellar.

'After extensive research, the evidence points strongly to something secretive happening in the lower levels of St John's during the first half of the war.'

The room itself is filled with mystery. A hatch leading to a narrow gap between the church and an adjacent building - now filled in - hints at an escape route or secret entrance, while a hook on the inside of the room's door, with string still attached, could be an early warning system to alert occupants to a possible intruder.

Special duties sections were largely made up of civilians trained to identify vehicles,

high-ranking officers and military units. They would gather intelligence and leave reports in dead letter drops, which would be taken to one of more than 200 secret radio transmitters operated by trained civilian staff.

Lindsay said: 'Quite what St John's 'bunker' was will probably never be known, but it is certain there was an intelligence presence in the town.

'Does Oban have something more to be proud of in its wartime activities than is currently known? If it does, we owe it to the people who were involved to show their secrets to the world.'

Lindsay can be contacted on 01631 770310 or by email at lindsay.campbell123@googlemail.com

## False alarm tests LochWatch scheme

THE FIRST emergency call to LochWatch volunteers turned out to be a false alarm - but highlighted that the Loch Awe safety scheme is in good working order.

Volunteers were alerted to reports of flares over Loch Awe at Dalavich and were asked by co-ordinator Iain MacKinnon to check the loch for signs of trouble.

Iain said: 'Getting out of their beds at 1.30am, they carried out a visual sweep of the loch.

'Meanwhile one volunteer indicated they had seen a small boat and canoe leave Dalavich at about 10.30pm the previous night.

'This information was passed to police, who were able to trace people camping by the loch. They confirmed they had let

off fireworks, which led to the reports of flares being made.

'The incident demonstrated the excellent work put in by the volunteers and the police were very impressed with the response.'

LochWatch was set up following the drowning of four fishermen in Loch Awe in March 2009. Volunteers are available 24 hours a day to assist anyone in trouble on or around the loch.

# £70,000 pay-out for axed hostel worker

## Council relied on 'unsubstantiated' claims

AN OBAN man has won almost £70,000 compensation after an employment tribunal ruled he had been unfairly dismissed from his job by Argyll and Bute Council. Steve Letford, former Depute Officer In Charge at the council's Glencruitten Hostel, lost his job after fellow workers were said to have complained about his behaviour.

A series of employment hearings and appeals through the council's procedures were found to have 'ignored' the need to interview staff making the allegations which were ruled 'unsubstantiated.'

Mr Letford, who says he has lost a job he loved, suffers from a stress-related condition and may never find full-time employment again.

In 2008 Mr Letford was accused of acting in an unprofessional manner, bullying other staff, using manipulative behaviour in playing staff off against each other and displaying a lack of respect to staff members.

However a number of staff members and workers from

**REPORT**  
by LOUISE LEE  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

outside bodies came forward to refute the allegations on Mr Letford's behalf. Documentation shown to *The Oban Times* highlights that these allegations, despite being brought before elected members for arbitration, were never substantiated by the staff members who originally made them.

Mr Letford was kept on full pay for 18 months while the allegations were investigated. But, as was accepted in court, he was never informed that he was to be disciplined in the first place.

A series of errors in the disciplinary procedure meant the complainers were never formally interviewed about the allegations.

When they came before the external manager he was said, by the employment judge Lucy Wiseman, to have made 'fundamental errors' in his investigation of the matter

- taking one group of workers' evidence as fact without looking into the allegations fully.

Ms Wiseman said: 'We were not persuaded there would have been disciplinary proceedings against the claimant had officers properly investigated this matter.'

Receiving compensation of £69,358 Mr Letford says it is little comfort for the stress and suffering he has been through.

He said: 'Why did they do it? Why were the procedures not followed?'

'Anyone can take a look at the paperwork and make their own judgement that I did nothing wrong.'

'There is no question Argyll and Bute Council wanted to get rid of me. It is my belief the reason they wanted me gone was because I was honest with parents about problems in the hostel. It is a great shame that no one - not even the elected members, could see the facts.'

'It took a number of years to even get to someone who was independent to hear my story. Even then, if it had not been for

the charity The Strathclyde Law Clinic I would never have been able to fight my case.

'This is a victory not only for me, but for justice, and it is my sincere hope that this will be looked at and lessons learned for the sake of the welfare of pupils in the hostel.'

'Someone should also be asking questions about the large amount of public money the council wasted on this.'

'Apart from my compensation there is the 18 months salary paid during the prolonged investigation and wages paid to those who covered shifts during that time.'

'I think the disciplinary procedure that was used so wrongly against me should be properly used against those members of the management team who have done this to me.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council was disappointed with the outcome of the tribunal and, as with all such cases, has reviewed the conduct of the investigation to ensure any lessons are learned.'

## Safety fears at dilapidated bridge

'AN ACCIDENT waiting to happen' was the verdict of Oban Community Council on a bridge in poor repair in the town.

The crossing which links Soroba Lane near to the new Bridge Cafe and Lochavullin Road leading to Tesco has no permanent sides between it and the water.

Unsecured temporary barriers at the side of the bridge have fallen down and are regularly pushed out of place by passing traffic.

David and Pat Miller came to the council to raise the issue of safety on the bridge.

Mr Miller said: 'As far as road safety goes this bridge is a disaster. It has temporary railings on it that regularly fall into the river.'

'It is used by children as a route to Tesco at lunchtimes. It is next door to a soft play area and yet no one is willing to listen.'

'I have written to the council but as yet nothing has been done. It is a safety hazard with large lorries and children crossing at the same time. There should be a footbridge across there.'

'We have tried our very best to get the bridge closed. It is an absolute disgrace.'

Community councillors believe the bridge is made from the back of an old wartime tank transporter and has never had a proper barrier between it and the fast flowing waters below.

Mr Miller continued: 'I would urge the council to do some sort of risk assessment on it. If they



The poor state of repair on a public bridge in Oban. 16\_1181bridge1

did it they would close it.'

Duncan MacIntyre, community councillor, said: 'This is an accident waiting to happen.'

Graham MacQueen, who is heading up a campaign to clean up the Black Lynn, was sympathetic with the council's lack of cash to sort out the bridge.

He said: 'It is a real shame we are a community lacking in funds that we have put up with this poor infrastructure for so long.'

'We should be looking at a way

to resolve this issue as soon as possible as a community with the support of the council.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman said: 'We are looking at the options of installing a temporary structure to alleviate the safety concerns or rebuilding a permanent bridge. We are aware that the bridge is part of a busy bus route and meets the needs of delivery vehicles in Soroba Lane.'

'There are restrictions on the bridge which prohibit the passage

of vehicles in both directions, excepting buses, HGVs and taxis, but over the last few years the parapets have been damaged by vehicle impact on numerous occasions. This has resulted in an increasing number of parapet repairs being carried out.'

'There are no records of the construction of the bridge which is a single span metal structure but local information indicates that it was formed from a tank transporter chassis built on concrete abutments.'

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## Siting of two fast food vans cooks up concern among local residents

TWO FOOD vans located in Oban are becoming a 'wheelie' big problem for residents. But the owner says he was 'asked by the council' to bring the vans to town.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, responding to complaints by residents and visitors, said: 'I have had several complaints about the unit at McCaig's Tower and the site at the Corran Halls.'

'I propose to investigate these complaints. If there is anything to be done it will be done. I believe they are in breach of the lease.'

One of the complaints made by a number of people is that they understand the vans should be moved overnight - yet the units do not have wheels on them.

However, Jonathon Peck managing director of Wheelie Machine, the owner of the units,

said he was invited by the council to apply for the tender and pays business rates for the two units. He does not believe the units are required to be moved overnight.

Mr Peck said: 'We have decided to work only limited hours at both sites. At the tower, for example, we can officially open from 9am until 7pm but we have only been opening between 1pm and 5pm. At the Corran Halls we are opening early at 7am but closing mid-morning.'

'We understand this is a residential area. We are using a silent generator to restrict the noise we are making.'

'But I am sympathetic. If anyone has a problem I would ask them not to hesitate in contacting me as we will look at it and get it right.'

## Mull sweet shop premises switch

A SWEETIE shop in Tobermory is all set to open its doors - but in another venue after the Co-op said 'no' to waiving the terms of its lease on the owner's first choice of premises.

Louise and Robin Harrowsmith, of Harbour Guest House, on Mull, were geared up for a grand opening when they discovered a limit on the use of the building had been set by a former owner. 'Despite asking former owners the Co-op supermarket to

waive the condition, the company refused.'

However, after last week's story in *The Oban Times* newspaper, the Co-op solicitors have now been in touch with the Harrowsmiths saying they would be happy to look at changing the terms of the use of the building.

Louise said: 'It is all a little bit too late. This has been incredibly stressful and we are now looking forward to opening up in another premises in the village.'

## Political posters driven off roads

POLITICAL parties planting promotional posters in roadside verges have fallen foul of the company employed by the Scottish Government to maintain trunk roads.

Scotland Transerv has been forced to deploy teams specially to remove the placards from miles and miles of roads throughout Argyll and Bute, under the instruction of Transport Scotland.

A spokesperson for Scotland Transerv

said: 'The placing of election advertisements within the trunk road boundary is not permitted. We are under instruction from Transport Scotland to remove such signs and place them in a suitable storage area where they are available for collection by the owner.'

The spokesperson did not say how much the operation cost the taxpayer, but confirmed that there was no framework in place to charge offending parties for the cost.

## St Columba's repairs postponed

PLANNED maintenance to the exterior of St Columba's Cathedral, in Oban, has been postponed indefinitely. The Diocese of Argyll and the Isles had

planned to replace some of the guttering and downpipes last week, as well as carrying out some other maintenance on the walls themselves.

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## Will roots music strike the right notes in Oban?

AN AWARD winning rock-n-roll bluegrass band from America will play a special gig in Oban venue Skipinnish this weekend, backed by local group, the Hollow Mountain String Band.

The Wilders have won rave reviews for their exciting live shows, having played at high profile gigs and events across the world throughout their 15-year history.

They can count the Edinburgh Fringe, Texas festival South by Southwest (SXSW) and the Wheatland Music Festival in Missouri as previous haunts and their last album, *Someone's Got to Pay*, was named Best Alt-Country Album of the Year at the eighth Annual Independent Music Awards.

**Litmus test**  
It is hoped that they will draw a healthy crowd to the George Street venue, with the gig something of a litmus test for promoter Brookfield Knights to determine the local interest in world-quality roots music and Americana in the town.

The company's Loudon Temple said: 'The Wilders are our most successful band on the artist roster, having appeared at major events such as Celtic Connections and HebCeltFest, together with BBC TV and national radio. 'It's safe to say they appeal to all ages and although some might

say that's quite an achievement, it could apply to all of the acts we represent.

'It would make a lot of sense to include Oban in our programmes if we find an audience there for our acts. Most of the performers we tour will be heading for Stornoway and the Isle of Skye, so it is in that general direction and quite straightforward to include.'

Other bands on Brookfield Knights' books set to include The Wivos from New York, The Hot Seats from Virginia, and Pokey Lafarge and The South City Three.

**Great reaction**  
Loudon said: 'Both The Hot Seats and Pokey got a great reaction when they played at Celtic Connections.'

'Pokey and his band are very much the rising stars of the moment since Jack White of The White Stripes produced their last single and in the process declared himself a fan.'

Loudon said the chance of the likes of Pokey playing in Oban will be hugely boosted by a good turnout.

**Plans**  
He said: 'In reality, all it takes is 100 to 200 people turning up to ensure that we continue including them in our plans.'

'If the support is there, we'll make sure it isn't bypassed in future.'

# Street markets cause unease among traders

**REPORT**  
By LOUISE LEE  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

CONTROVERSIAL plans to hold a street market in Oban have not hit the right note with shopkeepers in the town.

Although one view is that markets bring extra potential shoppers into the town, some traders are asking councillors to 'look after' what is already in Oban before inviting 'out-of-towners' to set up their stall.

Some business operators said they saw little benefit from the busy Continental Market which was held throughout the Easter weekend.

Tracey Di Cacca, of Rueben's Deli, on George Street, said: 'Everyone in business is struggling at the moment.'

'Many are on their knees so it is a real shame that we did not know anything about the Continental Market taking place.'

'The problem with the market is that it takes away from everybody else.'

'To have it on a prominent weekend makes it even more difficult for businesses.'

'In Oban we are in it for the long haul - perhaps the markets would like to come in October rather than during a weekend that we hoped would boost our own efforts.'

Veronica Anderson, from The Image, in Airds Crescent, added: 'I love to see new things happen in the town but not to the detriment of other businesses.'

'The market did not affect my trade but it did have consequences on others. For instance there was a guy selling soap when just around the corner there is Purdies, an Argyll soap shop.'

'We all have to stick together. That includes the council.'

'I understand that another licence has been granted for a



Daniel, from Brittany, keeps an eye on his mouthwatering garlic prawns at the Continental Market, held in Oban from April 22 to 24 in the grounds of the old Rockfield Primary School. Picture: Kevin McGlynn

street market in Station Square. I would like to know what exactly they are going to sell. Markets can affect everything.'

Councillor Neil Mackay raised reservations about the proposed street market at the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee (PPSL) last month.

He said he would need to know that any traders coming to the town to take part in the event would not be selling similar products to those sold in shops around the town. Other elected

members of the PPSL asked the market organiser to ensure she spoke to the Farmer's Market held at Benderloch.

They were also keen that the organiser did not allow inferior goods to be sold at the three-day event due to be held this month.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, vice chairman of the PPSL, added: 'If anyone has any concerns, they should raise them with us, as, if they do not add value to the existing shops, they should not be coming to Oban.'

**What do you think?**  
Do street markets attract extra shoppers into town or are they a threat to our existing businesses?  
Leave your comment on our Facebook page or write to our letters page at: The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4 HB.



## Assault case collapses after legal hitch

A LEGAL technicality resulted in the collapse of the Crown case against an Oban man accused of assault.

Michael MacPhee, aged 26, of 12 Soroba Road, was found not guilty of assaulting a man at an address in Burnside Court to his severe injury between September 30 and November 7 2009.

At the trial in Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday, defence agent Sandy Mitchell objected to the crown leading evidence based on a police interview with Mr MacPhee that was carried out while a solicitor was not present.

The Cadder ruling in October last year stated any evidence taken from police interviews where a solicitor is not present would be inadmissible.

Sheriff Douglas Small upheld the objection, meaning Procurator Fiscal David Glancy could not question police witnesses on what had been said during the interview.

Mr Mitchell then made a motion of 'no case to answer', which was accepted by Sheriff Small on grounds the Crown had no corroboration from witnesses.

## Charity discovers oasis of cash

A CHARITY that supports people in Oban with drug and alcohol addiction is celebrating a funding boost worth nearly £7,000.

Oban Addictions Support and Information Service (OASIS) received £6,888 from the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, under the foundation's Capacity Building programme, which is designed to help charities review how well they are performing and put improvements in place.

OASIS was established in 2001 by a local GP following growing concern about drug addiction in the area.

It has developed to provide a range of services, including a drop-in facility, one-to-one support, complimentary therapies, drug testing and an arrest referral system. Since last year it has also been working with Oban High School to provide a specialist drug and alcohol addiction service for young people.

## Attempt to sell stolen equipment

A DUNBEG man said he knew drilling equipment he found was stolen when he tried to sell it on.

Thomas Barr, aged 29, of 3 Castle Road, Dunbeg, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on a deferred sentence last Tuesday, having pled guilty to the sale of the equipment between November 18 and January 23 last year.

The equipment had been stolen from Scottish Association for Marine Science, a theft that Barr had not been involved in. However, the stolen equipment, valued at £15,000, had been stored in an area where he regularly cycled past.

Police recovered about £1,500 worth of equipment from Barr's garden.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said: 'He was told he could get £30 for the stuff he had taken.'

'He knew it could have been stolen when he found it but he chose to turn a blind eye.'

Barr was fined £480.

## 'Road repairs make a big difference'

COUNCIL highways staff have been given a pat on the back by members of Appin Community Council.

Convener Alison MacCorquodale said a lot of work to improve the surfaces of roads maintained by Argyll and Bute Council in the village had been done and had made a big difference to villagers.

However, she said much still remained to be done.

The community council agreed to write to the highways department outlining the areas most in need of repair.

## Lorn Lines



OBAN Burns Club made its annual cheque presentations to two charities after another successful event in January.

More than 150 people enjoyed an evening in memory of the Bard in the Regent Hotel listening to, amongst others, the Rev Roddy Campbell, from Appin, and Gordon Jackson QC.

The group gave £600 cheques to the MS Therapy Centre and Homestart Oban.

From left: Sandra Owens, from the MS Centre, Bill Griffiths, a member of the Burns Club, Roy Woods, president of the Burns Club, and Aileen Binner, from Homestart Lorn.

07\_18cque2



**PARK Primary School will soon be harvesting fresh apples from its garden after planting its own orchard.**

Supported by the Grounds for Learning charity, pupils planted 10 fruit trees in a design created by the children, with support from staff and parents.

Work on the project will continue until March next year, but the benefits of the orchard will be there for years to come.

The project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Robertson Trust, the Craignish Trust, the Hugh Fraser Foundation and the Cross Trust.

Park head teacher Gillian Carney said: 'The project allows the children an opportunity to engage with a valuable part of Scotland's history.'

'Planting and caring for our new orchard will not only improve our school grounds for play and learning, it will also enhance biodiversity through the seasons.'

'The school would also like to thank Alastair Crowe and his colleagues from Scottish and Southern Energy for putting up the fencing to enclose the orchard as part of Community at Heart Day, the Forestry Commission for kindly donating the fencing materials and picnic benches and EDM Plant Hire for use of a digger.'



Pupils and staff at Park Primary School celebrate after planting their first orchard last week.



THE TIME has come for Oban's gardeners to prove their horticultural skills in the annual Oban in Bloom competition.

The Oban Times Quach will go to the overall winner but there are eight categories overall: commercial premises; hotels/B&Bs and guesthouses; small, medium and large gardens; best private garden; best display of hanging baskets and the ACHA Tenants' Cup.

The competition opened this week to all gardeners in Oban and entry forms are available from Lorn House and the Municipal Buildings in Albany Street, ACHA offices, Atlantis Leisure and local garden centres.

Closing date for entries is May 14.

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## New path points way to an eco-friendly future

ENVIRONMENTALLY-aware pupils from Oban Primary School Campus helped to open a new path in the town whilst holding their own Eco Day.

The upgrade of the path, linking Glenshellach Road with Glengallan Road, has been funded by Sustrans, HIE and Argyll and Bute Council to improve access for cyclists and walkers, especially schoolchildren.

Although the upgrade was completed last November, Argyll and Bute Council said the weather had postponed the opening until last Thursday.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, the council's transport spokesman, revealed the council had been talking about getting the path upgraded since 2006.

**Lighting**  
The work has cost £50,000 but there are plans to improve the path further by installing low-level lighting. The council also wants to extend the path closer to Oban Primary Campus.

A council Hands Up Survey 2010 for Oban Primary Campus, recorded before the path was upgraded, found that 25 per cent of pupils walk to school and five per cent cycled.  
A further 33 per cent were

bussed to school. Councillor MacIntyre added: 'This path will give an alternative to travelling through the town for lots of people in Oban and I am delighted that there are further improvements to be made.'

**Upgraded**  
Parent Paula Cameron, who lives at Stalker Crescent, behind Lorn and Islands Hospital, said she has used the path every day since it was upgraded.

'I sometimes used the path before the upgrade but it was too muddy for my pram.'

'Now I use it every day,' she added.

The opening of the path was one of nearly 30 events involving the pupils at Rockfield and St Columba's schools throughout the day to promote health and the environment.

Among the events were a painted mural, seed planting and various sports.

Groups of children made a 'Vine of Environmental Waste' dressing the school fence with different colours of plastic donated by the town's supermarkets.

Art teacher Sue de Mattos collected 42 crates of plastic waste from Tesco, which is the store's daily output to be recycled.

## Tiree Celtic rockers' Royal Wedding concert

SKERRYVORE have played their own small part in the Royal Wedding celebrations by performing at a St Andrew's concert in honour of the new Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

The open-air ceildh was held last Thursday, the eve of

the wedding, in the town's St Salvador's Quadrangle. The Royal Wedding celebrations by performing at a St Andrew's concert in honour of the new Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

Around 1,000 tickets were sold for the event.



Pupils at Oban Primary Campus created a 'Vine of Environmental Waste' using plastics from supermarkets in the town as part of their Eco Day. 15\_18ec02

## Mother admits threatening behaviour

A MOTHER who shouted abuse at police officers who were concerned about the welfare of her and her child has been fined at Oban Sheriff Court.

Lisa McCagh, aged 28, of 116 Newton Crescent, Arbroath, pled guilty last Tuesday to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner and shouting and swearing at Oban Police Station on October 9 last year.

Earlier that evening police officers had found McCagh and her five-year-old son in Glencruitten after they had visited an ex-partner in the area.

She was in distress and had suffered a facial injury so the officers took her to Lorn and Islands Hospital.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy explained McCagh was treated for her injuries but discharged herself and she was taken back to the police

station. He continued: 'At the police office, officers used emergency childcare protection measures and the accused became hysterical and abusive and refused to let go of the child.'

Defence agent Laura Russell said: 'On reflection she sees the police were just doing their job and is very sorry about the way she behaved.'

McCagh was fined £270.

## Improvements underway at Mossfield

THE GRANDSTAND and pitch at Mossfield stadium are undergoing a makeover.

The work will be completed in time for the Argyllshire Gathering in August.

Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The

grandstand is having a replacement of metal cladding, seating areas and painting.

'A new chain link fence is to be installed along the north-eastern boundary.'

'Most of these works are now

complete. After July 16, the spokeswoman said: 'Mossfield pitch is to have drainage improvements implemented during the summer closure programme.'

'Weed treatment, top dressing and reseeding will also take place.'

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## Flags, fun and games to celebrate Royal Wedding



Above, royal wedding celebrations in full swing in Dalintart Drive, Oban. Games, flags and a barbecue were held to mark the marriage of Wills and Kate. 16. 118royal1

Left: Pupils at Oban Primary Campus enjoyed a Royal Wedding party of their own on Thursday, with pupils and staff dressing in their finest outfits for the day. Pictured with the priest on the left are the school's Kate Middleton and Prince William - with the proud 'family' in the background. 07. 118wedding2



When fellow Argyll College students offered to pay Aiden McLaren to wear a dress on the day of the Royal Wedding, the hairdresser had no option but to take on the bet. Aiden has made the final of a prestigious hairdressing competition, Wella Exposure, in London but is currently fundraising to get there. And when the Oban campus encouraged students to dress in a Royal Wedding theme, Aiden's fellow students saw an opportunity to embarrass him and raise money at the same time. Friend Ian Brown also squeezed into a pretty little red number as bridesmaid and John Horne wore a more customary kilt outfit as Aiden's groom. The boys' fancy dress and a fun day at the college last Tuesday has helped to raise nearly £600 for Aiden's competition on June 9 in London. Bridesmaid Ian Brown, bride Aiden McLaren and groom John Horne embrace the Royal Wedding celebrations. 15. 118wed02



The day of the Royal Wedding was an extra special one for children at Little Learners Nursery in Dunstaffnage as classmate Rowan MacCorquodale also celebrated her second birthday. To mark the double celebration the nursery had a street party for 30 children outside the nursery, which was also attended by staff and parents. Nursery cook Deirdre MacVicar made a large cake for the event. Pictured, from left, are nursery pupils Katie Russell, Callan MacKay, Ellie MacTaggart and Megan Hart. 15. 118street01

# Population fall 'a cause for concern'

THE POPULATION of Argyll and Bute has fallen to its lowest level in more than 30 years, with fewer than 90,000 people now living in the county.

REPORT  
by STEVEN FLANAGAN  
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Between 2000 and 2010, 1,850 people left the area, meaning the county was home to just 89,200 people - a reduction of around 5,000 since the area's population peaked in 1989.

The steady decline has shown little sign of stopping, according to the latest figures released by the General Register Office for Scotland. A greater proportion of people left area between June 30 2009-2010 than any other region in the country.

In that period, 776 babies were born and there were 1,086 deaths. Two hundred people moved into the area, but 730 decided to leave, resulting in a net drop in population of 840, or 0.9 per cent.

Of the total population, 44,170 are men and the greatest proportion of the working population is aged between 45-49 at 7,044.

There are only 4,076 25-29 year olds and 3,567 30-34 year olds in the area. Nearly a third of the population, 25,646, is of retirement age, although of that 7,105 are aged between 60-65.

Depute leader of Argyll and Bute Council Ellen Morton admitted that the figures are cause for concern, but she has hopes that the new local area plan will go some way to reversing the trend.

She said: 'Our population is dropping too fast and too far. We have a disproportionate amount of elderly people.'

'While that is a problem that is being seen across the country, we are at the sharp edge of that.'

Why, then, was the population dropping and what can be done to stop it?

'It's very difficult to pull things from statistics and identify a direct causal effect. What all the figures seem to show is that the two biggest factors are employment and housing.'

'There is no magic wand to solve this, but we are taking steps to try and address it.'

'First of all, what we're trying to do is have positive reinforcement of our town centres with the CHORD projects.'

'As part of the new local plan, we're also trying to identify opportunities for development for industry, businesses and housing. 'If you don't have these, people can't move to the area to work.'

## Summer rugby events 'will go ahead'

VOLUNTEER rugby coaches in Argyll have insisted they will take the slack until the rugby development officer post is filled.

The three-year development officer role, held by Oban man Billy Thomson, was jointly funded by the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU), Argyll and Bute Council and the youth organisation SSC.

However SSC indicated it could not fund the post after the three-year contract ended on March 31 and alternative funding could not be found in time to retain the role, although Argyll and Bute Rugby Football Club has since indicated it would fill the gap.

The result is a gap of at least two months in the youth rugby training programme across Argyll at the busiest time of the youth rugby calendar.

The development officer role has been re-advertised by the SRU and Billy, who said he would be applying for the post, said events

he had planned for the summer would go ahead despite his absence.

Mull youth rugby coach Gerry Ralston said: 'We did a lot of work with Billy so I'm sure we can carry out what was planned but we need to get someone in. To undo all the good work that has been done the past three years would be wrong. Even in the short time the post is not filled, there is a chance kids will get into another sport if they are not getting rugby matches. Since the rugby development officer has been in post, everything has been more organised and volunteer coaches have been allowed to reach the required coaching standards.'

