

# WIN

# TICKETS TO ROCKNESS

8th - 10th June 2012



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# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Coll bids for 'Dark Skies' recognition

COLL is preparing a bid to become Scotland's first 'Dark Skies' island in a bid to boost the island's tourist market.

Islanders have long extolled the virtues of Coll's complete lack of street lights, meaning nothing interferes with the spectacular view of the stars and planets when darkness falls.

It is hoped that by obtaining 'Dark Sky' status, the island would be able to attract amateur astronomers and tourists hoping to catch an unmatched view of the universe - or even the Northern Lights.

If successful, Coll would be only the second place in the UK, after Galloway Forest Park, to be awarded the status.

### More than 1,100 to compete in 29th Oban festival

THE 29TH Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival takes place in Oban this weekend at a variety of venues.

More than 1,100 participants will compete in 125 competition classes in 12 disciplines, including piping, accordion and fiddle.

### Unexplained death

A 27-YEAR-old Oban man was found dead on Tuesday night at Donmor Lodge in the town.

Police described the incident as an 'unexplained death', while enquiries continue, but added there were no suspicious circumstances.

It is believed the death was possibly drugs related.

### Argyll and Bute election results - as they happen

ELECTION results will be announced tomorrow (Friday), May 4 - for the latest news on the results in Argyll and Bute follow The Oban Times on Twitter @obantimes or take part in the discussion #otelection.

We will update the results as they come in, so hear the news first with us. Full results will also be available on our website [obantimes.co.uk/elections](http://obantimes.co.uk/elections).

And don't forget to vote today - polling stations are open until 10pm.



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2012 Oban Times Bonnie Baby Abbey with mum, Denise.

## Abbey is our Bonnie Baby of 2012

AS RECENTLY as February this year, baby Abbey Prosser was in Yorkhill Children's Hospital in Glasgow for a major operation on her neck.

But just a few weeks later, the Oban infant has been named as The Oban Times' Bonnie Baby for 2012 after sweeping the vote.

Abbey's mum, Denise Maccoll, said she was delighted her daughter had won the competition after a 'scary' and emotional start to the year.

'When I found out she had won I just screamed with excitement. I didn't know what to say,' said Denise.

'The family are all delighted

she won after what she has been through and it is a nice story to tell her when she is older. We want to thank everyone who voted for Abbey.'

Denise and her fiancé, Abbey's father John Prosser, received £500 of shopping vouchers, courtesy of competition sponsors, The Co-operative.

Abbey, who will be one year old on May 23, also won a framed Bonnie Baby Competition 2012 certificate and an Oban Times teddy bear.

Of the eight babies in the final, Abbey received 257 votes, 127 ahead of Willow Livingstone of Mull, in second. Mull's Ruairaidh Maclean was third.

## Tourism expo raises expectation

### Unprecedented international interest in Argyll and the Isles offers huge opportunities

ARGYLL and the Isles is expecting a major tourism boost after unprecedented interest in the region at a major international tourism show.

The Duke of Argyll was among those who manned the stalls for Argyll and the Isles Tourism (AIT) during the two-day VisitScotland International Tourism Expo at Edinburgh's Royal Highland Centre.

Manned by 15 volunteers, from the Duke himself to a 'prisoner' at Inveraray Jail, AIT had expected to welcome about 60 buyers to its six-stand stall over the course of the event.

However, it exceeded that target by 11.30am on the first day and ended up more than doubling expected numbers by the end of the show last Thursday.

As well as holding in-depth meetings with 184 buyers who expressed a serious interest in arranging trips to Scotland, a

**"Spanish company interested in sending 23,000 people a year."**  
vice-chairman AIT Mike Story

Mike Story, said there was 'massive potential' in the meetings.

He said: 'These are buyers that have not worked with Argyll and the Isles before. For example there was a Spanish company interested in sending people to Mull and Iona. They're talking about 23,000 people coming every year.'

'Not every buyer will be as big as that, but these buyers are all representing organisations who would have been going elsewhere.'

The project received financial assistance from the Scottish Government, LEADER, Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and VisitScotland's Growth Fund.

In addition, it received support, both physical and financial, from the 28 marketing organisations

Continued on Page 3

## Oban guest house hit by shock £4,000 water bill

FAILURE to read meters as promised resulted in commercial water supplier, Business Stream, demanding £4,000 from an Oban guest house.

Three years ago, the company took over from Scottish Water in supplying water to businesses, at the time promising the meters would be read regularly.

However, Valerie Bichener of the Thornloe Bed and Breakfast

on Albert Road, found her meters were not being read and every bill was an estimate.

Just over a year ago, a new meter was installed, showing £4,000 of water had been used over and above the usual monthly use since Business Stream took over.

The cause was a leak that would have been detected had meters been read as promised,

but more than a year passed before Business Stream last week finally acknowledged they did not fulfil the terms outlined in their contract.

The company has now written-off the bill, but told *The Oban Times* the situation had been resolved to Mrs Bichener's satisfaction - it wasn't.

A subsequent promise to set up eBilling so she could read

her own meter to provide accurate bills was not fulfilled. She said: 'I'd asked to have eBilling set up in December, then again in March. It still hasn't been done.'

After contacting Mrs Bichener, Craig Watson, head of customer experience at Business Stream, said: 'We know we have not delivered the level of customer service we would

normally expect and in recognition of this we have written off the entire bill.'

'We have now also set up Mrs Bichener's eBilling account, and discussed this with her, which will help her to monitor her water use and avoid any unexpected bills in future.'

'We're sorry for any distress and inconvenience this has caused.'