Oban rugby coach Murray Hamilton said: 'Argyll rugby has come on leaps and bounds over the past three years and it is no coincidence that we have had a rugby development officer during this time. We have play-

ers going through the Pathway Scheme, which has not previously been a consideration, and has allowed promising players to achieve their potential. We are continuing to run a very effective rugby programme that Billy had planned previously, due to the dedicated volunteers in place, and are looking forward to the post being re-appointed after this short break.'

Interviews for the rugby development officer post are scheduled to be completed by May 13 and the post should be filled within a month of that date.

Argyll and Bute RFC has filled the funding gap left by the SSC following successful funding applications to Communities 2014 and Sportsmatch.

The role of Community Coach, filled by Oban's Allan Wright, has not been affected by the changes and he will continue to support the volunteers.

## Factor's drink-drive hearing adjourned

THE TRIAL of Argyll Estate's land factor with regard to an allegation of drink driving has been adjourned until June.

Andrew Montgomery, of Tombree House, Inveraray Estate, appeared for his trial at Lochgilphead Sheriff Court on Wednesday, but heard that two civilian witnesses for the Crown had not appeared.

Furthermore, Montgomery's defence wished to make further enquiries.

The 45-year-old is charged with driving while nearly double the legal limit on an unclassified road in the grounds of Inveraray Estates on Christmas Eve last year.

Sheriff Peter Reid accepted the defence motion to adjourn and postponed the trial until June 1, to be heard at Dunoon Sheriff Court.

## Gold firm's £1.2m prospecting bill

SCOTGOLD, the Tyndrum based company hoping to establish a gold mine in Cononish, spent £1.2million (\$1.8million) prospecting for precious metals in recent months.

In the nine months to the end of March, the company spent more than \$1million on exploration and evaluation, with the remainder spent on administration costs.

The company expects to spend \$900,000 in the current quarter on exploration, evaluation and administration costs.

Meanwhile, the company generated \$1million in proceeds from the issue of shares and options, holding \$1.7million in cash by the end of March.

## Well done Wills and Kate, from Argyll

A LETTER of congratulations was sent to the Royal Wedding couple from Argyll and Bute Council.

Provost William Petrie wished the couple a long and happy life together and asked chief executive Sally Loudon to send a card to the couple.

## Bid to scrap council's ruling executive fails

DEMOCRACY in Argyll and Bute was discussed, and remained unchanged, in just short of 25 minutes.

A motion brought before the full council asked that the practice of the 16-strong executive committee making all the major decisions should be brought to an end - giving all 36 councillors the right to vote.

But the motion, brought by Argyll First members councillors Donald Kelly and Dougie Philand fell on deaf ears.

Councillor Kelly argued: 'This vote is a vote for democracy. All 36 councillors canvassed votes for the election.'

'We told people their vote would make a difference and yet within Argyll and Bute there are only 16 members making all the decisions. We strongly believe we must restore democracy to Argyll and Bute Council to allow them to deliberate on all council matters.'

'If you do not support this motion it is about going against the people who voted for you.'

Seconding the motion, Councillor Dougie Philand added: 'Since 2007, 754 decisions have been made in the Executive Committee that affect the lives of everyone in Argyll. Those decisions were made by an average of 13 people.'

'It is undemocratic because all 36 councillors are not represented.'

Acting council leader Ellen Morton moved a motion of no change. She said there were many committees on the council that brought decisions forward such as the planning, licensing, audit and older persons committees.

'I am not entirely happy with the structure of the council. It is important that the council is fit for purpose.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish pointed out that the executive committee had two fewer representatives from the opposition than in previous months. 'It would appear that the Executive is undemocratic as 41.6 per cent of the council is the opposition and yet it has less than 10 per cent of the opposition making the decisions. There is no argument that the current process is undemocratic.'

Councillors did agree the structure of the planning committee was the best example of people working together.

Councillor Isobel Strong said: 'The executive is seen as the political driver of the council.'

Against the flow of the opposition parties SNP member Councillor John Semple said: 'I think the executive is a good flexible model.'

## No major incidents at festival

POLICE say Mull Music Festival was a 'friendly affair' with minimal incidents.

This year, an action plan put in place by officers on the island, with the support of Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, ensured that concerns of residents about the festival were taken into account.

A campsite was prepared out of town, which led to fewer numbers of people using the grassed areas in the village or the Ledaig car park as camping sites.

An hour difference in closing times between venues encouraged people to move quickly to their accommodation rather than gathering in the town centre, which eased noise issues.

Despite making arrangements for extra

toilets in the village, a number of people were still issued with fixed penalty tickets for anti-social behaviour such as urinating in the street.

Sergeant Mark Stephen said: 'There were no incidents of violence reported.'

**Charged**  
Meanwhile, two revellers travelling to the festival were charged with being in possession of illegal drugs. The men both appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Saturday.

The arrests were made on Friday afternoon aboard the CalMac ferry to Mull after the men, who were not travelling together, started behaving suspiciously when the drug dog was working through the area.

## Centre offered 'seals on demand'

CALLS have been made for an international captive seal register after Oban's Sea Life Sanctuary was offered seals 'on demand' in return for cash.

A company called White Sphere Ltd sent an email to staff at the Barcaldine-based marine zoo offering to catch one of five species of seals for delivery at prices ranging from \$18,000 (£11,000) to \$36,000 (£21,500).

White Sphere claimed to represent 'large companies in Russia which are engaged in catching, training and supplying of sea mammals.'

The species listed included the northern fur seal, which is classed as vulnerable, and two species whose status is currently unknown, the ribbon and spotted seals.

Ringed and bearded seals were also touted. Horrified staff reported the email to the Sea Life Centres network prompting calls for a global register to fight the practice of capturing animals and selling them for captivity on the black-market.

A spokesman said: 'We've alerted all other centres across the world about this, in Australia, Europe and the US.'

'We're calling for an international register to make sure something like this doesn't happen. A shareable database showing the origin of all sea mammals held in captivity would be of great assistance and a preventative measure.'

The network's senior biologist, Rob Hicks, said: 'We were frankly amazed that this sort of thing is still going on.'

### Advertorial



TRINITY salon is a family-friendly relaxed salon in the heart of Oban.

With a new Vidal Sassoon-trained stylist and a creative beautician joining the already established team - the relaxed and laid-back professional salon continues to offer the best service by focusing on training.

The High Street shop has been a hairdresser's business for more than 50 years. The last seven years, since September 2004, it has been in the care of the Trinity of Claire Livingstone, Craig Tosh and Linda Parisella.

Craig said: 'When the opportunity to buy the salon came up we all wanted to work together and jumped at the chance.'

'We wanted to offer a happening salon that welcomes everyone. We still offer the same today.'

Claire added: 'We place an emphasis on being friendly in the salon. We want families to know they can come here and be treated well.'

'We offer exclusive equipment - products we would use ourselves such as Cloud Nine straighteners and The O, a new range of heated velcro rollers that gives fabulous waves.' (A competition to win a set is on page 13.)

Stylists Andrena Young and Carina MacMillan have been with the Salon faithfully for 6 and 4 years and continue to be valued members of the team. They are experienced stylists offering advice and professionalism to every customer. One of the salons recruits Maria Robertson, from Oban, has been promoted through junior to stylist during her four years with the salon. Amongst the young woman's accolades is the title of Student of the Year from Argyll College for her dedication to hairdressing.

Beyond the many products such as KMS and Sebastian care and styling products, The O and Cloud Nine styling equipment on offer, the salon gives something money cannot buy - confidence for customers. Well-trained professional staff offer the latest advice on cuts, colours and styles and are at the cutting edge of the latest styles alongside the tried and tested classic and elegant styling.



Celebrating new team members the Trinity brand is building a even better future.

Experienced stylist Karlos Nash worked in city centre salons in Edinburgh, London and Dorset before choosing Trinity, Oban as his next challenge. With an interest not only in styling - Karlos also offers bonded and weft extensions for customers.

Approachable Karlos is able to give advice on techniques and hair care. Karlos has already managed to build up a good portfolio of customers.

Beautician Nicola MacEwan has been building up a broad customer base since she started offering treatments using specialised products.

Nicola specialises in eyelash extensions, nail enhancements using acrylic, gels and colours. Nicola offers massage and facial treatments. Offering the best in beauty care is something Nicola also extends her skills to running a teen care skin programme. Anyone who has suffered from problem skin will appreciate the importance of having a good regime programme from early on in life.



Summing up Claire said: 'We are a family friendly salon where all are welcome. We offer free consultations and reduced rates for children under 18.'

**Come & Meet Our Friendly Team**

**Reduced Rates for under 18's**

**Free Consultations Available**

**KMS** **PROFESSIONAL SEBASTIAN** **THEO** **ghd**

\*Offer applies to 1st treatment only subject to availability on presentation of this advert, no photocopies.

**15% off All Beauty Treatments during May**

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Mon 9am - 6pm  
Tues 9am - 5pm  
Wed 9am - 6pm  
Thurs 9am - 8pm  
Fri 9am - 9pm  
Sat 9am - 4pm

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LISMORE

IN THE last two weeks of March, Lismore Primary School pupils worked hard rehearsing 'The Fisherman's Wife' for the North Lorn Drama Festival.

The play is about a fisherwoman who wants to own more and more land, because her wishes are granted time after time, she eventually asks for too much and ends up with nothing, the moral being that you are better happy and poor.

With songs, dancing, chanting and narration, the play was a challenge for the young actors, aged between 5 and 11. However, they took it all in their stride - listening carefully to instructions, speaking clearly and performing confidently.

On the night of the performance there was much excitement as the children waited for the curtain to open, but from the opening note the cast were step and word perfect and the play was greeted with laughter and applause.

The adjudicator said the performance was as near perfect as anything he had seen in the past. He made particular mention of Sophie King, the narrator, who 'led the cast to a wonderful acting performance'.

The children were delighted to hear they had been awarded 85 marks out of 100, winning the Primary Schools' Section and a special Adjudicator's Cup.

Congratulations go to all the children for their hard work and fantastic achievement.

www.isleoflismore.com is 10 years old this year.

To celebrate this great island asset, organisers have bought a webcam thanks to a generous £500 donation from Glensanda Quarry.

At the moment the webcam is sited in Port Ramsay but Teenie Wilson, who has been involved with the website since its inception, says they hope to have it at various sites throughout the island without, of course, infringing on anyone's privacy.

She also said they were hoping to run competitions on the site throughout the anniversary year and that they are very grateful to Glensanda Quarry for its support.

THE HALL was full of happy children for the Easter party organised by Lismore Primary School's Parent Council.

Games, food, competitions, tattoos and stickers made for a



Lochnell Primary School pupils dressed as their favourite film characters as part of their cinema project. 08\_118lochnellfilm01

Movies in the spotlight at Lochnell primary

PUPILS at Lochnell Primary School, Benderloch, discovered there is more to running a cinema than simply showing films.

The school chose the movies as an enterprise topic, which was rounded off with a fun-filled day to raise money for the Oban Phoenix Cinema appeal.

Some of the pupils made posters and tickets

as well as organising surveys to find out which films should be screened at the school. They also got to grips with copyright rules.

The younger pupils made popcorn and juice and all the children paid £1 to watch one of three films shown at the school - Despicable Me, Toy Story 3 and Cloudy with a chance of Meatballs.

They all came to school dressed as one of their favourite film characters - from Indiana Jones to Laurel and Hardy.

In all £95 was raised for the Phoenix Cinema appeal. Head Shirley Matheson said: 'The Phoenix is a big thing as the cinema will be very popular for birthday treats and so on.'

fun packed afternoon for local children as well as many visitors, relatives and others enjoying an island Easter break.

Competition was keen for all the games but the egg painting competition was the keenest and the prize winners were Sarah Campbell, adults; Shannon Watson, 10 and over; Caitlin, 6-9; and Donald MacCormick, under 5s.

LOCHEARNHEAD

FOLLOWING an overwhelming response, police in Lochearnhead have identified the driver of a car who has been causing chaos on the area's roads for some weeks.

Officers were inundated with calls from locals and visitors to the area as a result of their appeal. As a result, not only was the culprit in question

identified, but a number of other motorists whose driving has been considered inappropriate, were reported. A spokesperson for Central Scotland Police said: 'Several names and vehicles have been brought to our attention and as a result of this we have begun speaking to the owners about our, and more importantly your, concerns regarding inappropriate driving.'

'With regards to the original driver a name and vehicle has been passed to me which identifies the person responsible and as such the driver will be receiving a knock on the door in the very near future.'

BALLACHULISH

BALLACHULISH Community Council met in the Jubilee Pavilion for their April meeting. Abridged minutes:

Refuse and recycling: A petition was set up and has been submitted to Highland Council. There is a bigger issue and it is now time to push for a recycling point at Highland Council yard in the village and get the bottle and paper banks moved there too. Chairman Mel MacAskill to arrange meeting with Highland Council and local councillors. The issue will be raised at South Ward Forum meeting in Ballachulish on May 23.

Fireworks/Bonfire/Quarry/Obelisk - The obelisk is in place and work on the plinth should be finished shortly. It was agreed that the community council fund the interpretative board about the obelisk.

Royal Bank of Scotland - A meeting was held with The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) to voice concerns about the impact on the local community, both

individuals and businesses, and on visitors over the reduction in opening hours. The RBS response is that the reduction in opening hours is in response to the reduction in people using the branch and the RBS believe that the impact on the community and visitors will be minimal.

Bus shelter artwork - community council members to look at costings and liaise with schools on art competitions. Christmas Lights fundraising - Dance in hall raised £708 which has been deposited in the community council's bank account and will be held in a separate fund for the Christmas lights. Thank you to everyone involved. The Primary School has been asked to come up with a wishlist of Christmas lights they would like to see in the village.

Dr Lachlan Grant

Workshop - workshop to be held in the Shinty Pavilion on Saturday, September 10.

Road Surface in Village - Everyone is encouraged to report road defects to Highland Council.

Ballachulish Primary School Eco Group gave a very interesting presentation on their activities. The Chairman thanked them for attending the meeting.

Tables from the Ballachulish Village Hall appear to be missing - is anyone aware of where they are?

Issues with boat sunk at back pier to be raised with landowner.

Lochaber Geopark will put an information board in the quarry.

Kinlochleven School and Community Library representative will attend the June meeting to discuss community learning and leisure activities.

The community council has submitted a planning application for the extension to the Ballachulish Village Hall. Next meeting: Tuesday May 3.

TIREE

TIREE Music Festival has announced it will have an official campsite this year.

The announcement came as tickets for this year's festival went on sale, although they are expected to sell out early.

The campsite, at Tiree Business Centre in Crossapol, is a five minute walk from the festival site and has 24 hour toilets as well as local amenities nearby.

For more information, check the website at www.tireemusicfestival.co.uk.

COLL

COLL Community Council will hold its next meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday. The meeting starts at 7.30pm.

ISLAY

ISLAY and Jura Gardening Club has been wound up.

It was decided that the surplus cash in the bank would be divided and donations made to the Islay and Jura Sick Children's Fund and the Marie Curie cancer charity.

IN THE LATE 17th century, the Hebridean islands of Scotland were little known and mysterious to most outsiders.

The remarkable traveller Martin Martin was the first person to describe the island of St Kilda, Second Sight, and a rich Hebridean culture of pre-Christian lore, as well as the everyday lives and landscape of the local people.

He was also among the first writers to visit both Islay and Jura, and record some of his impressions. Unlike Boswell and Johnson, Martin spoke Gaelic, and understood and empathised with the Gaels. His descriptions of island life before the destruction of clan society by the Jacobite rebellions and the Highland Clearances are remarkable.

A dramatised documentary from Caledonia TV tells Martin's story, and paints a vivid portrait of a vanished Hebridean culture. Martin Martin will be shown today on BBC Alba at 9pm.

ISLAY'S Legacy: Our Children in Concert will be held on Friday May 13 at 7.30pm in

Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile, Bowmore, with Hugh Smith as Fear an Taigh.

There will be performances from local choirs, the junior Islay Pipe Band, schools brass band, various solos, and accordion players.

This evening will show a kaleidoscope of young Islay's musical talent, and proceeds will go to local children's charities. A raffle will be held, and light refreshments offered.

THE QUILTERS' AGM will be held on May 11 at 2pm in Islay Quilters workshop, Islay House Square, Bridgend. Anyone with an interest in sewing or textiles is welcome to join.

APPLECROSS

APPLECROSS in Wester Ross is to host a five-day Applecross Bardic School - Sgoil Bhardachd na Comraich - from June 27 - July 1.

Organised by the Applecross Am Bealach Group, the Gaelic bardic school is the first to be held in the coastal village for generations. In the past, Applecross was a popular place for Gaels from the islands to meet and greet their Ross-shire kinfolk.

The course at the Venture Trust will promote and celebrate the Gaelic bardic tradition through seminars, tutorials, creative writing workshops and fringe events. Traditional singer Kenna Campbell and her Mòd Gold Medalist brother Seumas will

both educate and entertain. Bards past and present will be celebrated, including the late Uilleam Ros and Somhairle MacLean and renowned contemporary local Bards Aoghnas MacNeacail, Meg Bateman, Roddy Gorman and Maoilios Caimbeul.

Organisers hope the seminar will inspire budding new poets to create work of their own in the Gaelic language.

Sine nic a' Phearsain of Sgoil Bhardachd na Comraich told The Oban Times: 'There has not been a bardic school in Applecross for as long as anyone can remember. It is something that the Gaelic speakers and learners have been missing.'

'The Applecross people feel strongly that it is a huge part of their tradition and heritage.' Am Bealach Group is a Community Group established in 2004 to support and encourage the use of Gàidhlig in Applecross and the surrounding area. Projects and events initiated have included a pre-school group, arts and crafts, drama, live music and entertainment, local history, a DVD project, adult Gàidhlig classes, discussion groups and Fèis a' Bhealaich. For further information on the school, telephone 01520 744482 or contact Sine at sine@sgoilbhardachd.co.uk or on 07512 684911.

ARDCHATTAN

THE ANNUAL general meeting of Ardochattan Community Council will take place at North Connell Village Hall on Tuesday, May 17.

Open to the public, the meeting starts at 7.30pm.

INVERGARRY

GLENGARRY Community Hall in Invergarry will host a home and garden sale at Saturday from 11am to 2pm.

A representative from Highland Liliiums in Kiltarlity will be on hand to answer any gardening questions. A homebaking stall will be among the attractions.

RAASAY

ISLE of Raasay crofter Paul Camilli's micro-hydro-power turbine is back up to full voltage after air got into the system.

Mr Camilli's tiny plant helps power his house at South Arnish by generating electricity using a small flow of water piped down from Loch Arnish, 85 metres above sea level.



Unveiling the new noticeboards are, from left, Argyll and Bute's Councillor Elaine Robertson, Alison MacCorquodale, convener of Appin Community Council, community councillors Linda MacLeod, Issy Silkowski and Paul Zevgintzov and Alan Colthart, who designed and built the noticeboards. 07\_118appinboards

Six new noticeboards unveiled in Appin

RESIDENTS in Appin have no excuse not to know what's going on in the village.

The community council has put up six new noticeboards and launched its new website.

The noticeboards - along with two which did not need replacing - are spread throughout Appin, from Stalker Café to Glen Creran.

Both the boards and the website were officially unveiled at last week's community council meeting.

Secretary Issy Silkowski said: 'We have talked about having a website for a long time, but never had the money to take it forward.'

'When we needed new noticeboards we thought it would be good to apply for funding for a website as well.'

'It is more than just a community council website - there is a community noticeboard and details of local businesses.'

The noticeboards and websites were paid for by Leader funding, a grant from the Appin Community Trust and some of the community council's own funds. Log on to www.appincommunitycouncil.co.uk to have a look.

APPIN

A MEETING of Appin Community Council was held in the village hall on Thursday, April 28. Items discussed included:

MEMBERS were relieved that Oban-Fort William bus service 918 has escaped council funding cuts.

Argyll and Bute Council agreed to continue its annual funding of nearly £16,000 to ensure the service - which is jointly financed with Highland Council - operated during the winter. Councillor Elaine Robertson told the meeting every area of Argyll and Bute had been affected by the bus funding cuts.

A LITTER pick in the village resulted in 19 bags of rubbish being collected.

However, concern was expressed about the remnants of a car which had not been moved since it crashed last December. Members were told police had made several requests to Transerv Scotland for the wreckage to be removed.

A MEETING to attract volunteers willing to look after the new cycle track had attracted a good turnout, members were told.

The event had been arranged by Sustrans, the charity developing the cycle track from Oban to Fort William.

With a 15-mile continuous stretch north from the Sea Life centre at Barcaldine almost complete, a meeting had been held in Appin Village Hall in a bid to recruit volunteer rangers to look after sections of the track.

Those who had left their details were now being contacted by Sustrans, and the new volunteer rangers should be in place during May, members were told.

RESIDENTS are being affected by unreliable broadband speeds and mobile phone reception in some parts of Appin.

The meeting was told those who had to rely on a satellite system for the provision of broadband were hit by low speeds in the daytime, which sometimes meant it was quicker using the dial-up method to get online.

Treasurer Tina Scorgie said she had been contacted by residents in Port Appin asking if the mobile phone companies could be contacted in a bid to improve coverage in their area.

THE idea of developing a community garden in Appin has been mooted.

Community council convener Alison MacCorquodale said she had been contacted by the minister, Dr Rev Roderick Campbell, to say a piece of

land was available and he was keen to gauge opinion as whether there was support for a community garden.

Members were told the youth club had signalled its interest in the project.

Community council treasurer Tina Scorgie said that while the idea was an excellent one, a community garden was also a big undertaking and people would need to commit a considerable amount of their time to it.

APPIN'S Old Inn could be set for a new lease of life but any future plans will depend on access.

Alastair Allward, whose family owns The Old Inn and Castle Stalker, said he had an 'aspiration' to reopen the inn at the bottom of Stalker Brae as a visitor centre for the castle. However, he stressed that his plans were at an early stage.

Rumour has been rife in the village over what is planned for the building; the reason for that is because the owner hasn't even decided himself.

Mr Allward said: 'I have lots of ideas for a visitor centre, a bar or a tearoom but it is all aspirational. If I am not able to get permission for access I won't be able to do anything.'

**MAY MADNESS**

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**KNOYDART**

THE 2011 Knoydart Festival last weekend was sold out days before the first band took the stage on Friday evening. All 670 tickets were snapped up, co-organiser Jacqui Harris told *The Oban Times*. 'We even had somebody from Helsinki,' she said. Festivalgoers arrived during the course of Friday on small passenger boats, including from

Mallaig on the *Western Isles* and from Armadale on the *Seafari*. Boats from Inverie also brought visitors across Loch Nevis for the event.

**BENDERLOCH**

A PUBLIC meeting will focus on the possibility of a community biomass district heating network for Benderloch. The meeting, organised by the West Highland Housing Association, will take place on

Tuesday, May 17, at the Victory Hall, Benderloch, starting at 7.30pm. There will be a full presentation on the potential benefits of the scheme, followed by a question and answer session.

**KYLE**

KYLE primary has chosen Thursday June 9 for celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the school in its present premises.

Entitled 'Going for Gold', the evening event will feature a display of stories, anecdotes, photos and memorabilia collected by pupils from former pupils, staff and parents at the school since it opened in 1961.

The display will include the school's log books from the time it was sited on the Plockton rock. The precious records date back to 1905 and give a fascinating insight into school life long ago.

Teacher Mary Logan told *The Oban Times*: 'We found the old log books in a drawer. They had been here in the school all this time and obviously must have come from the old school during the move. They will be of great interest to people who have lived all their lives in the village.'

On 'Going for Gold' day, pupils and staff will come to school in 1960s dress. The children can expect lessons - and discipline - 1960s-style, we are told!

The exhibition will also be open to the public on Friday, June 10.



**Pupils take to the beach for annual spring clean**

Pupils at Barcaldine Primary School took part in the Annual Keep Scotland Spring Clean which is Scotland's biggest annual clean. The children cleaned the local beach and collected 14 bags of litter.

planting, sowing, weeding and making raised beds take away produce as payment for their work. Winter broccoli, chard and sold leaves are being harvested, while 100 strawberry plants have been put in, Mr Van de Peer said.

**INVERLOCHY**

INVERLOCHY and Torlundy Community Council is objecting to proposals to allow limited overtaking on the A82 through Torlundy as part a planned road improvement scheme.

Transport Scotland is considering replacing solid double white lines from the corner south of the bus halt south opposite the Factor's House to north of the Tomacharich road end with 'hazard lining' - one broken and one single white line - once a proposed carriageway strengthening scheme is completed.

ITCC chairman James Reid told *The Oban Times*: 'We are resisting that and they have agreed to look further at it and monitor the traffic to see if they can justify the change. We want solid double white lines because it is far safer.'

**PLOCKTON**

AROUND 80 senior citizens from Kyle and district attended

their annual dinner and ceilidh organised by Kyle fire brigade in the Kings Arms Hotel in Kyleakin on April 16. After an excellent meal local artists performed to their appreciative audience.

The annual steam train passed through Plockton on April 19 on its way from Inverness to Kyle.

The annual cruise in memory of Alastair Bruce was held on April 8 on Calum's seal trip boat. A collection raised over £600 for prostate cancer.

The Plockton Historical Society met in Plockton Hall on April 21 with guest speaker Ross MacKerich whose talk was entitled 'restoring Canna's chapel'.

Some 45 people attended and he was introduced and thanked by Robert Kennedy.

**ABERFELDY**

A YEAR of volunteering on various committees has given eleven Aberfeldy, Ballinlurg and Pitlochry youngsters a new insight on life.

The gruelling schedule came as part of their participation in the Pacific Institute's Pathways to Extreme Success Aspirational Learning Programme.

The group helped provide youth services in their respective

communities through the Aberfeldy Parish Church's Breath Infuse Cafe and Rock Steady groups.

The youth co-ordinator for Aberfeldy Parish Church, Franny McGrath, said: 'They all had a fantastic time and were responsible for all aspects of the operation including budgeting, cooking and cleaning.'

**OBAN**

THE TOPIC of the April meeting was entitled 'Surprise, Surprise' and this was certainly the case when local members Kay MacDonald and Sally Weaser gave an interesting and informative demonstration on the art of marking jewellery from materials such as paper, glue, wire and beads.

Everyone was amazed by the attractiveness and quality of the necklaces, bracelets and earrings and all eagerly participated in making them.

Kay and Sally were given a hearty vote of thanks.

Competition results: Knitted baby's jacket with hood: Gold, Joan MacLean; Silver, Anne Malloch.

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**Mull Lines**

RESIDENTS of Mull Resource Centre and Dunaros Residential Home are to be treated to a live concert in the comfort of their dayroom in early May.

Ewen Sutherland, Music in Hospitals' guitarist and singer, who performs regularly on behalf of the charity, is looking forward to providing a vibrant mixture of traditional songs.

The concerts are taking place thanks to the generosity of Crerar Hotels, whose support is enabling Music in Hospitals to provide a series of concerts at care units across Scotland during 2011.

Music in Hospitals draws upon the talents of some of Scotland's leading musicians to perform for people in more than 500 hospitals, hospices, homes and day care centres across the country. Experienced professional musicians are selected not only for musical expertise but also for their ability to communicate with sensitivity and compassion while actively encouraging audience participation. The aim is to make a wide range of high quality live music more widely available to people whose access to entertainment is curtailed perhaps through illness, age or disability. Health professionals constantly acknowledge the valuable part music can play in the treatment and care of patients.

Gemah Graham, general manager at the Isle of Mull Hotel and Spa, said: 'Crerar Hotels is part-owned by a charitable trust whose objective is to give to worthy causes every year and the trust is delighted to be able to assist Music in Hospitals. The charity carries out fantastic work in hospitals and care homes all over the UK.'

Alison Frazer, chief executive of Music in Hospitals in Scotland, said: 'We are most grateful to Crerar Hotels for generously supporting these concerts over many years. Thanks to its support, we have visited quite a few of the care units before and it is always a pleasure to be able to call and let them know our musicians will be visiting again.'

**SALEN Primary School held its annual Daffodil Tea in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care.**

There was a great turnout and everyone enjoyed the delicious home baking and various stalls. Pupils were joined by the children from Lochdonhead Primary School to perform some amazing gymnastic routines for everyone to see. It was an excellent morning and £384.31 was raised for Marie Curie.

PRIZE winners from the Mull and Iona Wildlife Week competition are: 1 Eric Taylor; Connel, 2 Mary-Clare MacFarlane; Edinburgh; 3 Morven Cameron; Fort William.



Firefighters receive long service and good conduct medals at Tobermory Fire Station.

LONG service and good conduct medals were presented at a ceremony at Tobermory Community Fire Station attended by past and present Fire and Rescue personnel.

Group Commander David Sloss was delighted to present medals to Firefighter Brian MacLeod, ex Firefighter John Weir and crew commander Iain Cruickshank.

Commander Sloss said 'It is my pleasure and privilege to give these medals to three individuals who between them have served their community for more than 60 years with diligence and professionalism, on behalf of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue thank you for your dedication and commitment.'

**Down Your Way**

**This week - Arran**

FUNDS are desperately needed to help a former Arran rugby player pay for an air ambulance transfer from his home in Romania to hospital in Edinburgh.

Duncan McAlister, who grew up in Torbeg, has lived with a life-threatening condition called Polycystic Kidneys for many years.

Due to cysts on his right kidney and liver, he is now critically ill and requires a transplant.

Duncan was airlifted from Romania, where he has lived for 10 years with his wife and daughter, to Edinburgh's Royal infirmary a week ago but the cost of the air ambulance was not covered by his insurer.

So now his brother Craig and his family are desperately trying to raise the money.

'We need to raise 18,000 euros but thankfully we are already two thirds of the way there,' Craig explained at the rugby sevens on Saturday.

'As Duncan is a life-long rugby fan and used to play for Arran we thought it would be a great idea to try and raise some money here.'

The family were running a tombola stall and prize-draw with some fantastic prizes that included dinner for two at Coast in Whiting Bay, a signed Rangers football shirt, BlackBerry smartphone and a brand new golf bag.



Craig McAlister and his cousin Kenny Brown are desperately trying to raise money for Craig's ill brother Duncan - a former Arran rugby player. 01\_1517dun01

**IMPROVED road safety in the centre of Brodick has reversed the need for two proposed pedestrian crossings.**

At the Community Council meeting last month, Councillor Margie Currie said that the roads department no longer believe two zebra crossings are required.

She said that they felt the new Brodick walkway had improved road safety at the pier end and that the double-yellow lines in the centre of the village had made crossing the road easier.

'There were always concerns that the crossing near the pier would hold up traffic,' said Councillor Currie. 'It was also felt that residents in the centre of the village wouldn't be happy about the orange lights flashing day and night.'

Plans were put in place for the crossings after a group of Brodick mothers expressed concerns about road safety in September 2008.

One was to be adjacent to the Douglas Hotel near the pier and the other towards the village hall.

Sergeant Bob MacKay told the meeting that many people would be upset by this decision.

'The volume of traffic has increased ten fold on this island since I arrived,' he said. 'There is a big safety issue here and I think the young mothers are still very keen to see a crossing at the village hall.'

IT IS unlikely that the Brodick Funfair will return to the island this year, following mounting complaints about its size and duration during the summer months.

The licensing board hearing into the future of the Funfair has been adjourned until June 14.

Michael Stirling, of Stirling Entertainments, who owns the fair, said that no-one had ever complained to him personally and that he was saddened the situation was now in the hands of the licensing board.

'I was willing to do all that I could to resolve this situation,' he said.

'We have been coming to the island for eight years and in that time not one person has approached me to complain.'

'If they had, I would have been more than happy to work with them to reach a happy medium - even if it meant turning off the music completely.'

Mr Stirling, who is 51 and the fourth generation of his family to run funfairs, travels all over Scotland with his amusements.

However, on Tuesday he told *The Banner* that the council had now received so many complaints it was unlikely he would be granted his license for the coming season.

**PLANS to turn the derelict Sannox Congregational Church into affordable homes for local families have been rejuvenated by an £80,000 donation from an anonymous donor.**

In December campaigners failed to secure a mortgage from Triodos Bank for the purchase of the building due to a lack of collateral.

But the bank is now prepared to offer HIFAR a loan if they are able to provide a sum of money as a security.

But the £80,000 donation on its own is not enough and more money is desperately needed.

John Inglis, leader of the Save Sannox Church campaign said: 'HIFAR is appealing to anyone interested in the project to make a pledge of money in the form of either an interest-free loan or a donation.'

'These pledges would be drawn on only in the event of the local community having a second chance to purchase.'

**Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Moidart with Northern Editor Stephen Norris.**

You can contact him at 01397 703003 or email snorris@obantimes.co.uk.

**CRIANLARICH**

OPPORTUNISTIC thieves have made off with the batteries powering a roadside traffic information sign near Crianlarich.

The theft took place sometime between the evening of April 20 and the following morning, and saw the purpose-designed batteries taken from the sign on the Corriechaorach corner on A85 between Lix Toll and Crianlarich.

The batteries only work with this kind of sign, as they are charged by solar cells. Transvers, who maintain the signs, are now facing a substantial bill to replace the batteries.

A spokesperson for Central Scotland Police said: 'These signs are a significant tool to provide information and road safety messages to the travelling public.'

'If anyone saw a vehicle parked in the lay-bys on the approach to the bends or any persons acting in a suspicious manner can you contact your local police office or Crimestoppers.'

**BARCALDINE**

TWO YOUNG violinists from Barcaldine Primary School were singled out for praise as the school triumphed at this year's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

The school won the Folk Singing Group competition last Thursday.

But adjudicator Ian Anderson asked the audience to give Eilidh Munro and Ben Collins a special round of applause, adding that both were very promising young players.

**LAGGAN**

GERGASK Primary School in Laggan is holding an energy workshop tomorrow as pupils continue their drive to win a first Eco-schools green flag.

Kirsty Jackson-Stark, education and development officer with Argyll-based Alienergy, will lead interactive workshops with the whole school on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Gergask head teacher Alda Munro told *The Oban Times*: 'Primary 4-7 are currently looking at the effect of climate change on children world-wide.'

**DUROR**

A TEAM of people serving community service orders imposed at Fort William Sheriff Court will carry out a beach clean up along the shore at Cuil Bay, Duror, today (Thursday).

Duror and Kentallen Community Council chairman Jonathan Baxter said 'community payback' people had worked at the local village hall in the past and done 'a very impressive job'.

Mr Baxter approached the community service officer of the Criminal Justice Service in Lochaber to suggest the beach clean as a possible task.

He said: 'I am delighted to say they will come down to Cuil Bay to do a tidy-up. They will start at the near end of the first bay and work along to the second, third and fourth bays as time permits.'

Several local people are expected to join the community service workers for the day.

Mr Baxter said: 'A tipper lorry will be brought to put rubbish into and grabbers may be available to help folk reach to pick things up.'

**KENMORE**

PLANS have been submitted to convert part of Kenmore's Grade C(S) listed Post Office into a three bedroom house.

Under the proposals for the building at The Square, the interior of the building would be altered and an extension built on the rear elevation.

**ADVERTORIAL**

**Sail on the crest of a wave with The Queen's Racing Yacht**



Bloodhound at sea

Imagine sailing around Scotland's beautiful Western Isles on a classic 1930s yacht, which once belonged to Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. This once in a lifetime opportunity is now a reality as the legendary ocean-going Racing Yacht *Bloodhound* is available for charter out of Oban this Summer.

From 11 July until 24 August 2011, the 63 foot, fully restored, *Bloodhound*, will be based at Oban Marina. During which time she will be available for day charter for groups or individuals who wish to step back in time aboard this icon of British sailing, perfect for sailing enthusiasts, private celebrations, company incentives or team building. Up to 8 guests will be able to enjoy sailing through the stunning scenery of Scotland's West Coast, as well as the hospitality of the Skipper and crew who are all former HMY *Britannia* 'Royal Yachtsmen'. Guests can choose to sit back and relax while on board, or help the Ocean Master qualified Skipper and crew 'man the ropes'.

*Bloodhound* was built in 1936, one of 3 yachts constructed to the 12 metre handicap rule by the world famous Camper & Nicholson's yard in Gosport. She was one of the most successful ocean racing yachts ever built, winning a long list of Royal Ocean Racing Club (ORC) races, including the gruelling Fasnet Race (twice), and in 1952 also crossed the Atlantic to compete in Bermuda against the great American yachts of the time.



Prince Philip on board Bloodhound. Copyright: Beken

On the back of this outstanding racing pedigree, *Bloodhound* was acquired by the Royal Family in 1962 as Prince Philip wanted a yacht that could be used for both racing and family

cruises. Prince Charles and Princess Anne both learned to sail on her in the Western Isles. Prince Philip also had much success competing with her at the famous Cowes Week regattas around the Isle of Wight and his late sailing companion, the great yacht designer Uffa Fox said, 'The most outstanding of the cruising twelve metres was *Bloodhound*, the winner of many races and the most comfortable of vessels at sea.'

While in Royal ownership *Bloodhound* had a permanent crew of 3 and when the yacht wasn't being used by the Royal Family she, and her crew, were available for charter to sailing clubs throughout the British Isles. Her last Royal cruise was to the Norwegian Fjords in the summer of 1969 and two of *Bloodhound's* last Royal crew, including the cook, will be part of the Oban crew. *Bloodhound* sailed 45,393 miles while in Royal ownership, although most of this was completed when on 'loan' to sailing clubs.

After Royal ownership *Bloodhound* had a varied career, but did compete again in the classic yachting regattas in the 1980s and 1990s before falling into serious disrepair. In 2003 she was rescued by a yacht surveyor who embarked on a 4 year and near £1m restoration project.

*Bloodhound* now belongs to the charitable trust that also owns and manages the five-star visitor attraction, The Royal Yacht *Britannia* in Edinburgh. *Bloodhound* is normally on view to visitors throughout the year as the centrepiece of a new Royal Sailing Exhibition, apart from the months of July and August when she will be available for charter. *Bloodhound* can be chartered for an all inclusive cost of between £1,000-£1,500 per day.

Oban born, Bob Downie, Chief Executive of The Royal Yacht *Britannia*, has very fond boyhood memories of sailing in the area in the 1970s with John Donn on the classic sailing yacht Elk (1904) and is pleased to be bringing *Bloodhound* back to these familiar waters on the West Coast.

'I am delighted to be taking *Bloodhound* back to the Oban area, and the waters on which she once sailed with the Royal Family. She is such an important part of British sailing history, and this really is a once in a lifetime opportunity to step back in time.'

For further details on chartering *Bloodhound* please contact the Events team at The Royal Yacht *Britannia* on 0131 555 8800 or email: events@tryb.co.uk

Racing Yacht *Bloodhound*, The Royal Yacht *Britannia*, Ocean Drive, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6JJ

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Hard work starts now

THE Prime Minister, David Cameron, calls it 'the big society'. Most people would probably know it as community spirit - and it seems Oban has it in spades.

In a few short months, the dream of re-opening the town's cinema as a volunteer-run complex, looks set to be realised.

A major milestone was reached this week when agreement was finalised between the Phoenix Cinema steering group and officials at the Santander bank, which took possession of the building following the demise of the Highland Theatre.

Good news indeed and well done to all those involved in the campaign.

But make no mistake, the hard work really begins now and it is up to everyone to play their part.

Once the cinema re-opens - as now looks a certainty - all those who came forward and said the town was a poorer place without it must follow this through and support the new venture.

Doubtless it will prove extremely popular when the doors are opened once again, but it is the continued support of cinemagoers that is key to its survival and future success.

## Countryside fire risk

IT'S an obvious thing to say, but given the unprecedented spring sunshine we have been enjoying in recent weeks, be aware of the risk of fire when hosting barbecues or out camping.

As we report this week, the countryside is like a tinder box and the fires spread incredibly quickly.



## Tobermory couple prepare boat for summer

This week's flashback photograph was submitted of Wilson Scott, of Oban, and shows well-known couple of the time Donald 'Doicks' MacAllister and his wife Agnes preparing their boat for the summer on the shore at Tobermory Bay. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

## Alan Cochrane



THE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S SCOTTISH EDITOR

## Travelling cattle class

We all love travelling by train, but outside the main routes the experience is stuck in the Victorian era

I LOVE travelling by train, so much so that I've largely given up taking the plane on my fairly regular trips to London and now let East Coast trains take the strain. By and large, they provide a very good service.

Recent announcements that passenger numbers continue to increase are no surprise. Many friends and colleagues have decided that the massive inconvenience of airport terminals, with their interminable security checks and surly security staff, are a complete turnoff. When you add the time it takes to get through these checks, plus the travelling times to and from airports, it's not much slower by rail. And so, certainly for travel between Edinburgh and London, it's the train every time for me.

However, as I discovered on a recent journey, not all journeys are as smooth as those on the mainline routes. I had looked forward enormously to a rail journey I had booked for myself to visit friends on Skye. The plan was to leave Edinburgh at 8.30am and then have a 90 minute stopover in my old stamping grounds of Inverness before taking the train to Kyle of Lochalsh, where I was to be picked up to complete the journey to Glendale by road.

And guess what? Everything ran to timetable, which given the distance and terrain was no mean feat. And with that scenery from Perth to Inverness and then even more spectacularly, from Inverness to Kyle, there cannot be better rail trips anywhere. So what was the problem?

The problem was the rolling stock provided by First Scot Rail, who have the franchise to provide 95 per cent of rail services in Scotland until November 2014. Not only were the seats hellishly uncomfortable, there's simply not enough room in the two or three coaches, certainly not for passengers and all their luggage, including - not surprisingly on such a route - rucksacks, hiking and camping gear.

What surprised me most, however, was how cold the coaches were. My wife and daughters will readily testify that my determination to keep our central heating turned down to an economical minimum means I don't feel the cold too badly. But that train, especially once we got north of Perth, was perishing. The return journey, next day, was even worse; so much so that the embarrassed conductor spent much of the journey apologising to us and urging passengers to try the next door coach which, she assured us, was warmer. I tried it; it wasn't.

Easily the most bizarre aspect of my journey concerned the refreshments. Halfway down the line, by this time with both jacket and topcoat on, I ordered a cup of coffee from the lady with the trolley. Opposite me, a well dressed woman produced her ticket and said, ever so politely, that as a First Class passenger she was entitled to a free coffee. The trolley gaulter agreed but said my companion could only have her free coffee if she returned to the First Class compartment, for fear of the other Second Class passengers complaining about this preferential treatment.

'But it's even colder in First Class than it is here. That's why I've moved,' she said. Not a chance, said the trolley-dolly. 'I cannot use First Class cups, except in a First Class compartment.' This was getting ridiculous. 'Why not serve this lady her coffee in a Second Class cup. I'm sure she won't mind,' I suggested.

The frustrated passenger readily agreed, but to no avail. 'I can't do that,' said the trolley-iste. 'The Second Class cups have been counted by my boss and if the money in the till at the end of the journey doesn't match the number of cups used, I have to make up the difference.'

My companion put on her fur coat and trooped disconsolately back to her frozen First Class compartment, there to consume her free coffee, and leaving us to ponder who makes up these ridiculous rules. And how, at a time when we're trying to attract all tourists we can, can First Scot Rail get away with serving the Highlands so poorly.

Read Andrew Cochrane's column in Scottish Field each month.

The 2010 schools consultation act has placed an onus on local authorities to prove there will be no educational detriment to both the receiving and closing schools.

The effect on local communities must also be analysed and the effect of any arrangements for travel to a receiving school looked at.

I will be working closely with the parent council during this difficult time to help secure a favourable outcome to the consultation.

**Councillor Douglas T Philand, Argyll First, Mid Argyll Ward 3, 32 Fernoch Crescent, Lochgilphead.**

**Shaken by scale of bus service cuts**

Sir, My hopes that I would have been escaping to a haven of civilisation during my current visit to Scotland were rudely shaken by your editorial about forthcoming cuts to bus services, April 28.

As well as serving local residents, bus services fulfil an important economic role in helping to bring those tourists who want to get away from the honeypots.

People who visit year after year need some variety.

Of the services mentioned in your editorial, I used the Kilberry route last autumn, also the connection between the Tayvallich bus and the apparently lost Jura ferry.

There are opportunities to set up new routes offering day tours, such as Easdale and Luing islands, Loch Awe, Carradale to Claonaig, and Calgavry/Ulva. Would this be popular with Canadians? I hope whichever party or parties wins the Holyrood elections will consider seriously the development of sustainable Scottish tourism based on public transport which reaches down to community level. This will help local residents, including those who have cars but want to use them less, and regenerate that part of the economy which depends on tourism.

**Simon Norton, Cambridge.**

**Common Good Fund debate goes on**

Sir, Debate over the administration of the Oban Common Good Fund is not laid to rest simply by referring to a position minuted five years ago and then ratified four years ago.

The people who discussed and minuted this position as members of Oban Community Council are some of the very same people who now, as Argyll and Bute councillors, are resisting any influence or decision-making powers other than their own.

Saying 'we decided it then and you have to stick with it now' doesn't wash, frankly, as a way of settling a debate.

At the risk of becoming very boring, I repeat that the way forward is to take a fresh look at how to make the Oban Common Good Fund work best for the town.

This may find that the current system is best, but if it does involve changing the way the fund is administered, then there are procedures for allowing for a new agreement to be drawn up.

**Catherine Gillies, Glenmore Road, Oban.**

## A view from the tower

by McCaig

Strange to say these states seem to be the only ones in that region of the world which are not experiencing 'unrest' currently.

But, the main difference between us and them is that they are extracting oil from sand while we are doing so from wild seas.

As to the protection of the Scottish realm are we to be satisfied with a gun boat and a couple of fishery protection vessels? And what about an army? Do we recruit or conscript? Do we stand alone, neutral like Switzerland or join the 'western alliance'?

I've no doubt there are Nationalists who have blueprints for everything so that we can close down the United Kingdom one day and open up as an independent Scotland the next. But, it's not as easy as that.

**The ultimate political operator**

NOW THAT the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are having a clandestine honeymoon it may be time to note that HM the Queen, 'the head of the Firm' as she has been known to describe herself, continues to wield immense personal power that makes her the supreme political operator in many parts of the world.

Her long reign has given her a base from which to build a fearsome sphere of influence, greater now than Queen Victoria ever had. Yet, it is a tiny minority here that wishes to see her replaced by a president while many overseas countries would have her as head of state tomorrow. Many who would abolish the monarchy, qualify their contempt for it by exempting the Queen as she can manipulate better than anyone.

**What will the next five years bring?**

TODAY, Scotland will elect 129 MSPs to serve in the Scottish Parliament for the next five years.

The reason for the extended duration is that a normal four-year term could clash with the date of the next British General Election. When this was brought to the attention of MPs at Westminster common sense prevailed and a year-long extension was granted unlike the farce which will occur this time round for the Edinburgh parliament. I refer to the absurdity of the acceptance of one of the most significant changes to our electoral system - the Alternative Vote for the House of Commons - foisted on us by the Clown Clegg.

Last week, I recommended a 'No' vote and I have been astonished at how many people have stopped me in the street to indicate that they, too, are voting similarly because what is a fundamental alteration to our voting system has been treated in such a contemptuous way by the current coalition government.

**Independence - nothing less**

IT'S A wonderful romantic idea, a feast of tartan, every school pupil wearing it every day.

However, the ever-growing number of young pipers who compete as soloists and in pipe bands wearing the kilt doesn't seem to deter any of them no matter how many severe gales there are and force them to demand trews instead. Apart from cost should we have our bobbies on the beat similarly attired? We certainly would have hundreds of thousands of decisions to take as a consequence of becoming independent and become frustrated that 'this independence lark' has not brought us oil riches to give us a 'pension' at 21 as the residents of some Middle Eastern States get at present.

McCaign

## Letters to the editor

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email: editor@obantimes.co.uk www.obantimes.co.uk Fax: 01631 568001

### No common sense or flexibility at Lochaber Leisure Centre

Sir, I visited the recently refurbished Lochaber Leisure Centre this week, May 2, a bank holiday. The plan was to take my two young children swimming. Imagine the dismay of a five and an eight-year-old when we were told the swimming pool was not open to the public until 12.30pm as it was timetabled for school swimming.

I pointed out that schools were closed as it was a bank holiday and therefore would the pool not be open. I assumed the member of staff had just got confused.

I was told: 'We don't change our timetable for a one day holiday.'

So, in spite of the pool being full of water, heated, lit and, presumably, staff rostered on to cover it, we were unable to use it. Having been pleased the council

decided to save money last week by not taking the day off for the Royal Wedding, I can only assume that the fiscal problems are now behind them if they can afford to turn away custom, particularly on a holiday Monday when the town was extremely busy with tourists, holidaymakers and those attending the six days trial week.

I would have thought the Highland Council would be looking to recoup some of the £1.5million spent on the refurbishment and whilst I appreciate our entrance fee wouldn't quite have covered this bill, as a council tax payer I have to say I was shocked at the lack of common sense and flexibility applied here.

Highland Council hospitality at its very best.

**Bryan Gregg, Strontian.**

### Early cuckoo and swallows

Following your correspondent's letter saying they heard the first cuckoo on April 17, we heard it at Upper Sonachan, on south Lochaweside, on Thursday, April 14.

On the same day, the swallows arrived.

This is the earliest that I can remember either of these things happening after many years in Argyll.

**Mary McGrigor, Upper Sonachan.**

## Town's thank-you to steamer



First officer Alan Howie was delighted to receive an Oban Pendant in thanks for the steam ship Waverley's regular trips into the town's North Pier. Making the presentation are, from left, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, and community councillors Marri Malloy and Kenneth MacIntyre. 16\_1180at1

## GLASGOW LETTER

### The wider social scene

LAST week I commented on the fact local associations had all but completed their social events for the season and as a result it may be necessary to look further afield for entertainment.

Here are some events taking place in the next two weeks.

### Duncan Chisholm

A FOUNDER member of Wolfstone with whom he has travelled the world, Duncan Chisholm has carved out a wonderful solo career and together with Allan Henderson, fiddle/piano, and Tony Byrne, guitar, he will be playing at one of his favourite Glasgow venues, St Andrew's in the Square, on Sunday May 15.

If you have never attended a Duncan Chisholm concert you will not have appreciated how beautiful a slow air can be played on the fiddle and you will not have had the pleasure of witnessing, in addition, stagecraft of the highest order.

Tickets are available for this wonderful evening of music from www.ticketsoup.com or telephone 0844 4818898.

### Darvel Music Festival

THE TENTH anniversary Music Festival in Darvel will take place from Friday, May 6, to Sunday, May 8, and while it has developed different musical themes there will be traditional music each evening.

On Friday this traditional stage will feature Drever/McCusker/Womble, Heidi Talbot and Iain Morrison, on Saturday it will be Wolfstone, Skerryvore and The Simple Touch and on Sunday Session A9, Coast and Manran. For tickets www.darvelmusicfestival.org.

### Gourock Highland Games

THE 55TH games will take place in Gourock this coming Sunday from noon with the biggest ever programme promised to include many family orientated activities.

Chieftain for the day will be Claire Darroch-Thompson, head of the Darroch Clan.

### World Pipe Band Championships

TICKETS for the championships, which will, as usual, take place on the Saturday which is the culmination of the Piping Live Week - August 13 - are now on sale.

Visit www.theworlds.co.uk for details.

### Scott's Guard Recital Challenge

THE FIRST of the semi-finals in this challenge will take place in the Scott's Guard's Club, Edinburgh, on Sunday, May 8, when Andrea Boyd and Alasdair Henderson will be the competitors and then on Sunday, May 15, it will be Finlay MacDonald and Craig Muirhead.

Proceedings, costing £10 to include a curry, start at 4pm.

### Good wishes

I EXTEND best wishes from readers in Glasgow to all youngsters who are sitting their SQA Examinations.

Best wishes also to Skipinnish as they open their new Ceilidh House, in Fort William.

I am sure that, like the Oban venue, it will be a great success bringing top quality traditional music to the town.

### Diary dates

**Thursday May 5:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm - Marion Bradfield, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm - Liz Carroll and Johnny Doyle.

**Friday May 6:** Accoustic Affair, City Halls, 8pm - Michael Marra, also on Sunday evening, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh. Session A9, Darvel Music Festival - see above.

**Saturday May 7:** Clann Gaidhlig ceilidh dance, Community Centre, Bishopton, 7.30pm. Perth Concert Hall, 7.30pm, Session A9 with Lau. Darvel Music Festival - see above.

**Sunday May 8:** Gourock Highland Games - see above. Darvel Music Festival - see above. Scott's Guards Recital Challenge - see above.