## Connel yachts go back to sea

TWO large yachts washed ashore at Connel during dramatic December storms have been returned to the sea - with the help of a forklift.

Local builder, Michael MacPhee, took his telescoping forklift down to Connel's foreshore to aid the owners of the yachts in their bids to refloat them.

The *Rosanne of Rhu* was refloated last week, before the

second stranded vessel, *Tanika*, was eased back into the water at the weekend.

Chairman of Connel Community Council, Sandy Dunlop, said: 'Michael came down last Wednesday and a trench was dug to get the first boat out. That worked quite well.'

'The other boat was back in the water by the weekend.'

'It's good to seem them floating again.'

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Prawn Cocktail	£6.00
Fish soup	£5.00

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Hot smoked salmon with cream cheese and chives drizzled with mature cheddar, served with home made cheesy coleslaw £7.00

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**Local lobster tail** cooked in white wine, served with home made cheesy coleslaw and crusty baguette.....£10.00

**DELICIOUS SPECIALS EVERYDAY! SEE SPECIALS BOARDS!**

## Vessels come to aid of sinking Java Moon

A DRAMATIC rescue - to save three people and salvage a sinking boat - took place off Craignure this week.

The 'Java Moon' had lost power then had sails fail before starting to take on water on Monday.

Her three sailors abandoned the stricken vessel for a life raft and were being monitored by the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry *Clansman* - which was about to launch a rescue boat - when another crew passing by took the trio aboard their vessel.

When Oban Lifeboat arrived on scene they pumped water out of *Java Moon* and towed her to the North Pier at Oban - saving her from sinking.

One RNLI volunteer said this was an excellent example of the willingness to assist that is the hallmark of incidents at sea.



The Java Moon was saved from sinking.

## Donald MacPherson - greatest prizewinning piper in history, dies

THE MOST successful piper in the history of the Argyllshire Gathering has died in his 90th year.

Glasgow's Donald MacPherson, widely regarded as the most successful competition piper ever, died on April 21. His funeral was due to take place yesterday (Wednesday) at Mortonhall Crematorium, Edinburgh.

The piping legend, who was diagnosed last year with carcinoma, holds the record for the number of senior piobaireachd wins at the Argyllshire Gathering, with 15 titles. The Oban Times' Piping Times correspondent Hugh MacCallum said: 'He was arguably the greatest prize-winning piper in history and his record at both the Argyllshire Gathering and the Northern Meeting is unsurpassed.'

Around the time of his death, Donald had put his famous pipes up for sale. They were made by pipe-maker R G Lawrie in 1936 and played in most of his contest successes. In 1954 Donald won the gold medal at Inverness, the open Piobaireachd at the Argyllshire Gathering, the Clasp at Inverness, the first for Piobaireachd at the SPA contest and prizes in Uist, Barra and Cowal. His exploits that year compelled one of his contemporaries to quip: 'Donald is not a piper. He is a prize-winning machine.'

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# Mull TA soldier returns home from Afghanistan

A YOUNG Mull man has recently returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan – escaping a few close calls along the way. Private Declan Taylor is a member of the Territorial Army and was attached to 3 SCOTS, Black Watch, on the tour. He said: 'I was nervous to start with but got used to it although I had a few close calls when I was there. The day we arrived my laptop got shot. I was just away to watch a DVD but there was a bullet right through it.' Getting used to a change in temperature was another challenge for the soldier. 'It was really cold because it was winter there when we arrived but it was warming up as we left and now I'm trying to get used to the cold here!' said Declan. The 20-year-old had intended joining the regular army but due to problems getting new recruits to training he decided to join the TA instead. He is glad he did. 'The lads are good and we had a few laughs on the tour but I'm glad to be back,' he said. 'I wouldn't want to go back to Afghanistan, it is just not for me. It is not what I thought it would be like. I didn't really know what to expect but I thought everyone would hate us. But the locals were okay. The kids used to come up to us and ask for sweets and biscuits,' said Declan. He added: 'You are always cautious about people coming up to you but you get to know who is friendly and recognise the locals.' Declan now wants to try and progress his career with the TA and improve his rank and would recommend that others join. 'I think it is a good experience for young people,' he said.



Declan was recruiting for the TA in Oban. 16\_18soldier01

# Tiree to celebrate one of its famous seafaring sons

All island's past and present seamen to be honoured



Against all odds, Captain Donald MacKinnon of the tea clipper Taeping won the Tea Race from Foo Chow, China, to London in 1866.

THE LIFE and times of one of Tiree's most famous seafarers, Captain Donald MacKinnon, will be celebrated next month – with some of his descendants serving tea. Island museum An Iodhlann will on May 12-13 honour the memory of the former captain of the famous tea clipper Taeping who led his crew to win the prestigious Tea Race from Foo Chow, China, to London in 1866. Captain MacKinnon, of Heanish, was not expected to win the race, up against the faster ship Ariel. However, he managed to cover the 16,000 miles 20 minutes quicker than his rival – with many a newspaper at the time running the headline 'The better ship lost but the better captain won!' So close was the finish, that a bonus of £100 was shared between the two captains. The weekend starts on Saturday at the island's hall, An Talla, for a lecture on the life of one of Tiree's most famous sons. It is hoped Chinese leaf tea will be served by descendants of Captain MacKinnon. Sunday will see a joint Church of Scotland and Baptist Mariner's Service to honour all Tiree's past and present seamen at the parish church in Kirkapoll. Visits will also be arranged to take participants to the small bay in Heanish where Captain Donald MacKinnon would have first learned to sail, the site of his family's home nearby and the crannog – a portion of land which was apparently gifted to him and his family for his success in winning the Great Tea Race of 1866 by the then Duke of Argyll. Organiser Mary MacLean said: 'It is a great story and we have been thinking about writing a book on the captain. He had a very short life, died at the age of 39 – less than five months after he won the race.' 'We will be visiting our museum and a few other local points of interest and hope to wrap up the weekend event with an evening meal at the Scarinish Hotel.' 'It is shaping up to be a very interesting evening and we hope you can join us at An Talla on May 12.' For more information, contact An Iodhlann on 01879 220793 or email aniodhlann@tireebroadband.com.