**Thursday May 12:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Mary Gauthier. Sutherland Association AGM, Buff's Social Club, Dumbarton Road, 7.30pm.

**Saturday May 14:** Paisley and District Highlander's Association ceilidh dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm. Sunday May 15, St Andrew's in the Square - Duncan Chisholm - see above. Scott's Guards Recital Challenge - see above.

**Pub scene**

THIS weekend in the Islay Inn the music will be provided by Parting Glass on Friday and the Keelies on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Gunna Sound on both Saturday and Sunday with Ballochmyle on Friday.

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

## YOUR LETTERS

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

## PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

# Suspected arsonists put lives at risk as wild fires ravage West Highlands

LOCHABER fire and police chiefs say suspected arsonists are putting lives at risk after wild fires ravaged parts of the West Highlands over the past week.

Tinder box conditions and strong easterly winds fanned blazes around Fort William, Shiel Bridge, Torridon, Lochailort and Glenfinnan, leaving huge swathes of heather moorland and trees in ashes.

Welcome rains expected today and tomorrow will come too late for blackened hillsides but the hunt is just beginning for possible firerisers.

Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service Lochaber area manager, Martin Haigh, told *The Oban Times* lives were being put at risk.

He said: 'There is no doubt there was malicious intent. We have had nine calls over the past week, five from Plantation and four involving fires round Cow Hill into Glen Nevis. People are either being very careless - or malicious.'

'The worry is that being diverted to deal with these incidents could undermine our ability to respond to potentially life threatening situations elsewhere.'

'If somebody is trapped in a car and we have to bring in a machine from Fort Augustus, that is not good when people have life threatening injuries and time is critical.'

'On Saturday at 11.30am a lady in Caol got taken to hospital with burns to her hands from a chip pan fire. Callouts are very costly to the fire service and the guys

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

themselves - a lot of them are business people and they lose money every time they are out.

'These fires are also bad for the environment and kill ground nesting birds, wildlife and trees.'

Acting Chief Inspector Dougie Allan told *The Oban Times* of his 'suspicions' that wilful firerisers could be responsible. Three fires were dealt with in Glen Nevis on Monday afternoon alone, he said.

'Two were fairly small and were contained quickly, but one got into an area of mature timber near the Lower Falls,' he said.

'It is quite possible some could be as a result of a deliberate act and inquiries are ongoing at the moment.'

'It is extremely negligent to be setting fires in these tinder box conditions and we will use the full force of the law against the persons involved if and when identified.'

He added: 'Fires can spread very rapidly in the strong wind and can pose a substantial danger to persons, property and livestock.'

'I would advise people to be very careful when out and about when discarding glass or plastic containers, which can act as a magnifying glass for the sun's rays.'

Local firefighters managed to extinguish a small blaze near Mamore Lodge at Kinlochleven on Monday afternoon before it could spread to nearby mature woodland.



Volunteer Ratagan firefighter Iain Philp and Glenshiel man Raymond Gillies battle the inferno above Shiel Bridge on Monday night. Photograph courtesy of Saffron Dilly.

## Canoe group to change camping advice

THE SCOTTISH Canoe Association is likely to change its advice on wild camping near inland rivers and lochs after a blaze destroyed 1,000 acres of heather and young trees on Glenaladale Estate, Glenfinnan.

A family canoeing and camping at Loch Shiel inadvertently started a wild fire on Saturday when an ember from burning toilet paper ignited dry grass nearby.

An estate worker is believed to have discovered the fire on a morning check and alerted the fire service.

Crews from Spean Bridge, Fort William, Acharacle and Strontian were withdrawn for their own safety on Saturday night, but managed to extinguish the fire by 3pm on Sunday. On its website, the Scottish Canoe Association advises people camping out: 'Do not bury toilet paper. Either burn it if there is absolutely no risk of

fire or pack it in a plastic bag.' Lochaber area manager for the Highland and Islands Fire and Rescue Service Martin Haigh criticised the SCA for leaving it up to campers to gauge fire risk. Mr Haigh said: 'Setting fire to toilet paper is okay - but not at this time of year. The family went to the estate house to apologise.'

SCA access and environment officer Mike Dale confirmed the advice - brought in to help protect the environment - would be reviewed in the light of the Loch Shiel fire.

He said: 'The likelihood is we will make changes to the wording.'

Elsewhere, a huge blaze was still burning on the Five Sisters of Kintail above Loch Duich on Tuesday.

Shiel Bridge residents had to be evacuated on Monday night after sinking air brought the fire front down the

mountain to within yards of local homes. Fire crews from Glenelg, Broadford, Fort Augustus and Kyle were among those fighting the blaze.

The crews were pulled out from the inferno as night fell, but were winning their battle on Tuesday, aided by helicopter waterbombing.

The Kintail Lodge Hotel served about 30 exhausted firemen breakfast on Tuesday morning. Co-owner Marianne Worthy said: 'There were enormous flames leaping up the mountain. It was a case of run for your lives, get out of there - it just took off so quick.'

Ten square miles of mountain moor was burned at Torridon, while at Ardnish, near Arisaig, two walkers were taken to safety by Mallaig lifeboat and a coastguard helicopter from Stornoway after a blaze cut them off from safety.

## Upper Achintore spring clean volunteer appeal

THE UPPER Achintore Regeneration Group in Fort William is calling on local people to help spring clean the area on Saturday.

Volunteers are being asked to meet at the school gates at 10.30am to give no more than two hours of their time.

The group decided to organise the event, part of Keep Scotland Beautiful's National Spring Clean 2011, after becoming fed up with crisp bags, juice bottles and other litter spoiling their local environment.

Chairman Andrew McHale said: 'We hope our clean up will show others that we have pride in Upper Achintore and by working together we can take responsibility for our surroundings and show that dropping litter is unacceptable.'

Local councillor and group member Donald Cameron will be among the volunteers. A barbecue at Achintore Primary School will follow the clean up.

## Last minute team entrant wins Monster Bike and Hike

MORE than 600 people raised £500,000 for Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres on Saturday by tackling the 73-mile Monster Bike and Hike from Fort William to Inverness.

Elaine Whyte from Fetterangus in Aberdeenshire set the fastest time, completing the course in just under 10 hours and making her the first female winner since the event started in 2004.

Elaine was drafted into the team at the last minute by her husband Eric, who works at Peterhead Prison.

## Stranded holidaymaker rescued

A YOUNG holidaymaker who was trapped on a neck of land by wild fires had to be rescued by Mallaig lifeboat on Monday afternoon.

The woman, who was camping in the area, got cut off while she was on the Ardnish Peninsula, near Arisaig, at around 2pm.

The crew took the Englishwoman onto their boat and safely back to Mallaig, where she was on shore by 5pm.

**"It is quite possible some could be as a result of a deliberate act and inquiries are ongoing."**  
**Acting Chief Inspector Dougie Allan**

**Were you affected by the wild fires? Send your comments and photos to our Facebook page.**



Regan Campbell getting into the 'fun run' spirit as the race gets underway from the BA Club. 20.118r002

## Lochaber goes on the run together and raises £7,000

MORE than 300 people walked, jogged and ran a five-kilometre route through Inverlochty on Saturday, and managed to raise nearly £7,000 for charity.

The first annual Lochaber Together 5K fun run was the centrepiece of a day of events at the BA Club to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

A 'kids zone', with face painting, a clown and a bouncy castle, started at 10.30am, and was followed by a high-tempo zumba fitness class to get the competitors warmed up for the race.

Those taking part in the fun run left the BA Club car park at noon, racing through the streets of Inverlochty to An Aird shinty park and back again.

The winner of the event was 15-year-old Craig Maclean of

Corpach, and the first lady home was Fort William's Nicky Martin.

After they had a chance to catch their breath and have a drink to cool down, the fun continued with local bands Proctackz and Kinky Karma providing live music in the evening.

### Overwhelmed

Lochaber Together vice chairman Billy Ward told *The Oban Times*: 'As well as raising money, we wanted to raise awareness of the work that Cancer Research do in the UK. We've been totally overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of Fort William and Lochaber.'

The organisers would like to thank all the local businesses who supported the event, including CLG Printing and Fort Signs.

# ALIENERGY

Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

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## 25 Years Ago

## Those Were The Days

### The Oban Times

Thursday, May 2, 1986

### Increase in Oban diving accidents causes concern

DIVING accidents in the Oban area are on the increase, leading to criticism that there are putting an extra strain on local health resources.

Oban Coastguard reported 14 casualties and one fatality in 1985, but already there have been four people suffering effects of 'the bends' this year.

Most of these incidents require the presence of a doctor, ambulance, helicopter and decompression facilities.

Spike Howard, district controller of Oban Coastguard, said: 'We are concerned about diving casualties.'

'The whole question of payment for facilities should really be looked into.'

'Sports diving is a dangerous pastime. Should there not be some sort of compulsory insurance?'

'It is time the British Sub-Aqua Clubs looked at the possibility of taking out insurance to repay the health board.'

However, the British Sub-Aqua Club feels this would be unfair discrimination against divers.

David Shaw, the club's diving incident instructor, said: 'Oban is one of the most popular places for diving and thousands of dives go ahead without incident.'

### Hot food shop fails to gain planning permission

A PLANNING application for change of use as a former shoe shop in George Street, Oban, to a hot food take-away has been turned down by Argyll and Bute's planning committee.

It was felt that the proposal was contrary to the local plan, which states that the district council will oppose additional ground floor non-retail uses which would result in a loss to retail frontage in the area. The application related to a vacant shop, formerly a shoe shop, on the ground floor at 74 George Street.

The proposal was for a hot food shop for the sale of hot dogs, hamburgers and chips to take away.

In a report to the committee, director of planning, Michael Olieer, explained that the applicant had last year requested change of use consent in relation to a vacant shop at the corner of William Street and George Street and that this had been refused on the same grounds.

This decision, he added, was currently the subject of a formal appeal.

He also pointed out that planning permission for the change of use of a shop at 100 George Street to a wine bar was refused permission for the same policy reasons.

### Continuing success of Campbeltown shipyard

CAMPBELTOWN Shipyard, continuing its success story last week with the launch of the 87ft trawler *Boy Andrew*, is reaping the success of the Campbeltown 87 design, which was introduced 18 months ago and has netted the yard five orders valued together at more than £5 million.

The first 87, *Andromeda II*, has, said Lew Howarth, the yard's managing director, 'been fishing very successfully since she came into service last November. She grossed £37,000 on her first two trips last year.'

The new design has led to an increase in workload for the shipyard which added two tradesmen and nine apprentices to its workforce this year, giving a total of 91.

The launch last week was said by Mr Howarth to be 'a triumph for the yard as the order for the boat would otherwise have gone to Denmark or Holland.'

Campbeltown's shipyard's latest trawler was launched in a blaze of sunshine - a triumph for the yard and a moment of celebration for its new owners, the Bremner Fishing Company, of Wick.

The trawler is the most sophisticated yet to be built by the yard.

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

**Across**

- 7 Add water (6)
- 8 Healer (6)
- 9 Bounce back (4)
- 10 Mid point in time (8)
- 11 Interpret words wrongly (7)
- 13 Does as it is supposed to (5)
- 15 Word announcer (5)
- 17 Eclipse (7)
- 20 Soldier's footwear (8)
- 21 Annul (4)
- 23 Calmly (6)
- 24 Rare metallic element used in electroplating (6)

**Down**

- 1 Compact or slipped! (4)
- 2 Growth (6)
- 3 Informal seating (7)
- 4 Racing ground (5)
- 5 Flesh drawing (6)
- 6 One who makes the rules (8)
- 12 Cut off (8)
- 14 Give up (7)
- 16 Start hiking (4,2)
- 18 Filthy (6)
- 19 Stalked growth (5)
- 22 Beat (4)

Last week's solution

OT

**Teenager drove on wrong side of road**

A TEENAGER crashed head on into another after driving on the wrong side of a Moirdart road. Patrick MacDonald, of Auchleeks House, Calvine, Pitlochry, was behind the wheel of a Land Rover Defender when he collided with a Renault Megane that had just come round a corner on the A861. The 19-year-old admitted a charge of driving dangerously between Lochailort and Glenuig on November 11. Fining MacDonald £360 and placing five penalty points on his licence, Sheriff Douglas Small told Fort William Sheriff Court: 'It was lucky no one was injured.' Defence solicitor David Hingston said: 'His daddy will pay the fine and recoup it from his son at a later date.'

**Junior shinty club hosts second tournament of the year**

KINLOCHLEVEN Junior Shinty Club will hold its second shinty tournament of the year at Kinlochleven Astro Turf from 10.30am on Sunday. The event is being organised by local volunteer and coach Donald Wilson and parent Sheri Murphy who sponsored strips for the new team and prizes for the event. Keen to try out and show off their new strips, the team will be playing Ballachulish, Upper Achintore, Invergarry and Ardnamurchan. Active Schools co-ordinator Roz Newman helped set up the team. She said: 'This young group of dedicated players are very excited about the upcoming tournament. Parents and children within the local community have been very supportive which will enable the clubs growth to continue and build greater success for the future.'

**Wind disrupts school Royal Wedding party**

GLENCOE Primary School's preparations for the Royal Wedding were disrupted when high winds blew down a small marquee that had been set up for the day. Teachers spent Thursday afternoon setting up and decorating the nine-metre by six-metre marquee, only to come in the next morning to find it strewn across the playground.

**Clarification**

THE OBAN TIMES would like to clarify that Margaret Birrell is not the partner of William Smillie, and does not reside with him at 3 Bruce Place, Fort William, as reported in our court story in last week's edition. Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes



**Annual bike parade attracts huge crowds to Fort William**

The annual parade to kick off the Scottish Six Days Trial attracted huge crowds to Fort William on Sunday, and ice creams and cold drinks were the order of the day as the sunshine provided the day with continental temperatures. Hundreds of riders that are taking part in the event were joined by the bikers who had competed in the Pre '65 trial in Kinlochleven at the weekend, as the spectators cheered them down the packed-out High Street. The snake of motorbikes turned off their engines as they reached Cameron Square, where Provost Allan Henderson welcomed them to Lochaber. The riders then continued down the street, occasionally stopping to pose for photos with their fans. Kinlochleven's Gary MacDonald was lying in seventh spot after two days competition on Monday and Tuesday.

**Rent rise prompts shop closure fears**

HIGH Street rents in Fort William are back in the spotlight after it emerged another business is under threat of closure. The Oban Times understands Subway sandwich chain is considering shutting its doors with the potential loss of three jobs. Local sources suggest a possible hike in rent from landlords, Altrincham-based company Mutley Properties Ltd, has prompted Subway to consider pulling out. Mutley, who bought the building in May 2010, admitted to this newspaper that a rent review was 'imminent'. A source close to the company said Subway had indicated it did not want to continue the lease and that talks were 'ongoing'. Mutley, the source said, were 'hopeful' they could keep Subway in the town. The sandwich makers opened their Fort William branch in 2009. The High Street has had a rollercoaster ride in recent times. The Oban Times revealed in March that chocolatier Thorntons, next door to Subway, was to close with the loss of four jobs. It emerged Thorntons was paying around £26,000 in rent every year - figures on a par with Edinburgh's Princes Street. The revelation prompted Councillor Donald Cameron to reiterate it was investment companies who own the majority of properties on High Street, and Highland Council has no control over rental policy. Thorntons ceased trading on Saturday. Meanwhile, Fort William's commercial centre still waits for Ashford Property's hotel and shop development at the former Grand Hotel at the West End to get underway. Alpine Bikes recently opened a new High Street outlet. No-one from Subway was available for comment.

**An Aird store plans still on track**

DEVELOPERS hoping to build a 60,000sq ft supermarket on Fort William Shinty Club's An Aird pitch have insisted their plans remain on track. Edinburgh-based property group CWP says their £15m project would bring in one of the 'big four' multiples to the Lochaber capital and create 300 new local jobs. Local councillor Donald Cameron last month expressed strong doubts about the scheme, but CWP confirmed to The Oban Times company representatives still intend to put the proposal before the Lochaber public, possibly as early as next month. Plans CWP spokesperson James Harbison said: 'We are forming definite plans for the An Aird site and will be outlining these as we were ready. 'We will be coming to Fort William for a run of consultations with stakeholders including the shinty club, elected members [of Highland Council], the local chamber of commerce and community councils. 'We won't be lodging any proposals with the council until we have done our preliminary consultations.' He added: 'I would ask people to be patient. We will bring forward our plans when we are ready to do so. 'We are keeping an interest in what is or is not happening at Blar Mhor and will be bringing forward our proposals in a few weeks.' Under their scheme, CWP would move the shinty club to new state-of-the-art training and playing facilities at one of three as yet undisclosed sites in the town. The developers' Proposal of Application notice with the council details a retail (class 1) food store of 5,500 sqm with associated car parking, petrol filling station, servicing and access arrangements' at An Aird. Approval Miller Developments won approval for their retail, office and public services development, including a major supermarket, on a 105-acre site on the Blar Mhor outside Fort William on December 14. The club has so far declined to comment.

**Lochyside fiddler to strike the first notes at new Skipinnish Ceilidh house**

SKIPINNISH Ceilidh House, which opens in Fort William's Middle Street on Friday, has given Lochaber provost Allan Henderson the honour of nominating the first musician to play at the new venue. Provost Henderson has chosen world-renowned Lochyside left-handed fiddler Angus Grant for the occasion. The provost said: 'Angus Grant, in his 80th year, is well worthy of striking out the first notes as he is rightly credited with the resurgence of traditional music in Lochaber. 'When I knocked at his door over 25 years ago, at the insistence of the great Aly Bain, asking if he would teach my family, he modestly replied with something to the effect of, 'he wasn't up to it'. 'What he did not tell me was that he had already taught his son, Angus of Shoogenifty, and was the resident fiddler at the Stirling University summer school along with Tom Anderson. Angus has gone on to teach hundreds of fiddlers all over the world as well as creating a hot bed of fiddlers in his native Lochaber. 'When given the opportunity, by owners of the Skipinnish Ceilidh House, Angus MacPhail and Andrew Stevenson, I did not hesitate in choosing Angus as he is one of Lochaber's great tradition bearers.' He added: 'The Skipinnish Ceilidh House venture is in the old Masonic club bar on Middle Street and is a welcome addition to the entertainment scene which has been sadly lacking since the demise of MacTavish's Kitchens.' Skipinnish has also booked rising stars Robert Robertson and Marianne Fraser to continue the entertainment and are finishing the night off with a dance to music from the Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band.



Angus Grant: will play the first notes at Skipinnish Ceilidh House.

**Woman fined £200 after dog bit youngster on arm**

A FORT William woman whose dog bit a 12-year-old's arm next to a play park has been fined £200 and ordered to keep her dog under control. Adriana Filipczak, of 33 Kennedy Road, pled guilty to being the owner of a Labrador collie which was dangerous and not kept under control at Plantation play park on December 7. Filipczak, aged 36, allowed her dog to be taken for a walk by a nine-year-old to the local park, where two youngsters were sledging. The dog was let off its leash and ran towards the sledgers, biting one on the arm. The child was left with a bite mark on the left wrist and deep grazing near the elbow. Sheriff Douglas Small told Filipczak: 'If there is a similar incident the court may well order the dog to be destroyed.'

**Man fined £400 for threatening behaviour towards ex-girlfriend**

A FORT William man whose threatening behaviour forced his ex-girlfriend to call the police to get him out of her house has been fined £400. Alan Tomlin, of Flat 2A, Glenlochly Guest House, went to flats at Iona Court where his ex-partner Christine Haynes was visiting her niece, on January 28. He arrived at the door and demanded to be let in to get £15 she owed him. Ms Haynes told Fort William Sheriff Court she didn't let him in as her new partner was inside and she was worried a fight would break out. The 46-year-old repeatedly pushed the buzzer, kicked the door and started shouting and swearing at the people inside. Tomlin left - but later phoned Ms Haynes to say he was in her home. She told the court: 'He said he was waiting for me and he wouldn't mind sticking the head on me again.' Ms Haynes phoned police who removed Tomlin and arrested him. Tomlin pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner, shouting and swearing, uttering abusive and threatening remarks, threatening to assault Ms Haynes, kicking the flat door and placing its occupants in state of fear and alarm. Offence Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This is the second time you have appeared in court for an offence like this. 'I suspect if there is a third time whoever is sitting where I am sitting will have no hesitation in placing you in custody.'

**Sword attack trial date set**

THE TRIAL of a Lochyside man accused of attacking another man with a sword has been set for May 11. Edward Richardson, of 49 Castle Drive, was originally due to be appear at Fort William Sheriff Court in March, but proceedings had to be postponed when two key prosecution witnesses failed to show. Forty potential jurors were sent home and arrest warrants were issued for Michael Judge, the victim of the attack, and John Murphy. Mr Richardson denies assaulting Mr Judge by striking him on the arm with a sword in his injury in the garden of 49 Castle Drive on February 11 last year. The 37-year-old also denies conducting himself in a disorderly manner by brandishing two swords and striking a car, placing the occupants of the car in a state of fear and alarm, causing a breach of the peace. Excuse He also pled not guilty to having an offensive weapon in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse.

**Police appeal to report fly-tippers**

POLICE are appealing to members of the public to report anyone they see fly tipping in the Banavie area following complaints. Officers are keen to hear from walkers, cyclists or motorists who see anyone dumping rubbish at the side of the A830. A large number of rubbish bags were discarded on Forestry Commission ground in the area recently. Anyone with information about this incident or future incidents are urged to contact Police in Fort William on 01397 702361 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

**Plans to tackle antisocial behaviour outlined**

THE PUBLIC are being asked to comment on Highland Council and Northern Constabulary plans on tackling antisocial behaviour. The preparation of the draft joint strategy has been drawn up to inform the public and agencies of how antisocial behaviour incidents will be dealt with in the Highlands. The strategy and consultation form can be viewed at www.highland.gov.uk/livinghere/housing. Contact 01463 702209 for the paper format.

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'It worked for me - now let me help you' says therapist Tracey



Tracey Gilmour has set up her own complementary therapy business. 15\_116tracey0102

TRACEY Gilmour says Rainbow Reiki has helped to turn her life around; now she wants to teach the complementary therapy to others.

The Oban woman has started her own company, Argyll Holistic Therapy, and is now based at the Old Crofters, off Soroba Road, where she will treat clients through Rainbow Reiki and Indian Head Massage and will also rent space in the meditation room to other complementary therapists and classes.

The decision to become her own boss comes after she battled through a particularly turbulent time in her life and she is excited about what the future holds.

Tracey said: 'I would like to represent hope for people who have come from a difficult past.'

'I have worked really hard to get to where I am but I am grateful to the support agencies that have got me to this stage.'

Tracey thanked Nicky Archibald at Business Gateway for helping her with the business start-up and also her Rainbow Reiki teachers, Sarah Kelly and Paula Lodge, who have encouraged and supported her.

Sarah and Paula said they were enormously proud of Tracey's achievement of starting her own business.

Paula added: 'We have taught her for the past two years and are so pleased she has decided to start her own business.'

'She's a star.'

# New venture is Pauline's perfect tonic

WITH prime retail premises often too expensive for a new business, an Oban fashion consultant has decided to take the unusual step of operating from home.

Offering tips on clothing, shopping trips and a colour consultancy for women of all shapes and sizes, Tonic Styling is the kind of business you'd normally find on the high street.

However, owner Pauline Cameron is proving that moving away from tradition isn't necessarily an obstacle to establishing a new business.

She said: 'I've got a website under development so people can have a look at what I do before coming to see me, and I have set aside a room for the business.'

'While maybe in the future I'll look for a small retail unit, it would have to be in a great place and at the right price.'

The biggest challenge when establishing a business is con-

REPORT  
by STEVEN FLANAGAN  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

vincing people that your service is useful.

For Pauline, that challenge is doubled when you don't have a shop window - especially as what she's trying to do is establish a business that has never before been tried in Argyll.

Value  
However, she's convinced people will see value in what she does.

She said: 'I think really it's about getting the message out there about personal shopping; it's about getting the message across that it's a one-off treat, but it will save you money now and in the future.'

Pauline will give people advice on what colours and styles suit their natural characteristics, and promises not to pull any

punches if booked for a wardrobe de-clutter. She said: 'As I tell clients, wardrobe makeovers are not about throwing out all your clothes and spending lots more money - particularly in recession times.'

'They're about seeing what you already have more clearly, getting rid of the mistakes or the worn through and working out where you've a few key gaps to be filled.'

Ethical  
She can also advise on ethical clothing, if a client wants to make sure they have a clean conscience when buying their clothes.

Pauline's route into fashion isn't what you'd call conventional.

While she has always had an interest in the latest styles, her work has been more office-based, and she has run a successful management consultancy business for the past eight years, which she now runs alongside Tonic.



## Homebase staff gain training certificates

Homebase employees, Douglas Craig, left, Fraser Robb and Ross Muir, right, are celebrating after gaining new qualifications thanks to Argyll Training. The trio completed their City and Guilds Level 2 SVQ in retail skills, with training funded by Skills Development Scotland. Andy Spence, manager of Homebase Oban, said he was delighted with their achievements.

## Sandy find himself the odd man out at Oban law practice

IN THE not too dim or distant past, legal practice was dominated by men, with hardly any women working in the fiercely competitive field.

However, an Oban firm is living proof that times have changed, with only one in ten employees in the office male - literally.

As the only man working in MacPhee and Partners' Oban Office, Sandy Henry could find getting a word in edgeways a little difficult - and don't even mention last night's Champions League game!

In truth though, Sandy, a partner of the firm specialising in conveyancing and estate agency, takes it in good humour.

He joked: 'It certainly puts you off any thoughts of bigamy, I'm usually pretty quiet at meetings too.'

So how marked is the change? 'When I graduated in law, the incoming first year at the university was probably 50 per cent female,' he said.

'That was the first time that had happened.'

'Law certainly was male dominated back then but over the years it has evened out.'

'Now I'm in an all female environment and to be honest it's really nice!'

Managing partner Helen MacLean said: 'In the city, traditionally law is dominated by men.'

'The few women that are there have to fight for it.'

'Here, the minority is the one male, so it's the total opposite and it's actually a great working

environment. We do play on it for a laugh from time to time.'

Twist

In an ironic twist, Kath McMahon, a partner in MacPhee and Partners since April last year, has been practicing in Oban since 1984.

At the time, she was one of the few, if not the only, female working in law at the time.

She said: 'I was certainly the only female member of the faculty, but there were two women in Oban that were solicitors.'

'What a difference 27 years



Tonic's Pauline Cameron hopes her novel approach to working in fashion pays off. 07\_117tonic1

## Fitcamps target 'exercise tourists'

A NEW specialist cycling training centre in Oban is helping to drastically improve athletes' fitness, as well as bringing 'exercise tourists' to the area.

Run by Robin Morton and Andrew Johnston, Mojo Fitcamps offers an intensive period of training for professional, amateur or even beginner cyclists to improve their performance, with packages ranging from a full week to a long weekend, complete with accommodation if required.

Set among the stunning countryside of Argyll, cyclists from England have been quick to register an interest in attending - joining some eager locals already taking part - keen to take advantage of specialist tuition in some of Britain's most photogenic areas.

Robin said: 'It's a good boost to Oban because it's going to draw people to the area.'

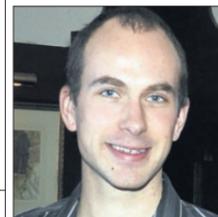
'This week alone we've got people from York, Manchester and Bristol.'

Prior to establishing the camps, Robin decided to take on a British Cycling qualification and became the only certified cycle coach in Argyll.

As the founder and co-owner of Oban health club Energie Fitness, Robin also has access to the facilities there. And because Andrew and Robin jointly won an award with the Energie chain as fitness professionals of the year, he believes they offer a service that rivals any other offered throughout Scotland.

He said: 'What we offer is unique. There's nothing else like it and you don't get this kind of scenery anywhere else.'

Initially to be run for six to eight weeks, Robin says the camps could be offered year round if demand grew.



## Boat care boss is youth ambassador

BARCALDINE businessman Michael Forbes has become the new Argyll ambassador for the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT).

Michael, pictured above, was asked to take on the role after establishing a successful business, Forbes Boat Care, in 2005 thanks to support from the PSYBT.

Describing itself as 'the original boat babysitting service', the company can perform checks on the condition of boats moored in the Argyll area throughout the season, also carrying out repairs, services and replacements when necessary. Now 30, Michael will use his experience of both business and the PSYBT to extol the virtues of the organisation, as well as imparting advice to those setting out in the business world.

## Top three place for Oban estate agent

OBAN estate agency Bell Ingram was named Scotland's third best estate agency at a UK-wide competition considered the trade's equivalent of the Oscars.

The Estate and Letting Agent Awards 2011, known as the ESTAS, rewards businesses based on customer feedback, with more than 26,000 questionnaires completed for the 2011 awards. The awards ceremony was held at the Park Lane Hilton in London this month.

While the Oban branch missed out on the top award, being named Bronze Award winner is still a major coup for the company.

The company's Jackie Moore, who was shortlisted for the newly introduced Highly Commended Award for her individual excellence in serving clients, was praised for her performance but missed out on grabbing the company's second accolade of the night.

## Four new jobs at Carolyn's Café

OBAN'S mini-business boom continued this week with the opening of Carolyn's Café, creating four new jobs.

Opening in John Street on Monday, Carolyn Cameron decided to open the business having operated a successful bed and breakfast in the town for the last four years.



Surrounded by women! MacPhee's Sandy Henry is enjoying life as the only man working in MacPhee and Partners Oban office. 15\_117macphee1

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**Jennifer and Hazel Wrigley - Idiom**  
Idiom is a sparkling blend of traditional, contemporary and original material, invigorated with jazz, blues and ragtime flavours.  
Another superb album from Orkney sisters Jennifer (fiddle, viola) and Hazel (guitar, piano).  
Traditional sounding jigs and reels alongside ones with terrific bluegrass or skiffle influences, sublime slow airs and lively polkas.  
Guest musicians - Billy Peace (accordion, piano), Cathy Fink (banjo), Eamonn Coyne (banjo, tenor guitar), Ian MacKay (electric bass), Jim Walker (drums, percussion), Marcy Marxer (mandolin), Phil Anderson (electric bass), Stuart Shearer (lead guitar).

**Blazin' Fiddles - Thursday Night In The Caley**  
Blazin' Fiddles draws the distinct flavour of fiddle music from various regions of the Highlands and Islands.  
Great playing and a great tune selection to raise the roof.  
Fiddlers Bruce Macgregor, Allan Henderson, Jenna Reid and Iain Macfarlane are joined by Anna Massie on guitar/fiddle and Andy Thorburn on keyboard to form one of the best live acts today.  
Lively, exciting, and passionate music.

**Alastair McDonald - Ring Them Golden Bells**  
A collection of uplifting, faith-declaring, God-exalting songs from the Scottish folksinger, broadcaster and entertainer.  
In the lively musical company of Quattro MacJazz and friends, and featuring songs from the The Glasgow Gospel DVD written by Jamie Stuart.  
Alastair McDonald (vocals, guitar, banjo, percussion) with Forrie Cairns (clarinet), Len Herd (trumpet), Roy Percy (double bass), Cam Findlay (bass guitar) and Clark Sorley (Hammond organ, string quartet arrangement).

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# Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival



Oban's Malcolm Clark proved he has the voice of this year by winning the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival Trophy. 16\_118hmdf32

THE HIGHLANDS and Islands Music and Dance Festival, now in its 28th year, basked in glorious sunshine - proving a trip to London was not required for a right royal affair.

While people lined the streets of London, many dancers and musicians made their way to Oban to take part in the annual festival of music and arts.

And it was all good news as the sun shone and the large annual festival continued to grow in numbers and strength.

A strong programme of competitions in Scottish Country Dance, singing, recorder, accordion, clarinet, fiddle, piano, piping woodwind and brass saw many local young people and adults carry home well deserved medals.

Piping the post for the most won medal by one person was, yet again, Jack Anderson taking the Oban Gaelic Choir Trophy for Folk Singing Solo for the 10th year running. Runner-up Pauline Carson's eyes lit up when Jack said he may not enter next year - but he then followed it up by saying he 'was only joking.'

Keeping it in the family Malcolm Clark, Jack's nephew, who won the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival Trophy for Scottish Song, while little sister Maria was also a strong performer in her singing classes.

Button Box player Graeme MacKay, of Inverness, was delighted to win his trophy. The first time he won it, he said, he had to wait for Mrs Shand-Kydd, grandmother of the newly wedded Prince William, to finish polishing it.

Graeme said: "She was a lovely woman and was very encouraging of the festival."

As ever both Atlantis Leisure Centre and the Corran Halls were full of dancers. From neon-coloured tights to ethereal purple heather costumes, the dancers were a spectacular sight not to be missed.

The Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival has proven yet again the town is a perfect venue for large scale music festivals and the committee running the event should give themselves a pat on the back for making the event work year after year - despite competition from the Royal Family.



Jack Anderson once again won the Folk Singing competition with Pauline Carson coming a very respectable second. 16\_118hmdf12



Samantha Parkinson had a very successful time at the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival not only did she receive bronze awards for various singing and musical instruments but the Oban youngster also won the Frances Shand Kydd trophy for the most promising competitor. 16\_118hmdf15



Exceptional playing by young Graham MacKenzie of Inverness and Tom Orr of Lanark saw the young men win through to become winners for the Accordion and Fiddle Masters. Adjudicated by Marie Fielding and Paul Anderson for the fiddle and Michael Philip and Neil Copland for the accordion - all in all it was a tight finish for the men. There were only two or three points in the whole competition making every note from the players essential in the judging. 16\_118hmdf9



Music maketh the man - or in this case improves the number of competitors in the woodwind and brass competitions. Despite only moving to Oban last year Derek McLeish has rejuvenated the teaching of clarinet and flute - so much so that all six performers in this year's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival programme were under his tutelage. Derek, who is originally from Larkhall, is a tutor at Oban High School, he has recently taken over the flute and clarinet choirs and takes the wind band. 16\_118hmdf18



Ross McLeish is a star performer on the fiddle - and he has a trophy to prove it. Young Ross, aged 10, a pupil at Rockfield Primary School was named most promising fiddler. He wowed the adjudicators with The Hills of Lorne and Donald Harrison's Farewell to Portree. 16\_118hmdf20



Ewan Shearer of Taynult should be a very proud winner of the Arthur Gillies Trophy for singing Where is Love, said adjudicator Kathryn Callander as he not only had a wonderful voice but had taken the time to enter the competition. 16\_118hmdf13



Perennial favourite Aaron Hossain won in the piping competitions. 16\_118hmdf30



Achaleven Primary School ensemble were prize winners invited to sing during the festival's prizewinners concert. 16\_118hmdf36



Sophie Carswell of Taynult was an outstanding performer in the woodwind and brass competitions. So much so that the youngster took home the Lorne Trophy for overall winner in her class. 16\_118hmdf16



Ewan Fyfe of Inveraray took the Nether Lorn Shield for his 6/8 March. 16\_118hmdf28



Lewis Dillon of Tobermory was awarded the gold medal in the chanter competition for 12-14 year olds. 16\_118hmdf26



Jamie Baxter of Lochgilphead was winner of the D Watt and Son Trophy for his playing of a Piobaireachd. 16\_118hmdf21



Mark Leishman from Campbeltown won the Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy for playing a March on Drums for pupils 14 years and younger. 16\_118hmdf19



Selina Keppie of Loch Awe proved she can play with the best of them as she took the gold medal in the Novice March (drumming) competition. 16\_118hmdf27



Wallace Dempster of Arisaig took the Argyll Print Trophy in the chanter competition. 16\_118hmdf25



Fort William's Megan Stewart-MacDonald took the bronze medal in the Chanter competition. 16\_118hmdf24



Jessica Swan of Oban, a member of Feis Latharna, took a very respectable second place in the Campbell Cup for Clarsach beginners. Jessica played two tunes with professionalism and ease. Adjudicator Ingrid Henderson said she was looking forward to seeing how the young woman develops. 16\_118hmdf11



Patrick McBeth of Park Primary School should look rightly pleased with himself as he was pictured just after taking part in his first chanter competition. 16\_118hmdf14



Ciardha Baxter of Ardrishaig gave a good performance in the chanter under 12 competition. 16\_118hmdf22



Oban High School Choir gave a superb performance for passers-by before taking the stage in the festival. 16\_118hmdf23



Hot pink and hot tunes were the winning combination for Sequence Choir. 16\_118hmdf35

## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES the Singing Kettle Competition

**WIN FAMILY TICKETS TO THE SINGING KETTLE!**

The Singing Kettle returns to Corran Halls in Oban with their brand new Funny Farm show on Saturday, May 21, at 2pm. Children are invited to dress as their favourite farmyard animal and join Scotland's number one family show. Cilla, Artie, Gary and Kevin serve up a bumper crop of top-notch sing-along songs that families won't want to miss. Audiences can enjoy the brand new, all-action "Little Red Tractor" and "Yummy

Vegetables" along with favourites "There Was An Old Woman", "Five Fat Sausages" and "Down on the Funny Farm." Sally the Sheep, Lightning the Horse & Flora the Cow are some of the wackiest farmyard friends children will ever meet. Join in on stage with the hilarious "Sheep Dip Derby" and what will happen when Bonzo the Dog meets up with Claudine the Farmyard cat? For girls and boys of all ages.log on to www.singingkettle.com for more information.

To take part in all the fun, The Oban Times is offering two lucky readers the chance to win a family ticket to the show, a Singing Kettle DVD and a Funpack. To enter, fill in your details along with your answer below and post to Competitions, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.



**Question:**  
In which Oban hall will the Singing Kettle show take place?

Fill in your details along with your answer below and post to Competitions, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

**Entries must be submitted by Thursday 12th May.**

Answer .....

Name .....

Address .....

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Tick here to receive information on Singing Kettle and to allow The Oban Times to share your details with the organisers

Tick here to receive information on special offers and promotions from The Oban Times.

Terms & conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The family ticket grants entry for four people and must include at least one adult. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Entrants under 16 must get permission from an adult before entering. Winners will be chosen at random. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and their name may appear in the newspaper.

See page 19 for results.

# Exciting Westfest line-up heads to scenic shores of Loch Sunart

TICKETS are selling fast for the inaugural 'WestFest' - Scotland's newest traditional music festival - at Strontian Showfield next to scenic Loch Sunart on May 13-15.

The exciting line-up includes a wide range of musical styles including performances from trad music legends Wolfstone, Skerryvore and Daimh as well as sets from more local talent.

Young local band RSN Workforce and Tíre lads Trail West kick off the weekend on Friday, May 13, with Saturday afternoon featuring performances from Quern, The Shine, Dr Mango and the Chickpeas and Deoch n Dorus.

The Calum Iain Ceilidh Band, featuring Runrig's Malcolm Jones, followed by Skerryvore and Wolfstone will rock into the night, then on Sunday highlights include Chiara Berardelli and Gunna Sound before Daimh take the stage.

WestFest, a social enterprise, promises entertainment to suit all ages, with children under 12 admitted free of charge. On

Saturday afternoon, activities include arts and crafts and children's entertainment including magic performances, balloon sculpting and party games, followed by a junior disco. Stalls on site will feature locally produced food, produce, and crafts.

Michelle Rundle, chairman of the WestFest organising committee, said: 'Imagine sitting on the beautiful shores of Loch Sunart, watching the sun go down behind the Morvern hills and listening to the amazing sound of fiddles, pipes, drums, box and guitars.'

'What a combination - beautiful scenery, amazing location and traditional west coast music! WestFest-Strontian will bring all ages together in a weekend of music, fun, and family days out. Come and support our event and enjoy yourself - we will bring you wonderful music and any profits will go back into the local community.'

Tickets are on sale through www.westfest-strontian.com and www.thebooth.co.uk.



Hector MacFadyen and his band welcome Robbie Shepherd to the Argyllshire Gathering, 15. t18shepherd01

# Hector's band takes to the floor in Oban

AROUND 250 people attended a live broadcast of BBC Radio Scotland's Take The Floor in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering, where the Hector MacFadyen Scottish Dance Band was top billing.

Introduced by Robbie Shepherd last Thursday, the band was supported by Connel's Mod gold medalist Joy Dunlop, accompanied by Edinburgh's Paul Tracey, and Oban Youth Pipe Band.

Take The Floor is the radio station's longest running programme and has been in Oban on a few occasions. It was the second live broadcast Hector MacFadyen had performed, however, it was the first time the programme, which travels to a different location once a month, has recorded in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Hector said: 'It was a super night and great to play in front of a local audience. 'We only did two retakes, which is quite a

good record. In the studio, we'll do five or six! The band played really well.'

Hector's band were: Craig MacFadyen on second accordion; Alastair MacLeod on bass; Tom Orr on keyboard; Fraser MacInnes on drums and Maurice Duncan on fiddle.

Robbie said his first recording in Oban was during the Fiddlers Rally, when Charlie Hunter was still conductor. The recording will be aired this Saturday and Sunday.



Skerryvore: headlining at WestFest in Strontian.

## Concert supports young adventurers

A CONCERT to support young people in their efforts to get to Morocco as part of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh award will be held this Saturday.

From 7.30pm in Skipinnish Ceilidh House, Oban, there will be an evening of entertainment from artists including the award winning choir Sequence, duettists Jonathan Sayer and Amy Hoey, Purple Purple and Malcolm Clark.

The group is now almost halfway to reaching its £4,000 target and is delighted to receive such generous support.

Adventurers Alasdair, Calum, Jonathan and Kirsty can be sponsored by phoning 01631 720448 or by emailing jonathan.david.sayer@gmail.com.

## Array of top talent heads to Loch Shiel festival

THE LOCH Shiel Spring Festival from May 7-11 is renowned for bringing some of Europe's leading artists to Lochaber - and next week's event promises another stellar lineup.

Festival artistic director, violinist Charles Mutter - also the associate leader of the BBC Concert Orchestra - has enticed an array of talent from the international classical music scene.

Take for instance the young Russian soprano Ilona Domnic,

who was born in St Petersburg and raised and trained in Jerusalem.

Now an acclaimed recitalist who normally appears at venues in London and Paris, Ilona will perform in Glenfinnan Church on Wednesday 11.

Ilona aside, the 2011 programme introduces a range of artists who in many ways will be breaking the mould.

The opening concert in Glenfinnan on May 7 will explore new and jazzy territory with BBC

New Generation artist Tom Arthurs on flügelhorn and percussion. Also featuring will be electronics wizard Thomas Ströner, a lecturer at the Norwegian Academy of Music and one of Norway's most prolific musicians.

Then there is actor and bassist Patrick Lannigan, who's been playing with artists ranging from Leonard Bernstein and Luciano Pavarotti to Peter Gabriel, Madonna, Michael Jackson and Dizzee Rascal. Patrick has also played on

the soundtracks of hundreds of movies, including James Bond and Harry Potter.

On Sunday 8 May festivalgoers can meet him in Acharacle, while on Tuesday 10th he'll be working with young local talents from Lochaber Youth Theatre and Ballet West in Glenuig. On Wednesday 11, Patrick will be playing in Glenfinnan Church.

Ticket and festival information at www.shielfestival.com or on 01397722334.

## Kilmelford man puts his heart into marathon

KILMELFORD runner Cathcart Ironside is about to take on the challenge of a lifetime - by becoming a Heart Runner in the Edinburgh Marathon Festival to help raise vital funds for the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

Cathcart, of The Glebe, will be donning his official BHF Heart Runners vest and running

the 26.2 mile course on Sunday May 22. He's hoping to raise as much money as possible to help the charity beat heart and circulatory disease - Scotland's biggest killer.

Cathcart has been motivated to support the BHF because his son Raymond was born with a serious heart defect, which meant his arteries were the wrong way round. Cathcart has also seen three work colleagues suffer heart attacks.

'Raymond has been through numerous surgery and procedures,' said Cathcart, a fire and safety enforcement officer with Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service. 'Our family has watched technology advance over the years and this is a direct result of the work carried out by organisations such as the BHF.'

'Raymond's doing really well now and both he and his partner have two lovely kids Casey and Kyla.'

To sponsor Cathcart go to <http://original.justgiving.com/cathcartironside>.

## Charity single sales 'off to a good start'

SALES of a charity recording by trad pop rockers Skerryvore have got off to a good start.

The single On the Road, released on May 2, is to support Stephen's Footstep Challenge, with profits going to Macmillan Cancer Support and The Maggie Centre.

The tune can be downloaded from iTunes. A spokesman for the company said sales of the single had 'got off to a good start'.

## Earthquake appeal concert

A CONCERT to raise much-needed cash for the victims of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami is being held this Saturday, May 7, in Oban's Congregational Church Hall at 3pm.

The event will be an extravaganza of musicians and singers. Donations are being taken at the door. On the programme are Ukulele Luig, singers Brian Owen, Morag MacNeil and Helen Pearson alongside fiddler Joanie Garvin, Hughie MacQueen and Duncan MacDonald.



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For full details on Trinity and all they have to offer turn to page 5

Dress up as a farmyard animal

## The Singing Kettle

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Skipinnish Ceilidh House	9pm - 11pm
Thursday 5 May >	Sandra MacBeth
Markie Dans	
Friday 6 May >	Chris Suckle
Markie Dans	
Saturday night >	Club Night with DJ's
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	11pm - 2am
Saturday 7 May >	North Star
Markie Dans	
Thursday 12 May >	Finn
Markie Dans	
Friday 13 May >	Friday 13th Party
Markie Dans	with Wonderland
Saturday 7 May >	Duke of Edinburgh
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Award Fundraiser
Sunday 8th May >	The Wilders
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Doors Open 7.30pm

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# Strontian

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# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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Sequence choir and other performers,  
**Saturday May 7 at 7.30pm**  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House,  
Oban  
Tickets at door £3  
(Oban & Lorn Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Morocco Expedition)

### OBAN BACH CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

Concert of music by Boyce and Handel  
**Saturday 14th May**  
**At 7.30pm**  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Seat with programme (obtainable at the door)  
£7.00, concessions £5.50

### Japan Tsunami & Quake Appeal Concert

Oban Congregational Church  
**Saturday 7th May 2011 @3pm**  
Ukulele Luig  
Brian Owen, Duncan MacDonald  
Graham Campbell, Fumiko Miller  
Joanie Garvin, Helen Pearson  
Hughie MacQueen, Morag MacNeil  
Oban Gaelic Choir  
Donations at the door

### Japan Tsunami & Quake Appeal Coffee Morning

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**7th May Sat. 2011**  
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### Clear Concerts

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### St Orans & Dunbeg Church GRAND SUMMER FETE

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Vintage & Classic Cars - Oban Diecast Model Club  
Variety of stalls Demonstrations  
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### Kidney Research UK Coffee Morning

**Saturday 7th May 2011**  
St John's Cathedral Hall  
10.30am - 12.30pm  
Various Stalls including Raffle, Baking, Etc

### Friends of Oban Hospice Nearly New Shop

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1 mile along the Tralee road  
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Interested Producers contact  
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For more information and to add your contact details to our list visit [www.treadtheboards.net](http://www.treadtheboards.net)

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# Spring FARMING REVIEW

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ARGYLL is a large county and geography dictates the farming practices which have evolved over the years, writes John Forster, agricultural consultant with the Scottish Agricultural College, based in Kintyre.

Farming in Argyll and the islands is still a prime activity and on the back of this industry a plethora of businesses rely on agriculture for a living.

Forestry especially has enveloped large swathes of land as livestock have been sold due to economics and financial reward.

In Kintyre, dairying is the main activity and this sector, like beef and sheep, has endured high input for very little return.

The sheep sector is still enjoying healthy prices; lambing this year has had an excellent spell of weather and now the hill men of North Argyll

and the islands have started; pray the conditions continue to compensate for the hard winter North Argyll farmers have experienced.

There is a mix of activity on farms throughout Argyll and the suckler cow, native or otherwise, has traditionally combined with a sheep flock to support the family farm across Argyll.

This mix has also maintained the countryside for wildlife, plants, birds and the mosaic of colour exhibited by gorse and heather which brings the tourists, an essential ingredient for the financial well-being of many family farms, local shops etc. Is this market being properly catered for by our sector?

I challenge up and coming entrepreneurs: are you missing a trick in the purveying of quality food, or whatever?

We need the Argyll experience to mean something to those who come to enjoy the scenery and the peace and quiet.

The demand on each individual business in Argyll is different; for most I would suggest this is a good time to review financial health, reflect and fine tune.

After 2013, the farming support system, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which is vital to the gross income of most units, will change.

Analysing everything objectively affords farming's next generation the chance to express themselves and be part of an industry which has a future, but is integral to the well-being and financial stability of those who service and supply the needs of such a prime industry in Argyll.

### RSABI

RSABI, Scotland's agricultural benevolent fund, provides often life changing support to hundreds of people who have worked within the land based industries across Scotland and due to illness, disability or low income, are now struggling to cope. However, RSABI are seeking further applications for assistance from people living in the Argyll area and potential applicants can be assured that their applications will be entirely confidential and they will be treated with the utmost respect.

Many people are unaware of the work carried out by RSABI, therefore to help combat this issue Eilidh Grieve, the Development Officer for RSABI who covers the Argyll area, will be driving a vintage tractor from Campbeltown across to Craill in Fife. Plans are currently underway to organise a number of events in conjunction with this road run in September, details of which will appear in the Campbeltown Courier in due course.

RSABI have also recently launched GATEPOST, a phone based listening and support service specifically for the agricultural industry. The helpline is open Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm and can be reached on 0300 111 4166, callers do not have to give any personal details and what is said will go no further.

### LORN WELD

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### SCF

The SCF is established and run by crofters', actively engages with agencies and government officials at local, national and international levels to influence policy on rural, agricultural, social, environmental and other issues. They also carry out research; provide training, advice and promote croft based industries and croft produce. A Young Crofters Group has also been set up to engage the younger generation of crofters'. To find out how they can assist you please contact them for more information.

### C HODGE FENCING

At the end of another hard winter and with lambing almost over many farms are realising that fences need work. At Hodge Fencing (01631 563271) we have stocks of high quality fencing, we can also supply cattlegrids, gates, handling equipment and garden fencing.

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### MONTHLY AUCTION SERVICES AT MORRIS LESLIE

Morris Leslie Auctioneers are looking for any used or unused agricultural machinery, groundcare and plant for their next auction on Wednesday 25th May 2011 at 10am.

Our auctions take place on the last Wednesday of EVERY month and provide both buyers and sellers with a professional and reliable service. Our Auction Division is committed to ensuring all clients receive maximum returns on all of their assets.

Auction services include; onsite and online bidding facilities, accurate valuations and inspection reports, in-house valeting and transport services, up to 3 weeks advertising on our website and free secure storage of items prior to the events.

All auction events take place at our popular 10 acre auction site at Errol Airfield which is located midway between Perth and Dundee. Deadline for entries is 12pm Friday 20th May. For more information about our next auction please contact David Brown on 07769725993.

### DINGWALL AND HIGHLAND MARTS

Livestock prices for cattle and sheep have increased throughout the spring. Prime sheep have reached levels that have never been seen before with good lambing weather and ample grazing to get them off to a good start, back end lamb sales should meet with healthy anticipation of good sales. Prime cattle scarcely has greatly improved demand giving buyers confidence at store cattle sales which again bodes well for the autumn calf sales. This welcome boost has hopefully come in time to stem the flow of cattle and sheep disappearing from the upland and hill areas of the Highlands and Islands although encouraging young people into the job is of equal importance to secure the future of the industry. Visit our website which is updated with all sales dates, information and price reporting.

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#### BEN NEVIS AUCTION MART

FRIDAY 27TH MAY - annual sale of store, breeding and OTM cattle, store and breeding sheep.

For further details of the above sales contact auctioneers or visit website.

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**Stirling sheep prices buoyant**

UNITED Auctions sold 3,260 prime sheep including 74 spring lambs averaging 284.8p (+14.8p) and 2,459 hogs averaging 243.6p/kg (+10p) plus 727 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday when trade rose again across all classes. Suffolk spring lambs from Merryhill sold to £136 with Suffolks from Hallhill selling to 307p per kilo. Beltex hogs from Guardswell sold to £135 and to 302p per kilo from Luckenburn with Suffolks from Boggall to £134. Blackface hogs from Burnshot sold to £115 and to 276p per kilo from St Mungoes. Suffolk ewes from Moleigh fetched £139.50, while Texels from Oatfield sold to £135.50.