*"He had a very short life, died at the age of 39 – less than five months after he won the race."*

## South Uist community marks anniversary with ceilidh

A LARGE crowd of local residents recently gathered to mark the fifth anniversary of the community buyout of South Uist Estate with a ceilidh. Attendees at Talla an Iochdar enjoyed performances from Simon Bradley and Band, the Dochas Dancers, Claire MacNeil and Iochdar school children and danced late into the night to music from John Alick MacKay and Friends. The night also saw a bonfire and fireworks accompanied by music from the South Uist Pipe Band. A presentation was made to Donald MacInnes and Peggy Campbell of Iochdar Hill Common Grazing Committee who helped secure an agreement with the Common Grazing shareholders during the buyout and helped with the construction of the Loch Carnan Community Windfarm.

## Pine Martens make moves on Isle of Mull

PINE Martens have made the jump from the mainland to Mull – after being introduced by unknown members of the public. Bert Leitch told a meeting of Mull Community Council that the animals had been spotted in Craignure – despite never having been on the island before. Pine Martens are about the size of a domestic cat and are afforded protected status. They prey on birds and are infamous for killing chickens. Bert said: 'They are killers. I think we have enough things with sharp beaks and sharp claws on Mull already without adding any more. Anyone who has free range hens is bound to be concerned.' 'Scottish Natural Heritage has been over to do reports but what should be happening now is that there is someone brought in to get rid of them.' Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) was contacted about the incomers about 18 months ago but reportedly claimed it is natural expansion and the pine martens came in on the back of a wood lorry. However, Bert claimed: 'SNH has since changed its stance and they ever occurred historically on Mull and they will prey on ground, tree and crag nesting birds. 'Most of their prey will be voles and other small mammals but if they didn't get here under their own steam they shouldn't have been introduced. 'But if they made it here through natural range expansion, good luck to them. 'For better or worse, I suspect they're now here to stay.' Pine Martens are adept at getting inside chicken coops and once inside it is believed they will keep killing until all movement has stopped. Their fearless nature also makes them a common garden visitor. A spokeswoman for SNH confirmed a study is taking place. She said: 'We want to find out if pine martens have ever been found on Mull in the past. 'If not, how they got there this time, get an idea of where they are on the island and look at the socio-economic and environmental effects and consider our options.' It is hoped that the report will be ready in early summer.



Pine Martens have never been seen on Mull before.

## Scottish herring fishery is certified as well managed

THE SCOTTISH Pelagic Sustainability Group's (SPSG) west of Scotland herring fishery was officially certified as sustainable and well managed at a ceremony in Brussels last week. The Marine Stewardship Council flag ship standard means SPSG herring will carry the prestigious MSC eco-label to inform consumers buying herring. The assessment, carried out by Food Certification International, is the latest in a series of MSC awards achieved by the Scottish pelagic sector. SPSG trawlers harvest herring along the north coast and to the west of the Hebrides. The UK has a herring quota of 13,400 tonnes for 2012. The fishery takes place during the summer months, but mostly in August.

## What's in a place name?

Local resident John MacFarlane will be one of the speakers on the day and will also act as a tour guide on Sunday. Bookings can be made by contacting Pete Drummond on 07769680293.

# Hotel break winners announced

THE LUCKY winners of a four night stay at one of the finest hotels in the Lake District has been announced. Marie Lynch, from Oban, enters competitions in *The Oban Times* regularly and has won in the past. 'I seem to be quite lucky. I won tickets just over a year ago to a country music night in the Corran Halls,' said Marie. Her prize this time is four nights bed and breakfast, with champagne and afternoon tea on arrival at Abbey House Hotel in Cumbria. She said: 'I'll be taking my husband. I'm really looking forward to it. 'The afternoon tea sounds lovely.' In Cairnbaan, nine-year-old Molly Dykes cannot wait for the summer holidays after her mum Lorna also won a luxury hotel break at Abbey House Hotel. Molly, who has been looking at pictures of the hotel on the internet, said: 'It looks like a castle. I can't wait.' Equally excited about the trip, Lorna said: 'We will probably use it in the summer holidays. We tend to go camping for a long weekend in the summer but that's nothing like this. 'If we get weather like we have had here recently it will be amazing.' Lorna also said she will be paying more attention to competitions in her local paper, adding: 'I haven't entered a competition in the paper before but I think I'll be doing them a lot more often now.' Tokens The lucky winners had to collect four tokens from *The Oban Times*, Argyllshire Advertiser, Arran Banner or Campbeltown Courier to enter.

Four nights B&B, champagne and afternoon tea



Molly Dykes can't wait for her holiday to Cumbria with her mum Lorna. 06\_a18comp01

## Mull Lines

THIS year's moonwalk on Mull will take place on Saturday June 9. It follows on from the success of last year where more than £3,000 was raised. Between 70 and 80 people are expected to take part in the five mile walk this year to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Organiser Catherine McCrone said the event started after she lost a friend to cancer a few years ago: 'We always meant to go and do one of the moonwalks off the island but never got round to it. 'It meant overnight stays and people had kids to look after and couldn't take time off work so last year I thought we should have one here.' Describing 2011's event as 'last minute', Catherine said only 36 people took part – a number she hopes to more than double this year. 'We are hoping to raise more than £5,000 this year. Everyone gets dressed up for the day and it is good fun but we would like more men to take part,' she said. The shops in Tobermory will also be getting in the spirit with colourful window displays. Last year they were pink in honour of Breast Cancer charities while this year they will be pink and blue – Cancer Research UK colours. People wishing to take part should contact Catherine on 01688 302685 or pop into the Hydro shop in Tobermory.

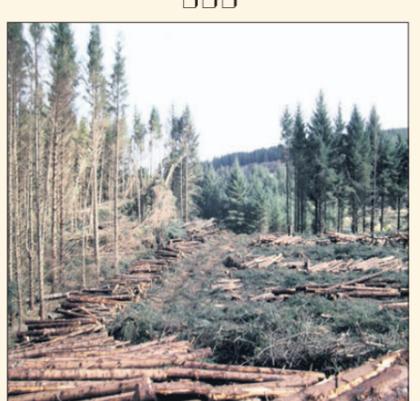


The Brownies gave visitors a guided tour of Iona's nunnery.

BROWNIE craftsmanship will be under the spotlight in displays around the isles of Mull and Iona soon. Work by Ross of Mull and Tobermory Brownies will feature in Iona, Bunnessan and Tobermory. The art work created by the girls, all aged seven to 10, is currently on show in St Ronan's Chapel on Iona where visitors have been enjoying it. The exhibition will then move to the Ross of Mull Historical Centre in Bunnessan in time for Scotland's Festival of Museums and then to Tobermory to allow as many people as possible to see the work. Leader of Tobermory Brownies, Sue Penny, said: 'It's been great to see how much the girls have taken from it and how it has fired their imagination.'

## OVER THE past three decades, a Mull-based whale watching company has enthralled and delighted visitors – as well as carrying out vital work.

Sea Life Surveys, the first company of its kind in the UK, is celebrating its 30th season this year – as a family run business. Based in Tobermory, it operates specialist wildlife tours in 300 square miles of wildlife-rich water around Mull, the Treshnish Isles, Coll, Muck and Eigg. The firm has come a long way since its inception in 1982 when naturalist Richard Fairbairns first encountered a then little-researched minke whale. The meeting with this mysterious animal gripped Richard's imagination and made way for the first tentative steps towards investigating the whales and dolphins of the Inner Hebrides. It became apparent there was a dearth of information regarding cetaceans in Scottish waters and so a small research organisation, the Mull Cetacean Project, was created. Data collection was carried out by Richard and a crew of student volunteers. Members of the public financing the project by paying for whale watching holidays and day trips. To mark the milestone, Richard's son James, who now runs the operation, is inviting around 50 local businesses on a complimentary two-hour trip on May 9 at 1pm.



Newly felled timber in Langamull.

HARVESTERS have been working non-stop on Mull to salvage trees that had been blown down with high winds. North West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWM-CWC) managed to save a large amount of saw logs that would otherwise have started to rot at West Ardu. The machines are now working in Langamull where scheduled felling is well underway. So far the area is producing more high value wood than was thought. Members of the public are advised to stay clear of the area where work is taking place. New access paths will be created once the area is safe. If you would like to help with this work contact the NWM-CWC office.

THE ANNUAL general meeting of Mull Community Council will take place on Tuesday May 8 in Craignure Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting which starts at 8pm.

Send your news and views from the Isle of Mull to Faith Orr at **The Oban Times** forr@obantimes.co.uk 01631 568000

**Alleged house robber arrested**

A 39-YEAR-old man and a 26-year-old woman have been arrested in connection with a robbery at a house in Combie Street, Oban.

A 58-year-old occupant of the house was allegedly threatened with a knife during the incident between 1.30am and 2.30am on Monday morning.

The assailants are accused of demanding money and stealing property after pushing the victim to the ground.

**Man caused alarm with gun**

A 39-YEAR-old man has been charged with causing alarm by presenting an air weapon at a 26-year-old woman in Oban's Combie Street in the early hours of Monday morning.

**Attempted theft at Dervaig**

POLICE on Mull are seeking information in relation to an attempted theft from a shipping container at Balmacara, Dervaig.

The incident occurred between 7pm last Monday and 8am the following morning.

It was clear that the container, which is used to store diesel and plant equipment, had been tampered with during that period.

Anyone with any information should contact PC Donald MacCuish at Tobermory Police Station.

**Cocaine charge in Tobermory**

A WOMAN, who was stopped and searched by police in Main Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull was allegedly found to be in possession of cocaine at 11.30pm on Saturday.

The 22 year old is subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

**New harbour master at Oban**

OBAN'S North Pier has a new Harbour Master.

Vicki McKenzie was appointed to the post in April and her presence will ensure the town can continue accepting visiting international cruise boats.

She has completed her training as a Port Facility Security Officer and will be responsible for the day-to-day running of three council operated ferry services.

**RIB Rendezvous set to hit Easdale this weekend**

EASDALE will be inundated with boats this weekend as the island's annual RIB Rendezvous is set to take place.

May 5 and 6 will see almost 40 RIBs head to Easdale for a weekend of 'cruising in company' followed by evening entertainment on the island itself.

Contact the Seafari ticket office for more information.

**College students raise cash for Yorkhill**

ARGYLL College students who organised an Easter Fun Day at Oban's Atlantis Leisure have raised £500 for Yorkhill Children's Foundation.

Traditional Easter games and egg hunts were combined on the day with other attractions such as beat the goalie, running competitions and Body Zorbing.