**Annual spring sale**

UNITED Auctions held their annual spring sale of all classes' cattle at Lochboisdale Auction Mart. An excellent show of grazing type cattle sold to a good ringside of mainland buyers. The bullocks sold to average 207.1 pence per kilo or £668 per head whilst the heifers averaged 192.8 per kilo and £582 per head. Bullocks sold to £960 or 229 pence per kilo for Limousin crosses weighing 420 kilo's from No15 Ormalcote. Heifers from Drimore Farm sold to £770 per head and 211p per kilo.



These ewes from John MacInnes, Culbhuirg, Isle of Iona, were among the lots at Oban Livestock Centre's sale of cast tups, store hoggets, feeding sheep, store cattle, breeding cattle and bulls on Tuesday. 15. 118mar01

**Excellent demand for cattle**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 122 store cattle breeding cattle and 28 Over 30 Month cattle at Lochmaddy on Saturday when a good show of grazing cattle met an excellent demand. Bullocks averaged 198.1p and sold to 226.1p per kg for a 230kg Limousin cross from 8 Torlum, Benbecula and £1,010 twice for a 500kg Limousin cross from 3 Hosta, Tigharry and a pair of 485kg Limousin crosses from Old Inn, 16 Tigharry. Heifers averaged 191.4p and sold to 226.1p per kg for 230kg Charolais cross from 8 Torlum and £870 for 410kg Simmental cross from 1 Ahmore, Lochmaddy. Breeding cattle sold to £1,000 for an Aberdeen Angus cow with male calf from 1 Kilaulay, Lochboisdale. OTM cattle averaged 117.2p and sold to 161.9p per kg for a 420kg Limousin cross heifer from 19 Knockintorran, Bayhead, and £1,000 for an 890kg Limousin cross cow from 16 Tigharry, Lochmaddy.

**Judging line-up for Lorn Agricultural Show**

THE LORN Agricultural Show committee has announced the judges for this year's event on Saturday August 6 at Dunstaffnage Mains Farm. Blackface and Young Farmer's Classes - Mr Bull Brady, North Amulree Farm, Dunkeld. Cross Sheep - Mr John MacGregor, Allanauld, Kilsyth. Highland Cattle - Mr Colin MacPhail, 32 Avonside Place, Dunipace, Denny. All other Cattle - Mr Eoin Brown, Aoradh Farm, Gruinart, Isle of Islay. Home Industries and Children's Section is Mrs Isobel Smith, The Laurels, Kilmelford and Show Umpire is Mr Ronnie MacLachlan, Tullimet, Ballachulish. Introduced Home Industries classes in Baking and Handicrafts are being introduced this year on a small scale. If successful it will be developed in future years and hopefully to include the horticultural section as well. Sheep and cattle schedules will be available shortly, and will be sent out to previous exhibitors. All other schedules are available from the show secretary by e-mail: musdale@btinternet.com

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Honda trx450fm	12,972 km	£2,950 + vat	
Honda trx420fm	6,240km, 687 hrs	£4,400 + vat	
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To join our established teams providing individualised support services to adults with learning disabilities living in their own homes. Successful candidates will enjoy working with people and have a positive attitude and commitment towards making a difference to the lives of the people we support. Duties of workers will include providing direct physical assistance, emotional support and advice and help to enable individuals to maintain their home environment and to develop a life in their local community.

We also have a number of opportunities for people to join our relief registers in these locations and also in our services in Inverness and Nairn. Relief register work would suit people who cannot commit to a contracted post but who are available at certain times for support work.

KEY provides excellent professional supervision, support and training, including access to the SVQ Framework. Evening, weekend work and sleepover responsibilities are required for this post.

**Closing date for receipt of applications is Tuesday 17th May 2011.**

For an application form, job description and copy of our equal opportunities policy, please email: [jobs@keycommunitysupports.org](mailto:jobs@keycommunitysupports.org); telephone 0141 342 1892 (24 hour answering service); visit our website at [www.keycommunitysupports.org](http://www.keycommunitysupports.org) or write quoting job title and location to the Personnel Department, KEY, 77 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G2 3BZ.

KEY, KEY Community Supports and KEY Housing are names used by KEY Housing Association Ltd, a charity registered in Scotland, No SC006652

### Coxswain Trainee Coxswain

Glensanda Quarry, Oban Attractive salary & benefits package

With over 5,000 employees across the UK and Europe, Aggregate Industries are a leading force in the supply of construction materials to the UK and Europe.

As a Coxswain and a Trainee Coxswain, you will be required to operate our passenger boats transporting personnel to and from Glensanda, crew the Rose of Lorne supply barge and operate or crew line boats during ship berthing. In addition you will assist with maintenance, depot duties and must have a positive, safety conscious approach to your work. The role requires a Boat Masters Licence with passenger endorsement, or equivalent. A Telehandler licence would also be desirable. For the Trainee Coxswain role you will need to have experience of marine operations.

Visit [www.aggregate.com/Employment/Current-Job-Vacancies](http://www.aggregate.com/Employment/Current-Job-Vacancies) for full details and to apply online, please quote reference number 004504 for the Trainee Coxswain post or 004505 for the Coxswain post.



AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES

### Technical Assistant, (Permanent)

**£21,096** Lochgilthead Ref: DVR00647

**35 hrs per week**  
**Full time post, based in Lochgilthead but able to travel throughout Argyll**

### Sampling Officer (Temporary)

**£17,610** Oban Ref: CPL23249T

**35 hrs per week**  
**Temporary Post until 31 March 2012**  
**☎ 01546 604742**

Closing date: 20 May 2011.  
**To apply visit our website**



Argyll Bute COUNCIL

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

[www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk)



North Lanarkshire Council

### Comhairle Lannraig A Tuath

Àrd-sgoil Greenfauld  
 Comar nan Allt  
 Prìomh Thidsear - Leasachadh na Gàidhlig  
 Ref: T013/10/025A  
 Tuarastal: £40,377

Thathas a' sireadh iarrtasan airson an dreuchd ùr seo.

Airson barrachd fiosrachaidh cuiribh fios dhan Cheannard Sgoile aig 01236 727 956. Bidh agaih bh ri ballrachd fhaighinn san sgeama PVG (Sgeama Dion nam Buidhnean So-leònte) mus tòisich sibh san dreuchd.

**Ceann-là airson iarrtasan: 16 An Cèitean 2011**

Feumar foirm-iarrtats a lìonadh air loidhne a-mhàin.  
 Rachaibh gu: [www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/northlanarkshire](http://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/northlanarkshire)

**View other vacancies at**  
<https://northlanarkshire.myjobscotland.gov.uk>

we are an equal opportunities employer

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)



Argyll Bute COUNCIL

### COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

**Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)**  
 Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 301215 or e-mail - [mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)**  
 Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel: 01688 302689 or e-mail - [gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or [gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com](mailto:gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com)

**Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)**  
 Councillor McIntosh's constituents can contact him on Tel: 07788 882200 or by e-mail - [donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Councillor Donald Macdonald (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)**  
 Councillor Macdonald's constituents can contact him on Tel: 01631 566367 or by e-mail - [donald.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:donald.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

### DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

#### THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (DISABLED STREET PARKING - OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES) ORDER 2011

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an Order in accordance with the introduction of the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The Order will cover all the on street disabled parking bays that have been identified within the Oban Lorn and the Isles area which are currently only advisory and the effect of the Order will be to make it an offence for anyone to park in a marked disabled persons' bay unless they are a holder of a valid blue badge and are using it in accordance with the national blue badge legislation.

Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed "The Argyll and Bute Council (Disabled Street Parking - Oban Lorn and the Isles) Order 2011", together with Plans, and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of:

- (i) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban;
- (ii) Dunbeg Post Office, Jane Road, Dunbeg, Oban;
- (iii) Balvicar Post Office, Balvicar Stores, Balvicar, Oban;
- (iv) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilthead, Argyll.

This order affects the following streets: BALVICAR - Cnoc Beag, DUNBEG - Lorn Road, OBAN - Angus Terrace, Bayview Road, Gallanach Road, Glencruttan Road, Hazledian Crescent, Lismore Crescent, Longdale Terrace, Lunga Road, Meacra Road, Miller Road, Nelson Road, Scalay Terrace, Scarra Terrace, Shuna Terrace.

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilthead, Argyll by 27th May 2011.

**Sandy Mactaggart, Executive Director, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilthead PA31 8RD**

### PLANNING

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

The applications listed below together with all 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.

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/00430/PP	Partial demolition and reinstatement of existing dwellinghouse	Kainga Grosvenor Crescent Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1PQ	Sub Post Office Connel
11/00606/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Croft No. 7 Kilvaree Connel Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
11/00609/PP	Demolition of existing sheds and erection of dwellinghouse and shed	Land North East Of Allt Nam Fiadh Pennyghael Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office, Bunnassan

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, Dalriada House, Lochgilthead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.

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.

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below together with all other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67/69 Chalmers Street, Ardriahga, PA30 8DX, at the 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.

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/00592/UB	Additional works to listed building consent 10/01312/UB (internal alterations to remove existing first floor level and associated alterations to door openings and rainwater goods) - additional infilling of existing openings, two additional doorways formed at location of existing openings, an additional staircase at second floor level and internal ramp at ground floor	Bruichladdich Distillery Bruichladdich Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA49 7UN	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

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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.



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### GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

A. MacGregor & Sons Ltd trading as A. MacGregor & Sons Ltd of Macree, Glenlonan Road, Taynuilt, PA35 1HY is applying for a licence to use Tigh Na Cille, Kirkton, Taynuilt as operating centre for 2 Goods Vehicles. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

### MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

#### Marine Works: Glencripesdale, Lochaber

Notice is hereby given that Bell Ingram (per Arch Henderson) has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of the installation of a timber loading pier at:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Glencripesdale, Lochaber	56 40.14N	005 49.00 W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Lochaline Stores, Morvern, PA34 5XT. Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:  
 Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of this notice quoting reference FKB/A1296.  
 Bell Ingram, 2 Gibraltar Street, Oban, PA34 4AY



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You can contact Arlene Campbell, RGN, Manager on e-mail: [lynnoflorne@arguscare.co.uk](mailto:lynnoflorne@arguscare.co.uk) or phone 01631 720278 for more details. Please also visit our website: [www.arguscare.co.uk](http://www.arguscare.co.uk).

### Cleaners required to make beds and accommodation on the Puffer Vic 32 at Crinan Basin on the following Friday afternoons.

May 13 and 27, June 3, 10, 17 and 24, July 29  
 August 5, 12 and 19

For full details contact Rachel on 01546 510232

### Clachan wind farm meetings

Two drop in sessions to show the planning application for Clachan wind farm.

All welcome to view plans, discuss community involvement and talk to experts on hand.

Kilmelford village hall, 11th of May any time between 3.30 to 7.00pm  
 Seil village hall, 12th of May any time between 3.30 to 7pm



### Blast at Banavie Quarry- 12 noon on Friday 6 May 2011

**69%**  
of the business community read the regional press

Regional Press  
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### Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

### Oban Times

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Oban & Lorn Branch

### AGM

Thursday 10 May 2011 at 7.15pm at The Carers Centre Albany Street Oban  
 All welcome

### OBAN FILLING STATION

Require

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Approximately 35 hours per week.  
 7-day rota system to include evening work  
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### HGV Driver

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**Please contact us on 01631 566275 or email your details to [info@maclennanmotors.com](mailto:info@maclennanmotors.com)**

CROFTERS COMMISSION COIMISEAN NAN CROITEARAN DECROFTING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED		
Applicant, Croft, Case number	Extent & Purpose	
Thomas B MacLean Cuin Croft, Kilmorian & Kilmore 4.86.30947	0.057 ha - amenity ground	
* Mr & Mrs Donald A MacGillivray 37 North Ballachulish, Kilmallie 4.86.30323	1.30 ha - site for ten dwellingshouses, access road and amenity areas.	

Within 14 days of the date of this newspaper - Comments can be made to the Crofters Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land. Applications marked with an asterisk - Interest can be expressed in obtaining the tenancy of the area subject to the application. Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW info@crofterscommission.org.uk

DECROFTING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED		
Name, Croft, Case Number	Extent, reason, conditions	
John MacFarlane 11 Airds Bay, Ardchattan & Muckrain 4.86.30249	0.0107 ha Conditions: 2(b), 3 and 5	

**Conditions**  
 (2) complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of:  
 (b) the proposed development completion  
 (3) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.  
 (5) Some other purpose - amenity ground  
 Within 42 days of the date of this newspaper any member of the crofting community in the locality of the land may appeal a decrofting decision (excluding croft house site and garden ground)

**Oban Times Oban Times**  
**PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**Oban Times Oban Times**

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/01237/FUL	Land 80m South of Bratich Ban Lettermore Ballachulish	Erection of 4 Holiday Cottages (amendment to 10/05029/FUL)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS  
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
 Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

# West Coast property service

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## Former Scottish Owl Centre Premises Campbeltown, Argyll



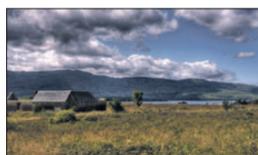
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Unique Development opportunity, Steading with courtyard and adjacent plot of land situated in Lochaline. Overlooking the beautiful island of Mull, outline Planning Permission has been granted for a new dwelling on each plot.

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Substantial, Edwardian stone villa situated in a popular West Highland village.

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**First Floor:** Four bedrooms (two with en suite shower rooms) and family bathroom. Gas/multi-fuel central heating. Off street parking.

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Spacious, well-established garden. Outbuildings. Two garages. Greenhouse.

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[bellingham.co.uk](http://bellingham.co.uk)



## Allt-na-Gar, Lochdon, Isle of Mull

Charming mid-nineteenth century detached cottage enjoying panoramic southerly views over Loch Don

Sympathetically extended and beautifully refurbished. Stock fenced paddock 0.45 acres

**Attic:** Fully lined and floored with two spacious compartments. Oil-fired Rayburn for cooking and heating.

**Ground Floor:** Porch, lounge/dining room, kitchen with utility area, garden room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom and 2 W.C.s

Landscaped gardens. Large vegetable garden. Outbuildings. Greenhouse

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Quantity of quick form scaffold /Planks (enough for 2 medium size houses), Scaffold bridge, some Aluminium scaffold towers/scaffold tubing and clamps

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Jcb8052 2005 1200hrs Excellent condition, 3 buckets

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West Coast property service

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In beautiful, secluded cul de sac but also close to town centre.

- Lawn to front
- Easily maintained sunny garden with patio to rear.
- 3 spacious bedrooms
- D/Glazed
- Beautiful views from upstairs windows.

Offers over  
**£160,000**

Please telephone 0141 5335303 or 07549892629  
or email: [alexeritrea1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alexeritrea1@yahoo.co.uk)  
for further details and to arrange viewing.

West Coast property service

01397 702433

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## 53 Lundy Road, Inverloch, Fort William

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- Local amenities with wider range of services within 2 mile radius
- Great potential with views towards Ben Nevis

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Contact: Lyndsay Sharp | t 01397 702433 | e [lyndsay.sharp@bidwells.co.uk](mailto:lyndsay.sharp@bidwells.co.uk)

Carn Dearg House, North Road, Fort William, PH33 6PP  
Offices also at: Inverness Parth Eastern England London



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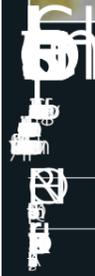
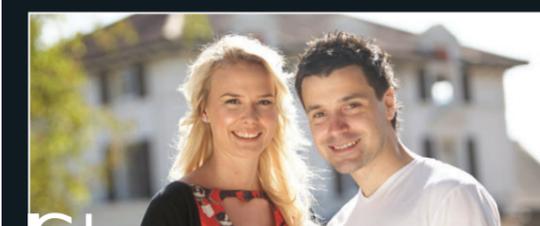
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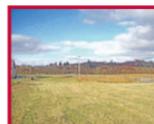
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FRESH WATER HOG 40 ltr. £25 Telephone 01631 563562.

MILENCO TOWING MIRRORS, £20 Telephone 01631 563562.

ROTARY CLOTHES DRYER, £10 Telephone 01631 563562.

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COMPUTERS AND GAMES

BROADBAND ROUTER BT voyager 205, with disc, instructions, cables and 2 filters. Only used for a short while. £10 Telephone 01631 770311.

COMPUTER MONITOR Acer 15" LCD screen with mat silver frame, Model AL1716. Tilts, VGA and AC sockets, good working order. £30 Telephone 01631 770311.

CREELS

PRAWN CREELS FOR SALE Brand new, Coralene, netting and bound. £18.50 Telephone 07717 336315.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

BISINET JUICER, £15 Telephone 01631 564275 or 07757 972969.

ELECTRIC STOVE Dimplex, model number MD520L, £40 Telephone 01546 603100.

FRIDGE good condition, £45 Telephone 01546 603483.

M O U L I N E X MASTERCHEF 370 white boxed, new, food processor with all attachments, for dough, cakes, etc. Bargain, £30 Telephone 01631 720369.

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FURNITURE

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BED BRAND NEW DOUBLE DIVAN with luxury heat sensitive memory foam mattress. Never used and still packaged. Cost £599 will accept £180. Can deliver. Telephone 07766 637047.

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DINING CHAIRS hand made Mahogany, ex 5\* Hotel surplus stock, fleur-de-lies pattern, sets 6/8/12 2 carvers per set, any combination, whole lot negotiable with seller, Chairs £20 Carvers £25 Telephone 07789 914001.

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condition with optional seat pads (oatmeal). Two high back, two standard back. £25 Telephone 01631 720674.

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PARKER KNOLL CHAIR small, lyn plan, loose cover, good condition. £40 Telephone 07733 365290.

THREE DRAWER CHEST in vgc, teak coloured wood, £20 Telephone 01631 565206 after 6pm.

THREE SEATER SETTEE and one chair (near new from Matheson's) light brown/beige. £600ono Telephone 01631 566340.

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MANTIS TILLER approx 8 years old. Used very little and in good running order with transport wheels and planter attachment. £49.99 Telephone 01866 833097.

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TAPS matching bathroom single hole sink and 2 hole bath taps. Bath taps still in box. Art Deco design. Bristan, £40 Telephone 01631 770311.

TAPS bath mixer tap, new and unused, 2 tap holes with single lever tap. Attractive design. £20 Telephone 01631 770311.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

OIL FILLED RADIATOR De Longhi Model TRD 1025T; 240V 2500W; 3 variable heat settings and timer - good condition. £25 Telephone 07899 878112.

OIL FILLED RADIATOR Igenix; Model IG 1655; 3 heat settings; 240V 1500W with timer, good condition. £15 Telephone 07899 878112.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT RADIO/CD and turntable for LPs. £30 Telephone 01631 564275 or 07757 972969.

TV Ventura 15" LCD analogue TV. Works with digibox or can be used as computer/games monitor, can be wall mounted. £20 Telephone 01631 770311.

HOME FURNISHINGS 5' HEADBOARD matching valance and padded cover, glazed chintz, pink, blue on cream background, good condition. £45 Telephone 01852 200377.

BRASS CHANDALIER 5 branch with glass globes, 3 matching wall lights £49.99 ono. Proceeds to ARMS centre. Telephone 01546 606736.

CURTAINS Next girl's bedroom lined tab top curtains in pale pink with butterfly applique. Size each 53" x 72", machine washable. £20 Telephone 01631 770311.

IKEA BROWN WOOL RUG brown squares and cream edging, great condition, 140 cm x 200 cm. £20 Telephone 07590 664579.

MIRROR (NEXT) wood effect surround 90cm (h) x 110cm (w) x 3cm (d). £45 Telephone 01546 603100.

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PICTURE LIGHTS brass x 2 £20 ono. Proceeds to ARMS centre. Telephone 01546 606736.

HOME OFFICE

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KITCHEN WORKTOP new Axiom Turin marble laminate, cream with blue & brown marbling, L1550mm x W600mm x D38mm, £15 Telephone 01855 811879 (Ballachulish).

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PERSONALS

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LOVE FROM ALL THE FAMILY X

Donald and Alistair McLaren would like to sincerely thank all family and friends who made their surprise birthday party such an enjoyable occasion. A special thanks to all those who provided the buffet and those who manned the bar. The amount raised for Heart & Cancer Research was a magnificent £1,040. Thank you all once again.

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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.

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**BIRTH**  
**MCCARTNEY** - Aileen and Paul are delighted to announce the birth of their son Dylan Robert on Monday April 11, 2011. First grandchild for Linda (and the late Robert), Oban and Christine and Keith, Orpington, Kent. Grateful thanks to all staff at Medway Maritime Hospital, Gillingham, Kent.  
**MURPHY** - John Paul and Annalee (née Crowe) are delighted to announce the birth of their son Fergus Andrew on Thursday April 14, 2011, a brother for Isla Rose. Second grandchild for Bill and Margaret Murphy, Glasgow, fourth grandchild for Dinease and the late Dennis Crowe, Oban. Grateful thanks to all staff at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

**ENGAGEMENTS**

**MILLAR - DENNISON**  
 Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Caroline, daughter of Charlie and Joyce Millar, Beechgrove, Croft Road, Oban to Peter, youngest son of Gwen and the late Rev. Laurie L. Dennison of Dumbarton, on May 1, 2011.

**DEATHS**

**BAIN** - Catherine (née MacDonald), wife of the late Hector Bain and darling mother of Moira and Elizabeth, died peacefully at Portree Hospital, Isle of Skye on April 30, 2011. Funeral on Thursday May 5, 2011 at Watnish Free Church at 2pm, and interment at Trumpan Cemetery.  
**DRUMMOND** - Suddenly on May 2, 2011, in her 72nd year, Grace nee Mullen, beloved wife of David, mother, grandmother, sister and aunt. Rest in Peace.

**FAIRWEATHER** - Very suddenly at Stirling Royal Infirmary on Sunday May 1, 2011, Janet (Shonnie) Fairweather, nee McGibbon, of Ritchie Place, Callander and formerly of her beloved Islay. Beloved wife to the late Charles Fairweather. A dearly loved mother to Helen, William, Patricia and Charlotte. A loving mother-in-law, granny and great gran to the family. Funeral service to take place on Thursday May 5, 2011 at Callander Kirk for 11am thereafter to Callander cemetery, to which all friends are respectfully invited.

**FRASER** - Peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness on Monday, April 25, 2011, Joan Fraser, formerly of Tigh na Mara, Isle of Luing. All enquiries to Lindsay Jack & Son, Funeral Directors, Grantown-on-Spey. Telephone 01479 872442

**MACCORQUADALE** - Peacefully, in the care of Rita and the staff of Shoremill Care Home, Cromarty, on Monday May 2, 2011, Mary (formerly of Benbecula and Market Square, Alesness). Loving wife to the late Donald, a dear aunt to Jane and Gordon and also a dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Alesness Baptist Church on Monday May 9, 2011 commencing at 12 noon, thereafter to Alesness Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, but a donation, if so desired, may be made at the service to Alesness Baptist Church. "Home To Glory". Enquiries to Mairi Russell Funeral Services. Tel 01349 880901.

**MACLEAN** - Marie (Doyle), peacefully at home with her family on Tuesday, May 3, 2011.  
**MACLEAN** - Peacefully on Monday May 2, 2011 in Ardnahean Hotel for the elderly (Dunoon) Ann, beloved wife of the late Neil MacLean, a much loved aunt to George, Margaret Ann and Lindsay, loving sister to James and Alec. Funeral service will be held on Islay.

**MACLENNAN** - Very peacefully at Mossparc Nursing Home, on Thursday, April 28, 2011, John MacLennan (Johnny Fish), passed away surrounded by his family. Sarah and the family would like to invite all family and friends to a funeral service to be held at St Mary's Church, Fort William on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 12 noon. Family flowers only please, donations for Mossparc Nursing Home and The Montrose Centre would be gratefully received at the service.

**PHILLIPS** - Suddenly but peacefully in Perth, Western Australia on April 19, 2011, Mary Kate (née MacKay), late of Garryhallie, South Uist. Darling wife of Ronnie, loving mother of Julie and Kevin, a dear sister and auntie, adored grandmother of Jake and Liam. Our Lady of the Isles pray for her R.I.P. Your loving family in Australia, Skipton, Fort William and South Uist. I will miss you forever M.K.  
**ROY** - The funeral of the late John Roy, 18 Linnet Court, Ardriashaig, will take place from Clydebank Crematorium on Saturday, May 14, 2011 at 9.30am, thereafter a Memorial Service will take place at Ardriashaig Parish Church at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to British Heart Foundation and Royal Air Force Association. All family and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

**STEWART** - Peacefully at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow on April 29, 2011, surrounded by his family, William Ferguson Stewart (Bill), aged 61, formerly of A & B Council, Roads Dept. Beloved husband of Anne, loving father of Carol and Alan and much loved papa of Isabelle, Matthew and Kristin.

**MACEWAN** - Treasured memories of our dear father Ian C. MacEwan, who left us on April 23, 1977. Forever in our thoughts - From all the family.  
**MACKINNON** - In loving memory of my dear granny Dolina MacKinnon, who died May 4, 2006.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**BLAIR** - The family of the late Duncan Blair would like to thank relatives and friends for the kind expressions of sympathy they have received after their sad loss. Grateful thanks to those who attended at Clydebank Crematorium and Lochgilphead Parish Church. Particular thanks are due to the doctors and staff of Glenary Ward whose care, attention and little kindnesses were hugely appreciated by Duncan and the family. Very many thanks also go to the staff of the Occupational Therapy Department whose assistance over the last few years was wonderful and again greatly appreciated by the family. Thanks to the Rev Roddy MacLeod for the lovely services at both Clydebank and Lochgilphead and Roddy and Fiona of Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors who put much care and attention to detail into the arrangements. A collection on behalf of Glenary Ward raised £275.

**MACDONALD** - The family of the late Charlie MacDonald would like to extend their sincere thanks to everyone for their mass and sympathy cards, flowers and phone calls at this sad time. Thanks go to the paramedics for their sensitive guidance and to all the doctors and staff at Glen Mor Medical Practice and home carers. Thanks to Fr Donald MacKinnon for the lovely service held at St John's Church, his prayers and words of comfort were of a great help to the family. Thanks also go to Mike McFall Funeral Directors for their efficient and compassionate service. A special thanks go to all of Charlie's former work colleagues who made the long journey to be at the funeral service, this was much appreciated by the family, to all of the musicians involved in the service and to Corpach Hotel for the refreshments afterwards. The sum of £535.50 was collected by donation for the British Heart Foundation.