**No wardens - no parking tickets**

PARKING tickets have dropped by over 60 per cent on this time last year with less than 20 being issued in Oban since the new year.

Compared to 2011 when January to March saw 48 tickets handed out to offending motorists the first three months of this year has only seen 18 issued.

The reduction in tickets follows the withdrawal of police traffic wardens from the town last September.

A meeting of Oban Community Council heard that 'residents now know they can park anywhere except double yellow lines for as long as they want without having to pay'.

**Oban cinema job deadline**

THE DEADLINE for applications for the manager's post at Oban Phoenix Cinema has been extended to May 9.

**Tourism expo raises expectation as interest in Argyll grows**

Continued from Page 1

AIT represents, including Oban and Lorn Tourism Association, Islay and Jura Marketing, Heart of Argyll Tourism Association, Holiday Mull and Iona, Inveraray

Marketing Group and Food from Argyll. Since it started, AIT has operated under the motto 'Stronger Together', something Mr Story believes underpins the whole ethos behind Argyll and the Isles as

a marketing brand. He said: 'I think having the Duke of Argyll on the stand was a big plus. The Duchess of Argyll became one of our directors two weeks ago and she has been very hard working. She wasn't

able to make it to the Expo so the Duke came instead. Nobody could really compete with that and it showed we're working hard together.'

'We hope to have two good years before our success is

measured. It is always tough in a recession - especially in a double-dip recession, but there are more international buyers out there than ever before.'

VisitScotland chairman, Mike Cantley, said: 'Argyll and the

Isles is more co-ordinated than we've seen for some time and the different communities have come together really well.'

'The AIT stall was excellent and the enthusiasm of the team was a factor in its success.'



Sitting behind the wheel of a fire engine is a joy for Oban four-year-olds Cameron Crowe, left, and Carrick Hobson. 15\_11810r0b001

**Soroba families' support fundraising steps up a gear**

VOLUNTEERS battling to save children's services in the Soroba area have stepped up their fundraising efforts.

**Support**

The Soroba Young Families Project Group, part of the Soroba Young Families nursery, provides childcare support for families with young children that require extra help.

On Sunday the group made

£500 at a fun day in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls and plans are being finalised to host a Ladies Night on May 18 in the Palace Hotel.

The weekend families enjoyed a bouncy castle, face painting and browsing colourful jewellery and other trade stalls.

There was also a visit from the emergency services, as police officers and firefighters

impressed the youngsters with their vehicles.

Jayne Donn, chairwoman of Soroba Young Families Group's fundraising committee, explained the majority of the group's funding came from its own fundraising initiatives.

She said: 'Our group offers support to mothers with children under three who are referred to us from a doctor or social work.'

'Although we receive funding from Argyll and Bute Council, our income has been cut drastically, so events like the ones we are planning are essential to allow us to carry on.'

Jayne became involved with fundraising after benefiting from the work of the project group.

The mother of six received assistance after going into hospital for a back operation.

**ACHA aim for value for money**

**Housing provider answers critics**

AN ARGYLL social housing provider says it has to consider best value after the use of contractors from outside the county was criticised.

**Best value for tenants' money**

Readers contacted *The Oban Times* to express concern that Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) had brought Forster Roofing in from Brechin to work alongside Helensburgh company, Stewart and Shields, on projects in Oban.

Critics say local contractors are 'crying out' for work and should have received preference, but ACHA's chief executive, Alastair MacGregor points out his association has to get best value for its tenants' money through its tendering process, which all companies are invited to participate in.

Furthermore, a range of local businesses are already working on a number of contracts for the association, having previously submitted the best tender.

Elizabeth Smith, of Barcaldine, said: 'I would like to know

why they have hired a Glasgow firm to provide scaffolding instead of using a local firm, when the local firms are crying out for work.'

Another correspondent, said: 'ACHA has again employed

outside contractors to carry out works on Oban housing for Oban people. Why?'

'The local economy, particularly in the construction sector, is experiencing a considerable downturn and here were have ACHA transferring money out of the town.'

Mr MacGregor said: 'A range of Argyll firms currently work for the association on contracts they have won. Companies such as M&K MacLeod, Lochgilphead, Neil McGougan, Taynuilt, Oban Electrical Services and Kevan Brown, Tیره are all working on current contracts for the Association.'

'Argyll firms were on the tender list but, as I am sure you will appreciate, the Association has to get the best value it can for its tenants' money.'

**Taynuilt's interest in hotel reignited**

THE COLLAPSE of a tabled offer for Taynuilt Hotel has reignited interest in a community takeover of the premises.

While administrator RSM Tenon said it was discussing two alternative expressions of interest, it confirmed an offer that had been accepted had fallen through last week.

Now residents of the village have reformed a community initiative to discuss the potential takeover and are inviting residents to a meeting in the hotel at 7pm today (Thursday).

A statement from the community group said: 'Most people in Taynuilt were aware of the community initiative that was started in December 2011 to look at the purchase of the Taynuilt Hotel.'

'We put together a questionnaire that went round the whole community and gained overwhelming support for the initiative.'

'We propose to have another meeting at the Taynuilt Hotel to cover; whether to continue with a community buyout initiative; the company structure options, i.e. community interest company, co-operative or limited company; setting up a steering committee; raising the capital.'

'We hope to see as many people as possible.'

**'Blocked' post boxes to reopen**

CONCERNS over the blocking of postboxes in Oban have been troubling residents lately - with one man calling on councillors to step in.

Boxes at the top and bottom of Craignaig A Mhinister have been blocked off meaning elderly residents have to endure a long walk to the nearest box if they want to post a letter.

But a spokesman for Royal Mail told *The Oban Times*: 'There is a problem with the locks on these postboxes which makes them unable to use.'

'The fault has been reported to our maintenance people and the locks should be replaced in the next week or so.'

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# Yeoman Bontrup reborn from the ashes

## £37million refit brings giant cargo ship back to Argyll

LESS than two years after it fell victim to one of the most devastating fires the West Coast has seen, the *Yeoman Bontrup* has returned to Glensanda after a £37million refit.

The 250m cargo vessel, capable of hauling nearly 100,000 tonnes of crushed granite from the quarry, was officially welcomed back to its home off Oban's coast last week.

Owners Western Bridge Shipping Limited paid tribute to the staff of vessel operators Aggregate Industries for the swift and decisive action taken to avert disaster and help salvage one of the world's few self unloading cargo ships.

The return of the *Bontrup* marks a total £60million investment in what is the UK's only tug-less port of its kind, as Aggregate Industries re-emphasises the importance of Europe's largest granite quarry to its international operations.

For the staff at Glensanda Quarry, July 2 2010 will remain etched in their minds as the date the *Yeoman Bontrup* was nearly confined to the sea floor.

The fire started below the 250metre ship's deck on a lift belt, quickly spreading across the hull.

Thirty-one crew were aboard at the time and they were sent fleeing to shore to escape with their lives. Many of the crew were Ukrainian and disembarked without passports or even clothes.

The fire burned for five days in total, but reached temperatures of up to 2,000 degrees centigrade for three days. In the words of Simon Turk, Western Bridge Shipping's director of logistics: 'Anything that wasn't made of steel ceased to exist.'

Such was the intensity of the fire that a 47 tonne section of the poop deck was blown more than 100 feet into the air by one of the explosions, landing on an upper section of the main deck.

Miraculously, no-one was hurt as Aggregate Industry staff combined with local emergency services to put in place a plan of action that averted complete disaster.

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

Addressing staff at the ceremony last week, Geoff Parkin, chairman of Western Bridge Shipping, said it is testament to the quality of response that the local environment remained unharmed by the disaster and the ship could be salvaged.

He said: 'It is only because of your actions at the time that this big lady is back here again.'

Following the fire, the *Yeoman Bontrup* was towed to Ijmuiden, Holland, until agreements could be reached to rebuild the ship. Incredibly 57,000 tonnes of cargo survived the blaze and was delivered to the buyer in Amsterdam en route.

Then, on December 5, the boat began its 12-day journey to Gdansk, Poland, for the refit.

Jonathan Campbell, operations director of Aggregate Industries, said the decision to rebuild was very much 50/50.

'I was upset this happened at Glensanda,' he said. 'But I was pleased as well because the people on this site are so professional and their actions were exceptional. That's the reason so much of the boat survived.'

'In today's market, it would cost about £61million to commission a new ship.'

'It was the survival of the engine that helped make our decision. Had that gone, I don't think the *Bontrup* would have returned. What the refit means though is increased production here at Glensanda again. It also puts us back in control of our own vessels and therefore our supply to our customers.'

During the refit, engineers found granite had fused with the hull to form a whole new material that took days to hand-chisel off.

Furthermore, such was the damage to the hull that sections of the main deck had to be removed in a three dimensional chessboard arrangement,



It looked to be the end for the *Yeoman Bontrup* after the vessel went ablaze on July 2, 2010, with plumes of thick, black smoke rising into the air for days. t18bontrupfire1



Capable of transporting 97,000 tonnes, the *Bontrup* is one of the largest self-unloading ships in the world, matched only by sister ship, *Yeoman Bridge*. t5\_118yeoman2

something Simon Turk described as 'exceptionally difficult'.

However, the size of the ship meant the rebuild could start at one end while deconstruction continued at the other.

Progress was rapid and on March 25, the *Bontrup* had been completely rebuilt, returning to Glensanda in April for its first cargo - ironically to Amsterdam.

Getting back behind the helm was Captain John Jackson. He had retired prior to the boat's return but found the draw of the sea difficult to resist. It was fitting then that it was he who

took the Japanese-built vessel back out to sea following its refit. Having completed the first run to Amsterdam and preparing for the second, the 66-year-old former Oban High School pupil said: 'It's great to see the *Yeoman Bontrup* back. I took her out a week ago and I didn't think I'd be able to do that again because the damage was so major.'

'It was such a close decision on whether she got repaired or not. The *Bontrup* and its sister ship, the *Yeoman Bridge*, are the biggest self unloaders in the world and it's quite exciting to bring this ship back.'

Video of this available online  
**OBANTIMES.CO.UK**



Just 609 days later the vessel returned to its home port at Glensanda. t5\_118yeoman1



Operations director Jonathan Campbell, right, welcomes the crew back onboard the *Yeoman Bontrup* during last week's celebrations. t5\_118yeoman3



The *Yeoman Bontrup* is powered by a giant, two stroke, six cylinder engine, capable of generating 20,940bhp. t5\_118yeoman6

The return of the *Bontrup* coincides with Aggregate Industries' Project Highlander development.

The £24million project will see the quarry's long-used crusher moved, not only to help access up to 15 years' worth of deposits, but to improve the site's fuel efficiency - carting granite uphill to the crusher, built in 1969, currently uses too much diesel. Long-term, the project paves the way for a more sustainable future for Glensanda, which can only be reached by sea. A series of new wildlife corridors are being created, with the company

having recently planted 18,000 indigenous species of trees.