**MACLEAN- ISABELLA** - The family of the late Isabella Maclean wish to thank all relatives, friends, colleagues, and neighbours for kind expressions of sympathy, prayers, cards and floral tributes received during their recent sad bereavement. Special thanks to Mrs Lorna Duncan and Mr Scott Carroll for services conducted in Kilsyth and Kilchoman respectively. Cooperative Funeralcare in Kilsyth and A.J. & C. Macaffer Funeral Directors in Islay for caring and efficient funeral arrangements. Grateful thanks to all who contributed to the retiring collection. £600 has been forwarded to The Islay and Jura Sick Children's Fund.

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of my dear wife Jean, who died May 5, 2010. I love and miss you everyday.  
**DUNCAN**  
**CLARK** - In loving memory of a much loved brother Tommy, who passed away on May 4, 2009. Forever is a long time and this I know is true. But that's how long my broken heart. Will love and yearn for you your loving sister Mary, Kilinian, Mull.  
**CLARK** - Thomas Goldie. Treasured memories of my dear uncle Tom, who died at Kilinian, Isle of Mull, on May 4, 2009. A gentle, loving and caring man who is sorely, sorely missed. Much love uncle Tom.  
 - From niece Mary and her husband Bobby.

**LESLIE** - In fond and happy days we spent together Will linger in my heart forever. Loved and cherished granny. The Boy x  
**MCMAFFER** - Fondest memories of a dear uncle and great uncle John, who passed away May 4, 2009, also Annie, a dear mother and granny who passed away May 15, 1990. Always in our thoughts.  
 - Dugie and Teen and Angela and Alexander.  
**MARSHALL** - In loving memory of my darling wife Betty, who passed away on May 11, 2008. It's not hard to remember You didn't go away Your body may not be here But your spirit chose to stay. We all live life as you would wish Until we meet again someday.  
 - Remembered with love forever Steve.  
**SINCLAIR** - Achaleven Farm. Treasured memories of our dear grandparents, Donald, died March 21, 1985 and Duncan, died May 6, 2003 Precious are our memories of a Shen and grampa. We will never forget Your loving granddaughter Marie, great grandson Duncan and Dugald xxx. Sadly missed always in our thoughts. Caroline and family xxx

**THE HAPPY DAYS WE SPENT TOGETHER**  
 Will linger in my heart forever. Loved and cherished granny. The Boy x  
**MCMAFFER** - Fondest memories of a dear uncle and great uncle John, who passed away May 4, 2009, also Annie, a dear mother and granny who passed away May 15, 1990. Always in our thoughts.  
 - Dugie and Teen and Angela and Alexander.  
**MARSHALL** - In loving memory of my darling wife Betty, who passed away on May 11, 2008. It's not hard to remember You didn't go away Your body may not be here But your spirit chose to stay. We all live life as you would wish Until we meet again someday.  
 - Remembered with love forever Steve.  
**SINCLAIR** - Achaleven Farm. Treasured memories of our dear grandparents, Donald, died March 21, 1985 and Duncan, died May 6, 2003 Precious are our memories of a Shen and grampa. We will never forget Your loving granddaughter Marie, great grandson Duncan and Dugald xxx. Sadly missed always in our thoughts. Caroline and family xxx

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**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**  
 Campbell Street Church  
 Sunday 8 May 2011  
 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
 Phone-In 'Worship Link' available  
 Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh (01631) 567076  
 All welcome

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
 Sunday 8 May 2011  
 2nd after 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  
 Norman MacCallum, Provost.  
 (01631) 562323  
 St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
 Holy Eucharist ..... 11.00  
 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona  
 Holy Eucharist ..... 08.00  
 Evensong ..... 20.00

**WEDDINGS**  
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 Donna Shaw, Glasgow and Neil MacInnes, Isle of Iona were married at Bothwell Parish Church, Bothwell.

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 Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy  
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Celebrating their 90th birthdays together, from left, are Appin's Seonag Morison, Madge Riddett and June Cooke.

Golden oldies celebrate a combined 270 years

THREE ladies celebrating their 90th birthdays this year were the toast of Port Appin at a special birthday party in the sunshine.  
 Last Saturday the Appin and Port Appin communities said happy birthday to three of the village's best-known pensioners at a party in Port Appin Village Hall.  
 Seonag Morison turned 90 in April, Madge Riddett celebrates the milestone this month and the baby of the trio, June Cooke, is not 90 until next month.  
 The sprightly nonagenarians enjoyed tea and cakes and a sing-song of their

favourite tunes at the party. Young Anna Whitelaw sang a few solo songs and Grace MacLeod performed monologues for the ladies, who have all lived in Appin for 30 years.  
 All three regularly meet on Mondays for an art workshop in Port Appin and June, who is also a member of Oban Art Society, is still exhibiting.  
**Delight**  
 All three expressed their delight at having a party and gratitude to the community for organising the event.  
 On turning 90 years old, Madge, a former Oban Times correspondent,

said: 'I never even thought I would reach 90, so to me it is just another birthday but I am absolutely flummoxed by the reaction of the community.'  
**Speech**  
 As the oldest of the trio, Seonag made the thank you speech at the party.  
 She had spent her birthday with family in the French Alps, although she passed up the opportunity to go skiing.  
 The former Appin playground leader said: 'Before I came to live here I knew Appin was a beautiful place but I didn't know, until I got here, what a great community there is.'

Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival Results

**HIGHLAND DANCING SCOTTISH AREA FINALS:**  
 Overall Winner: Stirling and Clackmannanshire; CHOREOGRAPHED SOLO/DUET: Fiona MacNeil School of Dance, Newton Mearns.  
**SCOTTISH CHOREOGRAPHY CHALLENGE:** Choreographed Set Theme: Promote Scotland; Scottish: Open Age Group: Overall Winner: Dawn Fraser School of Dance, Stirling; Irish Theme: 12years and under: Overall winner: Grant/Wilson School, Kirriemuir/Forfar; Sport in Scotland: 16 years and under: Overall Winner: Dawn Fraser School of Dance, Stirling; The Scottish Fishing Industry: 17 years and over: Overall Winner: Grant/Wilson School, Kirriemuir/Forfar.  
**ACCORDION AND FIDDLE MASTERS:** ACCORDION: 1 Lagavullin Distillery Trophy: Tom Orr, Lanark; 2 Campbell Memorial Trophy: Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride; 3 Matthew MacKernan, Campbeltown; 3 Katie MacDonal, Isle of Barra; Chatter: 12 years and under: 14 years: HMF Trophy: 1 Lewis Dillon, Isle of Mull; 2 Megan Stewart-MacDonald, Fort William; 3 Robert Kennedy, Isle of Mull; Most promising Class 21 and 21a: Frances Shand Kydd Trophy: Samantha Parkinson, Oban; Novice March: Under 13 years: Oban Electrical Services Trophy: 1 Selina Keppie, Loch Awe; 2 Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge; 3 Scott Paterson, Isle of Mull; The Anthony Campbell Memorial Trophy (Netherlorn Piping Society) will be awarded to the highest placed Argyll resident player in Class 22: Selina Keppie, Loch Awe; Ground of a Pibroirachd: Under 15: D Watt & Son Trophy: 1 Jamie Baxter, Lochgilphead; 2 James MacPherson, Oban; 3 Stuart O'May, Campbeltown; Pibroirachd: Under 15 years: Pipe Dreams Trophy: 1 Lucy Ferguson, Dollar; 2 Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; 3 Taylor Townsley, Airdrie; March Under 15 years: The Willie MacCallum Trophy: 1 Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; 2 Taylor Townsley, Airdrie; 3 Seamus O'Boaghill, Isle of Skye; Strathspay and Reel Under 15 years: HMFDF Trophy: 1 Bridgie Chambeul, Kyle; 2 Connor Sinclair, Crieff; 3 Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; Lodge Earraghaidheil 1822 Trophy will be awarded to Argyll resident player with best aggregate points in classes 24 and 24A: Aaron Hossain.  
 Jig Under 15 years: HMFDF Trophy: 1 Taylor Townsley, Airdrie; 2 Lucy Ferguson, Dollar; 3 Connor Sinclair, Crieff. The Billy Kirkham Trophy will be awarded to the player with the highest aggregate in classes 23, 24, 24A and 24B: Taylor Townsley, Airdrie; Pibroirachd: 15 and under 18 years: Angus MacAlister Memorial Quail: 1 Scott Wood, Erskine; 2 Angus MacColl, Benderloch; 3 Kyle Orr, Benderloch; March 15 and under 18 years: Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trophy: 1 Angus MacColl, Benderloch; 2 Scott Wood, Erskine; 3 Cian Sinclair, Salceburgh; 2 Duncan Muir, Thornhill; 3 Ruairidh Morrison, Kilmore; 12 and under 16 years: March Strathspay and Reel: Traditional Scottish: Iona Shop Trophy: 1 Alex Stewart, Stanley; 2 Adin Graham Windgates, Erskine; 3 Cian Sinclair, Salceburgh; 12 and under 16 years: Gaelic Waltzes: Traditional Scottish: Iain McPhail Trophy: 1 Adam Gibb, Biggar; 2 Duncan Muir, Thornhill; 3 Ruairidh Morrison, Kilmore; 12 and under 16 years: March Strathspay and Reel: Pipe: Oban Accordion Club Trophy: 1 Duncan Muir, Thornhill; 2 Alex Stewart, Stanley; 3 Adam Gibb, Biggar; The Duncan Campbell Trophy: Cameron Bennett; The John Allan Memorial Trophy: Duncan Muir, Thornhill.  
**SENIOR ACCORDION:** March Strathspay and Reel: Traditional Open: Button Key Accordion: 1 Graeme MacKay, Inverness; 2 John Weeks, Glasgow; March Strathspay and Reel: Traditional Open: Mceintee Family Trophy: 1 Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride; 2 Iain Stewart, Muir of Ord; 3 Calum Muir, Carnwath; Jimmy Shand Scotrail Trophy: Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride; March Strathspay and Reel: Open: Button Key Accordion: 1 Graeme MacKay, Inverness; 2 John Weeks, Glasgow; Mr and Mrs H MacInnes Trophy: Graham MacKay, Inverness; Gaelic Waltzes: Traditional Open: Iain McPhail Trophy: 1 Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride; 2 Iain Stewart, Muir of Ord; 3 Calum Muir, Carnwath; March Strathspay and Reel: Open: Pipe: Neil Sinclair Trophy: 1 Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride; 2 Iain Stewart, Muir of Ord; 3 Calum

Muir, Carnwath; Own Composition (Accordion or Fiddle): Open: Angus & Ella MacFadyen Memorial Trophy: 1 Philip Westwell, Glasgow; 2 Magnus Westwell; Traditional Scottish Group Band: HMFDF Trophy: 1 MacKenzie Band; 2 Adin Graham Band; 3 Westwells Band.  
**CLARSACH:** Beginners: Campbell Family Trophy: 1 Anna Westwell, Edinburgh; 2 Jessica Swan, Oban; 3 Samantha Parkinson, Oban; Intermediate Oban Gaelic Drama Trophy: 1 Rebelk MacPherson, Oban; 2 Nina Joynson, Furnace; 3 Breagha Charlton, Tayside; Advanced: Trophy: Russell Quach; Catriona Clark, Castle Douglas; Solo Singing with self accompaniment: Clarsach Society Trophy: Eilidh Munro, Bishopbriggs; Recital of Scottish/Gaelic Music: Soroba House Trophy: Eilidh Munro, Bishopbriggs; Non-traditional: HMFDF Trophy: Eilidh Munro, Bishopbriggs.  
**FIDDLE:** Under 12 years: Slow Air and March: Traditional Scottish: Oban Strathspay and Reel Society Trophy: 1 Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh; 2 Mark Green, Inverness; 3 Anna Westwell, Edinburgh; Frances Shand Kydd Trophy: Ross McLeish, Oban; 12 years and under 16 years: March, Strathspay & Reel (Traditional): Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club Trophy: 1 George Davison, Tarves; 2 Robbie MacKenzie, Inverness; 3 Jack Westwell, Edinburgh; 12 years and under 16 years: Slow Air (Traditional): McLachlan Trophy: 1 Robbie MacKenzie, Inverness; 2 Jack Westwell, Edinburgh; 3 George Davison, Tarves; March Strathspay and Reel: Traditional Scottish Open: Calum MacFadyen Trophy: 1 Graham MacKenzie; 1 Claire Fairbairn, Perth; 2 Mhairi Sloan, Perth; 3 Anne Nicol, Insh; Slow Air: Traditional Scottish Open: Christine MacKenzie Trophy: 1 Anne Nicol, Insh; 2 Graham MacKenzie, Inverness; 3 Belinda McLaren, Lennoxtown.  
**LADY FERMOY PIANO COMPETITION:** Piano/Forte Solo (Grade 1): Sileas Sinclair Trophy: 1 Olivia Tweedie, Belfast; 2 Neil Sinclair Trophy: 1 Lynne MacLean, Barcaldine; 2 Sophie Carswell, Tayside; 3 Morgan Chalmers, Perth; Solo (Scottish Music): 1 Melanie Ronnie, Edinburgh; Solo Grade 1: Sheila Sinclair Trophy: 1 Claire Fairbairn, Perth; 2 Mhairi Sloan, Perth; 3 Lewis McGoldrick, Perth; Grade 4: Trophy: Peter & Peggy Sinclair Memorial Prize:  
 1 John Sloan, Perth; 2 Amy Boyce, Tayside; Duet (Grade 3, 4 or 5 standard): Fay Black Trophy: 1 John & Mhairi Sloan, Perth; Classical Solo: 1 Jack Westwell, Edinburgh; 2 Jessica Bennett, Melrose; Ragtime and Blues: 1 Jack Westwell, Edinburgh; Romantic Period: 1 Jack Westwell, Edinburgh; 2= Finlay Sinclair, Oban and Jessica Bennett, Melrose; Modern: 1 Jessica Bennett, Melrose; 2 Jack Westwell, Edinburgh; The Lady Fernoy Trophy: Jack Westwell, Edinburgh; Visit Scotland Trophy: Melanie Ronnie, Edinburgh.  
**WOODWIND AND BRASS:** Woodwind - Primary Elementary: Less than 1 year's experience: 1 Sophie Carswell, Tayside; 2 Andrew Cupples, Tarbert; 3 Bridge Cox, Tayside; Woodwind - Primary Open: 1 Megan Kyles, Kerra; Woodwind Duet: 1 Megan & Fionn Kyles, Kerra; Junior Woodwind (Sec Year 1): 1 Calum Munro, Bishopbriggs; 2 Ruairidh Lister-Campbell, Kilmelford; 3 Chelsea McNab, Oban; Woodwind - Intermediate: Secondary years 2 & 3: 1 Emily Scott, Kilmore; 2 Caitlin Taylor, Tayside; 3 Kirsty Campbell, Oban; Woodwind Senior: Secondary years 4, 5 & 6: 1 Jessica Bennett, Melrose; 2 Kirsty Thompson, Dalnally; Secondary Woodwind Duet: 1 Chelsea McNab & Caitlin Taylor; 2 Emily Scott & Kirsty Campbell; 3 Amy Boyce & Ruairidh Lister-Campbell; Brass: Primary Elementary: Less than 1 year's experience: 1 Alistair Cupples, Lochgilphead; 2 Andrew Murphy, Oban; Brass (Sec. Year 1): 1 Alasdair Murphy, Oban; Brass: Intermediate: Secondary years 2 & 3: 1 Fiona Cupples, Lochgilphead; 2 Laura Ewin Broadbent, Oban; The HMFDF Lorn Trophy: Woodwind: Primary: Sophie Carswell, Tayside; Secondary: Jessica Bennett, Melrose; Brass: Primary: Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh; Secondary: Fiona Cupples, Lochgilphead.  
**DRUMMING:** Stick & Pad: Trophy: Oban Music: 1 Lorne Sinclair, Connel; 2 Raymond Gosling, Campbeltown; 3 Alastair Cameron, Oban; March (4 part) (4 years and under): Trophy: Royal Bank of Scotland; 1 Mark Leishman, Campbeltown; 2 Ewan Fyfe, Inveraray; 3 Ryan Hawke, Rothesay; 6/8 March (14 years and under): Trophy: Netherlorn Shield; 1 Ewan Fyfe, Inveraray; 2 Mark Le

# Leaders hold no fears for Kilmallie

## Memorable win against Fort sets spirits soaring ahead of clash against unbeaten Kyles

**KILMALLIE** gave themselves the perfect tonic ahead of this weekend's visit to league leaders Kyles with a memorable win 3-2 against old foes Fort William on Saturday.

Bryan 'Boob' Simpson fired Fort ahead early on but Liam 'Goof' MacDonald claimed a vital leveller right on half time before a crowd of 300 at An Aird.

Ref Dunkie Kerr had his hands full as tempers threatened to boil over, but Fort's Gary Innes kept a cool head to restore his team's lead on 49 minutes.

But Kilmallie, full of grit and fire, deservedly equalised through Fraser Massie with 20 minutes left and stunned their arch-rivals when John Stewart rocketed a low drive past MacKay for the winner on 88 minutes.

Now the runaway league leaders are next, although half backs Martin Stewart (suspended) and Peter Carmichael (Scottish Six Days Trial entrant) will be missing, as will Peter MacIntyre (pulled muscle).

Kilmallie chairman Hugh MacIntyre was delighted with the hard-fought victory and was in bullish mood ahead of the Kyles clash.

'Kyles are winning, but they are not winning that easily,' he told *The Oban Times*. 'I think we will give them a sterner test than most, although we are short. I'm pretty confident we can hold them down there.'

**KYLES ATHLETIC** trainer James Perlich has urged his side to give a '90-minute performance' on Saturday against the improving Kilmallie.

High-flying Kyles are unbeaten this season and gaining plaudits from around many involved in the game but have been accused of offering opponents a lifeline by not dominating for a full match.

James said: 'So far, it is fair to say we haven't strung together a full 90-minute performance but that will have to happen against Kilmallie.'

'I would say their win at Fort William last weekend has changed my perception of them. We are expecting them to be very physical with a good young forward line.'

Kyles have a full squad to choose from again this Saturday and this consistency of team selection has been one of the ingredients of their success this season.

Last weekend's win over Glenurquhart looked to be sewn up after 38 minutes when Dunkie Kerr followed up Grant Irvine's brace to put Kyles 3-1 ahead at half time. However, a strong Glen comeback tested the Tighnabruach defence.

**FORT WILLIAM** coach Peter

MacIntyre will be looking for a strong response from his players after the defeat to Kilmallie against champs Newtonmore on Saturday.

Fort are desperate to rekindle their premier division title challenge, but MacIntyre isn't hitting the panic button just yet.

'I don't think we will make any drastic changes - all we need is a break in front of goal,' he said.

'To win, we will have to match Newtonmore physically, first and foremost. They are a big strong side and you have to stand up to them before you can think about getting a result against them.'

John MacDonald came off the bench on Saturday and we will see how he is later in the week. Other than that, we should have a full squad of players available for the first time this season.'

**NEWTONMORE**, meanwhile, will have three key players back from injury for Saturday's tie with Fort William at An Aird.

Paul MacArthur, Fraser MacKintosh and Jamie Robinson will all be available for manager Norman MacArthur to choose from, and he thinks his side's past form against Fort bodes well for the game.

He said: 'We've done well against them over the last few years so hopefully that'll continue. I think Fort William are the same as us, they've got a lot of young boys in their team as well. We're playing well enough, we're defending well apart from a few wee mistakes.'

Asked if he thought his team deserved a point, Norman said: 'Definitely. I suppose a draw was a fair result but we had all the pressure in the second half and we just couldn't score.'

**KINGUSSIE** take on Inveraray at The Dell this weekend with forward Ronald Ross in red-hot form after scoring six goals against strugglers Glenorchy on Saturday.

Glenorchy are rooted to the bottom of the table, but put up some resistance and managed to hold Kings to just two goals in the first hour, through Fraser Munro and Ross.

But the floodgates opened in the final half hour, with Ross grabbing five more goals and James Hutchison also hitting the back of the net.

Kings manager Stephen Borthwick said: 'Glenorchy played reasonably well, but in the second half their fitness level let them down. It's a major coup for us to have Ronald back in the side. He's working towards full fitness rapidly, you can see the difference day to day.'

Stephen will have a full strength squad to choose from for Saturday, but is expecting Inveraray to put up more of a fight than Glenorchy.

'There's no easy games anymore,' he said. 'It's nip and tuck between the top four or five teams and on their day any team can beat any team. Inveraray aren't the best travellers but we're expecting a tough game.'

'I'm glad we are scoring goals and defending really well. We have some players playing extremely well and it's encouraging to see them fighting together as a team.'

Camachnd were first out the traps last Saturday and were off to the dream start after three minutes when Aidan MacIntyre ran onto a pass from Ian 'Scailly' Macmillan and struck a lovely shot into the top corner.

Camachnd seemed to be in control until Danny MacRae hit a low shot into the Camanachd goal on 18 mins, however MacIntyre restored Oban Camanachd's lead with a wonder strike on 28 minutes.

Despite 'More piling on the pressure in the second half Camanachd looked to have sealed a famous win, thanks to some great saves from Gavin Stobbart but Glen MacIntosh fired through a bunch of players to equalise at the death.

This week Oban Camanachd are looking to carry on their fine form when they host Lovat. It will be a special game for veteran Andrew Pearson, the team's longest-serving player who turned 40 on Tuesday.

**GLENURQUHART** have the weekend off due to Camanachd Cup fixtures, and they will use it to try and recover from a second defeat in a row.

After losing to Lovat two weeks ago, the Drumadrochside faced a tough trip to Premier Division pace setters Kyles Athletic.

Unbeaten Kyles took an early lead through Grant Irvine's 16th minute strike, but pulled level seven minutes later when Arran MacDonald scored.

Kyles then scored two goals in three minutes before half time, one from Irvine and one from Dunkie Kerr. Glen weren't able to stage a comeback and Kyles went on to take the victory.

Goalkeeper Stewart MacIntosh told *The Oban Times* the side was happy with their performance despite the result.

He said: 'We were disappointed not to get more out of the game. We competed quite well and we had our chances in the second half but we just couldn't make the breakthrough. At 1-1 it was fairly even but then they scored two quick goals. I think we'll have a wee training session on Saturday and prepare for next week's game with Glenorchy.'

OBAN CELTIC will be without the services of forward Kenny Wotherspoon for the Camanachd Cup match against Lochaber.

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Oban Camanachd's Aidan MacIntyre makes an acrobatic attempt to block this clearance from Newtonmore's Andy MacIntosh.

Photo John MacTavish

## Rivals square up in Camanachd Cup

**KINLOCHSHIEL** take on North Division 1 rivals Beaulieu in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup first round on Saturday brimming with confidence after last weekend's pulsating 3-2 win against Lochaber at Kirkrton.

The encounter was billed as the division's game of the season so far - and it didn't disappoint.

Ben Delaney gave Lochaber the lead after just three minutes but 'Shiel roared back, and Fraser MacVicar restored parity before Gordie McDonald fired the home side ahead just before the interval.

Lochaber redoubled their efforts after the break and deservedly equalised when Delaney scored his second midway through the half.

Both sides had their chances as the clock ticked down, but Keith MacRae's winner on 81 minutes could be priceless for 'Shiel at the business end of the season.

Full back Paul MacRae reckons the win could have a big bearing on where the title ends up and knows Beaulieu will present a stern test in the cup.

'It was a tough one against Lochaber. The boys did not play particularly well, but we still managed to get the result,' he told *The Oban Times*.

'To beat your closest rivals gives us the best possible chance to do well in the league - it was key really. We played Beaulieu in the second or third game of the season and beat them, but it was difficult. You always get a hard game against them but we are all quite confident.'

After losing out in the top-of-the-table clash against Kinlochshiel last weekend, **LOCHABER** will look to bounce back when they face Oban Celtic in a Camanachd Cup game on Saturday.

The Spean Bridge side are walking wounded after the match with a number of players doubtful for the trip to Oban. Neil MacDonald is on crutches after chipping a bone in his ankle, and Shaun Nicolson, who had to be taken off after 20 minutes against Kinlochshiel after picking up a facial injury, is also doubtful.

Oban Celtic are yet to win a league game this season, but manager Michael Delaney will not be taking them lightly. He said: 'We don't know much about them, so it's uncharted territory. We'll just see how it goes.'

Michael said he was happy with his team's performance against Kinlochshiel and said he expects a tough battle at the top of the league this year.

'I'm really proud of the boys, they put in a gusy performance,' he said. 'There was a real battle for every ball. We created as many chances in that game as we did in other games we've won by four or five goals. There's nothing at all between the two teams.'

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and another injury worry will make an already challenging tie a lot more difficult.

Manager Davy Hamilton said: 'It will be a tough game against Lochaber but I hope we can use the narrower Ganavan pitch to our advantage.'

Davy conceded that Taynuilt were the better team last Saturday, adding: 'We could have played a lot better, we didn't seem to be up for it.'

'Taynuilt are better than they were last season and they took their chances on Saturday.'

**SKYE CAMANACHD** will make the long trip to Rothesay on Saturday in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup first round boosted by their first league win.

In a tight tussle with Inverness at Paic nan Laoch, Somhairle MacDonald broke the deadlock on 82 minutes when he latched on to a through ball, rounded the keeper and slotted home.

Cup opponents Bute, though, will be a tough proposition after racking up six wins out of six to go five points clear at the top of South Division 1.

Skye coach Nui MacDonald will be without Iain Murray and Iain Nicolson through university and game commitments for the cup clash, but reckons his team can give Bute a run for their money after last weekend's vital win 1-0 win against Inverness.

'We would definitely hope to give them a good game, although it's always hard going down there because it's such a long day and most of us are leaving on Saturday morning.'

'Our midfield and defence did very well on Saturday. Our forwards need a wee bit of sharpening up, but I'm sure that will come.'

**LOCHCARRON** face a long trip to Lochgilphead to take on Kilmory in the first round of the Camanachd Cup on Saturday after an eventful 3-3 draw with Beaulieu.

Criodan Finlayson opened the scoring for the Battery Park men after just two minutes. Beaulieu responded with an equaliser a minute into the second half, but Iain Mackenzie put Lochcarron 2-1 ahead in the 59th minute and Finlayson scored his second of the game five minutes later.

Jack MacDonnell pulled a goal back for the away side with 20 minutes left, and scored again with one of the last touches of the game to grab a point for his side.

Lochcarron face South Division one side Kilmory, who have lost three out of four league games this season. Lochcarron will be hopeful of getting a win to put them into the next round.