Not only will this help the flourishing local flora and fauna continue their spread, but in the future bio-mass energy plants will help power operations at the quarry. John Campbell said: 'Yes, the construction sector is extremely difficult, especially in the UK. Some projects may be on hold, but elsewhere countries continue to invest. It is because we believe in this site and its future that we are committed to Glensanda and why there is a combined £60million investment here.'

### Fact file

The *Yeoman Bontrup* was built as the *Western Bridge* by Tsuneishi and Hashihama Shipbuilding, Japan, and launched in 1991.

Prior to July 2010, the ship transported iron ore and coal from the Americas, Africa and Europe for the European steel industry.

Western Bridge Shipping Limited (WBSL), a joint venture between Foster Yeoman Ltd and Beheersmaatschappij Fr Bontrup BV, bought the vessel in September 2002, renaming her and putting her into shuttle service between the Glensanda and Bremanger super-quarries.

In the seven years and nine months until the fire, the vessel completed 312 voyages for WBSL, transporting more than 22.5million tonnes of cargo more than 490,000 miles.

In total, one million man hours were spent rebuilding the ship.

Around 2,200 metric tonnes of steel was replaced in the refit and nearly 32 miles of electrical cable was used. Approximately £185,000 was spent on rope alone.

One of Europe's largest cranes was used to rebuild the ship, standing at 120metres - carrying out 60,000 lifts.

The *Yeoman Bridge* is a self-unloader, so-called because the cargo drops into conveyors to be dropped off via an adjustable chute.

The discharge system is made up of seven conveyors, capable of unloading 6,000 tonnes per hour.

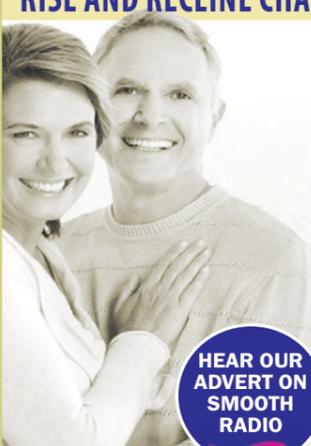
Up to 2,200 homes could be powered by the *Bontrup's* new auxiliary engines.

One voyage of the *Yeoman Bontrup* fully loaded takes 3,000 lorries off the road

Some 126million tonnes of granite has been shipped from Glensanda since 1985.

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## Ceilidh raises cash for Water Aid

A CEILIDH organised by Fort William RC Primary School pupils recently raised nearly £400 for the charity Water Aid.

The P6/7 class held fundraising events such as a quiz, a beat-the-goalie competition and face-painting allowing the school to hold the ceilidh in the school hall.

Parents were amongst those who provided traditional music and the youngsters showed them dances they

had learned before parents and friends joined in the fun.

Several of the children who played an active part told *The Oban Times* the evening was 'exciting' and 'fun' and many said 'the music was brilliant'.

The pupils are pictured, right, showing off their dance moves and the cheque for £398.

Water Aid provides clean water and sanitation for people in poverty in Africa and Asia.



## DIOPLOMA ANNS NA MEADHANAN GÀIDHLIG

Chaidh an cùrsa seo a dhealbhadh airson luchd-trèanaidh ullachadh airson saoghal craolaidh an latha an-diugh. Tha oileanaich air an trèanadh ann an suidheachadh Gàidhlig agus ann an dòighean a' ghnìomhachais, a' toirt dhaibh an cothrom teisteanas aig àrd-ìre a chosnadh agus aig an aon àm eòlas fhaighinn air dreuchdan eadar-dhealaichte anns na meadhanan.

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## Young Ballachulish chef in award final

A FORMER Kinlochleven High School pupil is off to Wembley Stadium - after reaching the final three in the apprentice chef category at the Craft Guild of Chef Awards.

Lyndsay Michie, from Ballachulish, has been working at Michel Roux Jnr's Le Gavroche restaurant in London for the past two years after impressing the Michelin-starred TV chef with her skills.

Lyndsey, 19, said: 'I am delighted to reach the final three. The awards are a fantastic way to pay tribute to chefs from across the industry and I can't wait for Wembley!'

Lyndsay will have to wait until the special awards ceremony on Wednesday June 13 at the famous stadium to find out if she has won the coveted prize.

The Craft Guild of Chefs is the largest UK chefs association with 1,500 members



Ballachulish girl Lyndsay Michie has been shortlisted for top chef award.



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## 2,012 balloons herald 20 years of Oban High School's USA link

A PUPIL from Oban High School will release 2,012 balloons from Oban's North Pier to mark the school's 20th anniversary with Scotland High School in Laurinburg, North Carolina, USA. The annual school exchange

programme has been extended to 20 days in each country, prompting a major fundraising effort on both sides of the pond. The main fundraising event in Oban, ahead of the Americans' visit this June, will be a balloon race on May 12. Balloons will

be sold at £1 each and a ticket attached to each one. Whoever has the farthest travelled balloon returned to the school will win the main prize. As an incentive to sell all 2,012 tickets, the pupils who sell the most will have the honour of

releasing the balloons from a curtainsider lorry, donated for the day by Oban Express. Janice O'Docherty, who is helping to organise the fundraiser, explained: 'Hosting the Laurinburg students and staff incurs a cost of around £4,000,

which covers their transport on trips from Oban to places like Glasgow or Edinburgh.' Meanwhile, plans are progressing to host a 20th anniversary ceilidh in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on June 23. Although the ceilidh

will serve as a celebration of the past 20 years of the exchange, it will be open to anyone who wishes to attend. Argyll and Bute Council's Third Sector Grants fund has awarded organisers £720 towards the cost of the ceilidh.