**KILMORY** will have a welcome break from their stuttering league campaign when they host Lochcarron in the cup.

The Mid Argyll side are without suspended winger Johnny Strachan but welcome back goalkeeper David MacFadyen.

Kilmory player Alistair MacArthur said: 'I know the boys are all looking forward to

the game. We always seem to draw premier league teams in the Camanachd Cup, so although Lochcarron are a very good team I think we have a chance against Celtic was fantastic.'

New signing Ewan MacCorquodale had a mixed day on his home debut, helping his fellow defenders keep a clean sheet but being dismissed near the end of the match following an off-the-ball incident. Celtic's Kenny Wotherspoon was also sent off for his part in the incident.

**LOCHSIDE ROVERS** were in confident mood ahead of their home tie against Glasgow Mid Argyll until manager David McInnes had seven call-offs on the Friday night.

As a result, David had to play a full forward and two of the club's 15 year olds took places on the bench. David said: 'It was disappointing to get so many call-offs the day before the game. Six of the seven missing players would have started the game.'

'All things considered it wasn't a bad result but our full team would have probably beaten them. Brian MacCallum scored for us from a well-worked corner but we didn't really threaten them. They were the better team.'

This weekend the Oban team are at Kingussie in the Sutherland Cup and David has highlighted the threat of veteran Kevin Thain.

'I played against Kevin last season and he is easily good enough to be in the first team. We have Brian MacCallum and Daniel MacKinnon missing though injury but, assuming I don't get any last minute call-offs, we'll have a strong team.'

Taynuilt had a commanding victory over Oban Celtic on Saturday; a Stuart Scott hat-trick and a single Michael MacQueen goal helped them to a 4-0 victory.

Fraser said: 'Our player resources were stretched but the

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Taynuilt's Stuart Scott outpaces Oban Celtic's Daniel Madej and Ian MacKechnie during his team's 4-0 win last Saturday. 07\_18taynuiltshinty01

## Shinty results, fixtures and league tables

**Results:**  
Saturday, April 30:

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Fort William 2, Kilmallie 3  
Inveraray 3, Lovat 2  
Kingussie 8, Glenorchy 0  
Kyles Athletic 3, Glenorchy 1  
Oban Camanachd 2, Newtonmore 2

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Kinlochshiel 3, Lochaber 2  
Lochcarron 3, Beaulieu 3  
Skye 1, Inverness 0  
Strathglass 0, Caberfeidh 2

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Aberdour 5, Kyles Athletic 0  
Bute 3, Ballachulish 1  
Lochside Rovers 1, Glasgow MA 2  
Taynuilt 4, Oban Celtic 0

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Kilmallie 3, Fort William 3

Glenarray 7, Kingussie 1  
Glenurquhart 4, Kinlochshiel 1  
Lovat 3, Lochaber  
Newtonmore 4, Skye 1

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Aberdour 0, Strachur 7  
Ballachulish 2, Col Glen 0  
Glasgow MA 4, Bute 4  
Tayforth v Inveraray  
Inveraray unable to field a team points to Tayforth

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Ardnamurchan v Strathglass  
Strathglass unable to field a team points to Ardnamurchan  
Beaulieu 0, Lochbroom 0  
Boleskine 0, Aberdeen Uni 1  
Inverness 3, Lewis 1  
Caberfeidh 4, Lochcarron 2

**Fixtures:**  
All throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated otherwise

**Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 1st Round**  
Inverness v Taynuilt  
Graham Cameron;  
Glasgow MA v Strathglass,  
Ted McDonald (3pm);  
Kilmory v Lochcarron,  
Colin MacDonald;  
Oban Celtic v Lochaber,  
Deek Cameron;  
Kinlochshiel v Beaulieu,  
Graeme MacMillan (3pm);  
Bute v Skye Camanachd,  
Robert Baxter.

**Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 2nd Round**  
Kinlochshiel v Skye,  
Robert Morrison (noon)  
Inveraray v Aberdeen University,

George O'Rourke;  
Lovat v Beaulieu,  
Evan MacRae;  
Caberfeidh v Tayforth,  
John Sloggie;  
Glasgow MA v Kyles Athletic,  
Gus Campbell (noon)  
Glenarray v Glenurquhart,  
Innes Wood;  
Kingussie v Lochside Rovers,  
Charles Young (noon);  
Lochaber v Strathglass;  
John Angus Gillies.

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Fort William v Newtonmore,  
Billy Wotherspoon (3pm)  
Kingussie v Inveraray,  
Graham Irving (3pm);  
Kyles Athletic v Kilmallie,  
David Mitchell;  
Oban Camanachd v Lovat,  
Dunkie Kerr.

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Ballachulish v Aberdour,  
Ronnie Campbell (3pm)

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Fort William v Kilmallie,  
Donald MacRae (noon)

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Ballachulish v Aberdour,  
Iain Kennedy (12.30pm);  
Col Glen v Bute,  
Jim Innes.

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Inverness v Boleskine,  
Barrie Dallas (12.30pm)  
Lochbroom v Lochcarron,  
Daniel MacRae.

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kyles	7	6	1	0	13
Kingussie	7	3	2	2	8
Newtonmore	6	2	3	1	7
Fort William	6	3	1	2	7
Oban Camanachd	7	3	1	3	7
Glenurquhart	7	3	1	3	7
Inveraray	6	3	0	3	6
Kilmory	6	3	0	3	6
Lovat	7	2	1	4	5
Glenorchy	7	0	0	7	0

**Marine Harvest North Division One**

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kinlochshiel	4	4	0	0	8
Caberfeidh	4	3	0	1	6
Lochaber	4	2	0	2	4
Lochcarron	4	1	2	1	4
Beaulieu	4	1	2	3	3
Inverness	4	1	1	2	3
Skye	4	1	0	3	2
Strathglass	4	1	0	3	2

**Marine Harvest South Division One**

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bute	6	6	0	0	12
Taynuilt	6	3	1	2	7
Glasgow MA	4	3	1	0	7
Lochside Rvrs	7	3	1	3	7
Kyles Athletic	6	3	0	3	6
Ballachulish	5	2	0	3	4
Kilmory	4	1	0	3	2
Aberdour	5	1	0	4	2
Oban Celtic	5	0	1	4	1

**Marine Harvest North Division Two**

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Glenarray	6	6	0	0	12
Newtonmore	7	6	0	1	12
Kingussie	7	4	0	3	8
Fort William	4	3	1	0	7
Lochaber	7	3	0	4	6
Lovat	5	3	0	2	6
Glenurquhart	7	2	0	3	4
Kinlochshiel	8	2	0	4	4
Skye	8	2	0	4	4
Kilmallie	5	0	1	4	1

**Marine Harvest South Division Two**

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Strachur	7	6	0	1	12
Bute	6	3	2	1	8
Tayforth	5	3	1	1	7
ColGlen	5	3	0	2	6
Glasgow MA	7	2	1	4	5
Inveraray	6	2	0	4	4
Ballachulish	5	2	0	3	4
Aberdour	7	1	0	6	2

**Marine Harvest North Division Three**

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Aberdeen U	8	8	0	0	16
Boleskine	8	5	1	2	11
Caberfeidh	7	5	0	2	10
Beaulieu	7	4	1	2	9

# Fort's outgoing manager hoping for a late season lift

Looking to close the gap at the foot of the table

FORT go into Saturday's home game against Turriff still looking to close the gap on Strathspey Jags at the foot of the table after two home defeats in two days.

Outgoing manager Calum MacLean had been hoping for a late season lift but Cove Rangers on Bank Holiday Monday and Keith last Saturday proved too much of a hurdle.

Fort were very much in the hunt against Cove when keeper John Campbell pulled off a stun-

ning penalty save in the 55th to deny Danny Milne after Calum Watson's angled drive gave the visitors the lead after 25 minutes.

The fiery pitch was causing both teams problems, but Danny Park extended Cove's lead in 65

## FOOTBALL

minutes with a right foot drive from 18 yards.

Fort hit back almost straight away when top scorer Iain McLellan's mazy run and stunning finish sparked home fans' hopes of an upset.

But it was not to be and further goals from Kevin Stewart and Milne put Cove on easy street.

It was no easier against Keith on Saturday, when the Maroons ran out 3-0 winners.

Jamie Lennox clipped a cute shot over Campbell to open the scoring on 12 minutes to set the scene for the afternoon.

Campbell rescued his side on several occasions to keep the deficit at only one at half time but Keith were not to be denied, and after the break Dean Donaldson made it 2-0 on 57 minutes firing home from close range.

Jonathan Smith made the game safe for the visitors on 63 minutes when the striker held off the challenge of Graham Bamber to drive the ball low across Campbell into the back of the net. Sluggish Fort only really tested Shearer in the Keith goal in the dying minutes, but the keeper saved Chris Macleod's fine 20-yarder.



Cove's Danny Milne strikes a balletic pose as Fort's Farquhar MacRae challenges. 10\_118fortc01



Keith's Philip McCall and Fort's Mark Gillespie battle it out. 20\_118fort01

## Fort no match for Fochabers

FORT WILLIAM CC were well-beaten at Fochabers on Saturday after the title contenders racked up 353 runs - a record score in any Fort William match.

On a very good batting pitch at with a fast outfield, opening batsmen Denyer (94 runs) and M.Mehta (119) put on 219 - another record.

The Fort bowlers toiled against a strong wind for 27 overs against skilled opponents whose right hand/left hand pairing posed further problems until the break-

through came when Denyer, six short of his century, was caught by Kevin O'Meara at cover.

The reliable Pete Shepherd was called upon to make further inroads, and he clean bowled three middle order batsmen to finish with fine figures of 3 for 31.

In reply, as with 17 from O'Meara and 24 from Derek Spencer set the early tone for Fort William, while Mark Goddard batted at a steady pace for his 27.

At 91 for 3 Fort were batting well in the sunshine and God-

## CRICKET

dard looked set to carry his bat throughout the innings before being bowled by Adi Mehta - the young star took three wickets for just 10 runs during his spell.

A third batting point proved just out of reach when Fort finished 114 all out in the 43rd over.

Fort captain Paul Farrell said: 'We always knew we would be up against it today, as Fochabers have some very special talent amongst their ranks.'

'But we stuck at it and credit to our bowlers who found it tough-going on a very flat pitch. Our fielders were weary after nearly four hours in the field on a hot day, but the way we picked ourselves up and batted for 43 overs showed we have an inner strength to keep improving and really have a go this season. Despite the heavy defeat, we can be proud of our five points today against genuine title contenders.'

Fort's Reserve team match the same day was won by forfeit after opponents Forres failed to fulfil the fixture.

Next matches are on Saturday 7th May, Fort William Seniors v Huntly at the BA Club 2pm. The reserve team plays at Nairn.

Scores: Fochabers 353-6 off 45 overs (P.Shepherd 3-31, D.Spencer 2-59, C.Lavin 1-57). FWCC Seniors 114 all out off 42.3 overs (M.Goddard 27, D.Spencer 24, K.O'Meara 17, D.J.Duncan 11) Fochabers 20pts beat FWCC Spts by 239 runs.



Two residents of Grant Place in Claggan, Jimmy Bell (left) and Kevin Douglas, won the first competition of the year at the Railway Bowling Club last weekend. They are pictured receiving the Stewarts Cup from Elizabeth Kennedy with runners up Eddie Downs and Agnes Thain.

## Fijians treat spectators to a spectacle of fancy footwork and deft handling

BANAVIE basked in sunshine for the annual Lochaber Rugby Sevens tournament on Saturday.

The honours went to the two teams made up largely of Fijians from the Royal Regiment of Scotland based at Fort George who treated the spectators to a spectacle of fancy footwork and deft handling. For most of the other teams the fun was in taking part.

In Pool A, Lochaber comfortably beat teams from the Fire Brigade and Aberdeenshire but were beaten 36-0 by Fort George.

Aberdeenshire beat the Fire Brigade and Fort George won all their matches to win the group.

In Pool B, Fort George A Team swept all before them to win their group handsomely. Connor Taylor's North District Under 18s team (aka 'The Pink Panthers') beat Lochaber B and Inverness Leisure and were runners-up

in their group. The youngsters put up a good fight against Fort George and were the only side to score against them in the pool stages. Connor Taylor was also awarded the referee's player of the tournament for his courageous tackling as well as pace and support running in attack.

Lochaber B team played Aberdeenshire in an 8 a-side match before the finals. During this match young prop Innes Ireland

scored Lochaber B's only try of the day and his first for the club. In the plate final North District Under 18s were neck and neck with Lochaber in the first half. However, the home side pulled away in the second half beating the youngsters by 21 points to 5.

The quaiich final was a fast-paced, hard-hitting battle between the two Fijian sides from Fort George. It's easy to see that Sevens is the national sport in Fiji as the tactics of holding the ball until the break was on and awareness of where the support runners were seemed to come naturally.

**Evasive**  
As always the slight-of-hand passes and evasive footwork were a joy to watch. The A team took an early two try lead and kept the scoreboard ticking over. The B-team tackled valiantly and managed to conjure up two excellent tries but the A-team were a class above and won easily by 59 points to 12.

In the evening the Fijian gospel harmony choir was in fine voice as was Lochaber's Gaelic soloist Laura Davis. Robert Robertson and Elaine Reid played for a stomping good ceilidh until late. The whole day was sponsored by MacPhee and Partners.



## Les bowls them over

### TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER five weeks of the men's and ladies' singles leagues at the Nevis Centre Les McFarlane still leads the men's scratch division with 106 points.

Tony Whitelocke moves into second place with 104 points. John Weller is in third place on 100 points. The handicap division is very tight at the top with Graeme Robertson and John Weller sharing the lead with 85 points and Tony Whitelocke moves into third with 84.

In the ladies' competition Pam Weller leads the scratch division with 38 points followed by Laura Brown in second place on 34 points. Hazel White remains in third with 28. Pam Weller and Rossamy Waring share the lead in the handicap division with 28 points with Jacqui Hill in third with 25 points.

The men's week 5 maximum scratch points were gained by Tony Whitelocke who rolled 296. Murdo MacDonald had the top handicap total of 413. For the ladies Pam Weller had the best scratch score of 281. The top handicap score came from Rossamy Waring with 394.

The best individual games this week came from Tony Whitelocke for the men with 159. For the ladies Pam Weller had the top game with 156.

## Spean Bridge GC

### GOLF

SPEAN BRIDGE Golf Club saw its first competition of the year on Sunday, with 30 people taking part in the May Medal. In category one (0-14 handicap) Brian Stewart was the winner with a 64, and the category two (15-28 handicap) winner was Scott Graham who better inward six won after he finished level with Calum Coltart.

Category One: 1 Brian Stewart 76-12=64; 2 Lachlan Campbell 82-12=70. Category Two: 1 Scott Graham 85-15=70; 2 Calum Coltart 87-17=70.

## Isle of Skye GC

### GOLF

ON a super weekend weather-wise, a tremendous birdie on his second last hole was enough to edge Murdo Gordon to a one point victory over challengers John Marshall, John Finlayson and Angus Beaton in the RNLI Trophy Stableford Competition. RNLI Trophy result: 1st M Gordon 40pts; 2nd J Marshall 39 pts (bih); 3rd J Finlayson 39pts; 3rd A Beaton 39 pts.

The previous weekend saw Alasdair Grant win the bogey competition being three up on the course, pipping Murdo MacLean, David Millar and Murdo Gordon by one shot.

Bogey competition result: 1st A.Grant +3; 2nd M.MacLean +2 (bih); 3rd D.Millar +2; 3rd M.Gordon +2.

## Fort William GC

### GOLF

THE CAPTAIN'S Prize competition at Fort William Golf Club on Saturday saw Jordan Cameron finish first after posting a score of 69.

Results: 1, Jordan Cameron 88-19=69; 2, Neil Hardie 80-9=71; 3, William McCann 87-15=72.

# Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



WIN £1150

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



**All you have to do**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

**This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:**  
 K Smith, Pulpit Drive, Oban and A MacIntyre, Shuna Terrace, Oban

## Callum wins international event in Northern Ireland

### ORIENTEERING



### Callum Hunter with his first place trophy.

AN 11-year-old orienteer from Taynuilt has won an international event in Northern Ireland. Scottish junior team prospect Callum Hunter took first place in the 10-12 age group at the JK 2011 Orienteering Festival over the Easter weekend.

And his sister, Emily, finished runner-up in the 10-and-under age group at the same competition.

The orienteering festival attracts almost 3,000 competitors from all over the world and Ross Lilley, chairman of Callum's orienteering club, EckO, said the club was very proud of the youngster's achievement.

"To win at a competition like that is really the pinnacle of your sport. Callum has really come on since he started competing in the Scottish league events and has been asked to train with the Scottish junior squad.

Ross said there were a number of promising juniors coming through the EckO ranks.

Callum will be competing on home turf in the Scottish Six Days Orienteering Competition, a major international orienteering event to be held in the Oban and Lorn area from July 31.

## Oban Tennis Club hold open day

### TENNIS

IN THE year West Highland Tennis Week celebrates its 40th anniversary, Oban Tennis and Squash Club will begin a recruitment drive this weekend with a free-of-charge open day.

Top Scottish player Jordan Gray will be present at the Atlantis Leisure event this Sunday and will provide coaching and tips for all ages, from seasoned players to complete beginners.

Jordan will also introduce fun games, including Cardio Tennis (tennis to music) and will demonstrate a special speed gun to measure serve speed.

Linda Oxland, of Oban Tennis and Squash Club, said: "We are pleased that Jordan, a former winner of West Highland Tennis Week, has agreed to come to Oban to help introduce people to the sport and provide top coaching.

"The whole day is free and those who attend will be given lunch and entered into a raffle draw."

The open day is on from noon to 3pm.

The 40th anniversary West Highland Tennis Week begins on the last weekend in June.

For more information on both events contact Atlantis Leisure on 01631 566 800.

# Cricket club all ready to bowl them over

## Team planning to continue good form at Vale of Leven

### CRICKET

OBAN Cricket Club is looking forward optimistically to the 2011 season after a productive indoor programme at Atlantis Leisure and two early friendly victories.

Following wins away to Fort William and at home on Sunday to Edinburgh touring side FBB XI, the side travels to Vale of Leven this coming Sunday for another friendly before beginning the defence of their Argyll League trophy at Mid Argyll a week later.

This leads to a busy spell of league and friendly matches before, in late July, Oban travel to Grange, in Edinburgh, for a fixture that will be a great opportunity for the club to play at the home of the Scotland team against the current holders of the Scottish Premier Division title.

Further fixtures have been arranged against touring sides and the club will also welcome Grange back to Taynuilt in September for a six-a-side tournament as the Edinburgh side defend the trophy

they won last year. Along with Oban and Grange, the other competing teams in the six a sides are Glasgow Accies and Largo.

Oban's captain of the last three years, Isaac Forster, has taken up employment back in his native Australia and his presence with bat and ball will be greatly missed.

Replacing him for 2011 is Davie Hannah and he will be hoping to continue to build on the two early friendly wins.

### Training

Oban train on Thursday evenings at Taynuilt Sports Field 6.30pm-8.30pm and new players are welcome to come along.

This year, Oban has secured a net facility thanks to funding from Taynuilt Windfarm Trust, The Lords Taverners and Adrian Laycock Engineering. This will greatly enhance the practice facilities for the club.

Against the FBB XI on Sunday,



Oban CC line in front of their new nets before their friendly fixture against touring side FBB last Sunday.

07\_11cricket01

the visitors chose to bat first but made a poor start losing three quick wickets before their score had reached double figures, Andrew Leach and Santos Divyva proving difficult to handle.

After this though, the Edin-

burgh side batted well and a fine partnership between Bruce Cameron and Louis Moll took the score to 85 before Neill Belshaw bowled Cameron for 25.

Santos Divyva returned to the attack to end Moll's innings for a

fine 52 and the innings closed on a creditable 151.

Oban began their reply in a hurry and Mal MacKenzie and Taj Islam soon had 50 on the board punishing some wayward bowling.

MacKenzie eventually recorded a fine half century before retiring

and Islam also retired with his own score on 31. Ronnie Kelly finished unbeaten on 25 and Nick Charlton on 20 as Oban reached their target with plenty to spare.

## PlayStation helps Robert prepare for the toughest race of his life

UMPTEN gym sessions, running, cycling and playing on a PlayStation have been crucial training methods for motorcycleist Robert Wilson ahead of the toughest race of his life.

The Taynuilt man has been given one of only seven newcomer spots on this year's Isle of Man TT, a 37-mile course that is still regarded as the world's most gruelling road race.

In what is the centenary year of the famous race, Robert is realistic about his chances of success and has set himself the goal of winning the 'best rookie' prize.

He said: "I will be doing speeds of up to 180mph and it will be

an extremely hard physical challenge to do four laps, each one 37.7 miles long.

"I am really excited about it but the nerves haven't kicked in yet. That won't happen until the day of the race."

While training for the two-week event (May 30 - June 10) Robert has been going to the gym three times a day, five days a week to meet the physical demands of the race and the 32-year-old architect has spent two weekends on the island going round the course.

But he has also been studying the course by watching DVDs and playing PlayStation games.

Robert explained: "A good way

### MOTOR CYCLING

to learn the circuit is to play Isle of Man TT on the PlayStation, but the real thing will be very different!"

Robert will be joined by his race team John and Sally Stoddart of Stoddarts of Oban, Steven Carson of Steven Carson Parcels and Billy Robertson of Robertson Van Sales. He is also sponsored by Dawson Energy, Brogan Fuels, Elf Oils, Shirleys Motorcycles and Kerrie's Tyres.

During the Isle of Man TT he will compete in two 600cc Supersport Class races on his Kawasaki ZX6R.



Robert Wilson with two members of his race team, John Stoddart, left, and Steven Carson. 15\_11robert01

## Good season for Oban Lorne despite losing last league game

### RUGBY

Scottish Hydro Electric West Division One Strathendrick 34

Oban Lorne 17 LEAGUE leaders Strathendrick proved to be too strong for Oban Lorne, who took a strong team to Fintry last Saturday for their final league game of the season.

Oban had already secured third place in the league the week before but knew a win would keep them in the hunt for second place in the league.

Oban made a better start to the game using their impressive line-out and effective driving maul to create the early pressure.

However, the home side began playing good open rugby in the Oban half with former Scottish internationalist Rory Kerr pulling the strings at inside centre.

The home side were the first to cross the line after Oban gave away possession on halfway but the men in green fought back with a penalty from Angus MacCallum to narrow the score.

Strathendrick's clinical edge, however, gave them two quick

scores before halftime that virtually ended the game. Both tries came as the result of some poor defending and positioning from Oban who couldn't believe they had conceded so softly. The score stood at 24-3 at halftime to Strathendrick.

Undeterred, Oban were the first to score in the second half; Corrie Louw picked from a scrum and passed to scorer Angus MacCallum who weaved his way through the home defence for Oban's first try of the afternoon. This was converted to narrow the gap to 24-10.

### Pressure

The away side continued to press with Andy MacDougall providing a huge run from halfway, being brought down near the line. But pressure was not converted into points, as the home side broke from halfway to score another try, securing the bonus point.

"Endrick were reduced to 14 men for an off-the-ball incident at the lineout and were briefly down to 13 after an extremely danger-

ous tackle on Oban centre Gavin MacDonald.

But Oban again failed to score against reduced numbers, despite having several scoring opportunities, and could only manage one more try; Romanian full-back Radu Teodoru scored from close range from a ruck with five minutes to play.

Oban Lorne's third-place finish is the best for the club in over a decade and is particularly impressive considering the amount of young players used in the squad through out the season.

Next Saturday the 37th annual Oban Lorne Sevens will be played at Glencruitten.

Oban will be entering three sides into the tournament, notably alongside last year's winners Edinburgh Accies, who will be returning to retrain the trophy.

The tournament kicks off at noon with barbecue, bar and evening disco to keep everyone entertained.

## Lochaber man wins Tiree 10k

### ATHLETICS

NEARLY 200 people pulled on their running shoes and enjoyed competition in near perfect conditions for Saturday's Tiree 10k.

All in, 176 people participated in the various races and events at the sixth annual race on the Hebridean island.

Tim Brand of Lochaber won this year's 10k, with a time of 36.36, while local lad Owain Williams, now living in Edinburgh,

finished second with a time of 37.21, taking two minutes off his previous best.

It's hoped that the not-for-profit event has raised hundreds, if not thousands of pounds for local good causes, with Tiree Pipe Band, the parent teacher association, the soon to be formed Tiree Sports Foundation among those to benefit.

Organiser, Will Wright, said:

"It was a fantastic day, sunny and fairly calm."

"We had about 200 last year, but this year we went for a different weekend as there were difficulties with booking the community hall."

"It's not a big problem though as the event was good fun for all."

## Weather

**Thursday** Light Rain.  
Winds moderate south easterly.  
Temperatures 11°C to 12°C

**Friday** Heavy Rain.  
Winds moderate, south, south easterly.  
Temperatures 11°C to 13°C.

**Weekend** Thundery Showers.

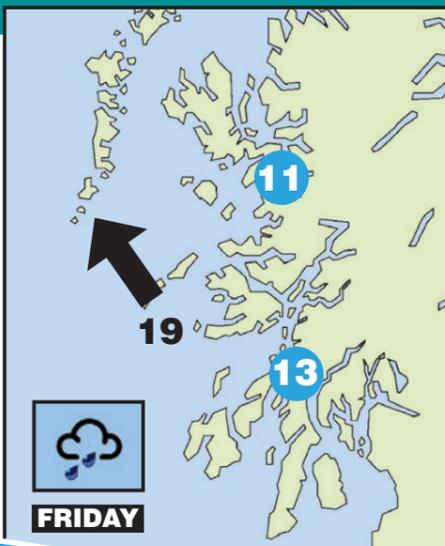
**Outlook** Winds moderate, south, south easterly.  
Temperatures 10°C to 17°C.

**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, May 5, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.45 1.1 06.44 3.7 12.58 1.0 17.48 3.7	
Fri	01.16 1.2 07.15 3.6 13.30 1.0 19.21 3.7	
Sat	01.48 1.3 07.49 3.4 14.06 1.1 19.57 3.6	
Sun	02.25 1.4 08.29 3.3 14.48 1.2 20.40 3.4	
Mon	03.14 1.5 09.18 3.1 15.40 1.3 21.32 3.3	
Tues	04.23 1.6 10.21 2.9 16.42 1.4 22.40 3.2	

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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