## Glasgow next stop on Oban Airport flight plan

FLIGHTS between Oban Airport and Glasgow could become a reality following discussions between airport operators Hebridean Airways and the local authority.

In the week Argyll and Bute Council, which owns the airport, began advertising the tender for the marketing of Oban Airport, it revealed the Glasgow connection was a possibility. Since the awarding of the contract for lifeline air services to Coll, Colonsay and Tiree to Hebridean Airways last year, the council said there had been an increase in passenger numbers.

A council spokeswoman added: 'A marketing strategy would look at local needs, tourism and business needs and would be prepared together with all stakeholders in Oban Airport. We are delighted Hebridean Airways include Islay in its routes and already offer improved links from Oban. This may in the future include services to Glasgow and other destinations.'

### Oban auditions for *The Producers*

AUDITIONS begin soon for Oban's Spotlight Musical Theatre Group's next production.

The group will perform the Mel Brooks musical *The Producers*, recently made famous by Hollywood stars Uma Thurman and Will Ferrell. Auditions will take place in the next few weeks, before rehearsals start for show dates in February 2013.



Salmon farming is an industry we should be helping rather than hindering says top chef Nairn. 16.117nairn01

## Nick Nairn backs Scottish fish farming during visit to Oban

CELEBRITY chef Nick Nairn stopped in Oban recently while on a trip to the west coast to visit fish farms.

Nick has been involved with Scottish salmon farming for a number of years but decided the time was right to update himself

on progress in the industry. He said: 'This industry is the single most valuable food commodity in Scotland. It is worth over £400 million per year and provides vast employment. It is a fantastic product. It is safe, it is sustainable and it is

Scottish.' But he warned: 'The recent government consultation about the industry has produced proposals that are ill informed and focus on problems that have been eradicated. It is an industry we should be helping rather than hindering.'

## Housing need fuels 'local' frustration

### 'Outsiders' not gaining favour say associations

WITH a housing waiting list in Argyll sitting at more than 4,000 applications, frustrations are growing among those who would consider themselves 'local'.

Many perceive that people coming into the area in search of accommodation are competing for, if not favoured for, these precious properties.

Not so, says the county's two largest housing associations.

The chief executives of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) said the facts don't back up such a perception. However, ACHA's Alastair MacGregor admitted the more relevant issue was how legislation, introduced in 2003, defined 'homelessness'.

He said: 'This legislation, laudable and supported unanimously by the political parties, has thrown up some key challenges.'

'Firstly, homelessness now presents as a priority for rehousing.'

'The homeless categories are not, as commonly assumed, to cover those who just don't have a roof over their head but someone who already has a house but could be deemed as legally homeless because their medical condition doesn't allow them to live comfortably in their home.'

'This has created a perception of unfairness and has resulted in more people having to present themselves as homeless to try and qualify for a house because

the normal waiting list or transfer list gives less opportunity.'

Mr MacGregor said landlords should have greater discretion within their allocation policies to meet local needs.

He added: 'The association feels there has to be something wrong with the system which makes it easier for you to have a chance of housing in Mull if you present yourself as homeless from Hemel Hempstead and get 200 points - and you could be living with your parents in Salen and only get 65 points.'

Lesley MacInnes of WHHA said: 'Figures for the housing waiting list show that more than 80 per cent of people consider themselves to be Scottish.'

'The vast majority of our lets now and in the past are to people who are living and working in Oban.'

'From our information, six out of 111 lets in 2010/11 went to people who did not describe themselves as Scottish; of these only two would be described as eastern European.'

'In addition two of the six were already housed by either ourselves or ACHA. In 2011/12 we have had 53 lets within our properties and only two went to people who described themselves as not Scottish.'

'In all these cases the people have been living and working in Oban for a number of years, therefore it is not the case that people are just arriving and being housed.'

## Lorn Lines



SOLICITORS from MacPhee and Partners saddled up as the company announced its Will Month fundraiser for Oban and Lorn Riding For Disabled (RDA).

Throughout the month of May, anyone who wants to make or update a will be invited to make a donation of their choosing towards the RDA instead of paying the firm.

Kelie Cooper, wills and executor paralegal at MacPhee in Oban and Fort William, said: 'A lot of people say they want to make a will but don't want to pay a solicitor's fee for it. So here, they can make one up and give a donation towards a valued and important local charity.'

To find out more, contact Kelie Cooper in Oban at 01631 562308 or email keliecooper@macphee.co.uk or Mairi Macdonald in Fort William on 01397 708113.



ARGYLL Christian Aid will hold a book sale in St John's Church, George Street, in support of Christian Aid Week.

The three-day sale from May 17 to May 19 will include music, talks, tea and coffee and as many books as organisers can gather for sale.

Argyll Christian Aid said it hoped to get all local congregations involved and appealed for donated books and volunteers to staff the stalls.

Anyone who can help can contact the Rev Dugald Cameron on 01631 562405.



MEMBERS and leaders of Oban Youth Cafe joined the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust on a three-day trip on board the trust's research vessel *Silurian*.

The trip, which was part of a project funded by Awards for All Scotland, was used to encourage the young passengers from Oban Youth Cafe to reconnect with their natural heritage.

*Silurian* sailed from Tobermory to the Small Isles, Lunga and Staffa.

Later this year, an Awards for All Scotland funded project will also deliver two week-long education trips for schools in remote coastal communities in the Hebrides. On board *Silurian* are, from left, Kyle McNeill, Brandon Ferris, youth leader Kenny McCorquodale and Joshua Straub. Photograph by G Cave/HWDI.



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## Development at Glenshellach Oban, Argyll £105,000 each for 80% share

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Adjacent smaller cottages are also available to rent through Bield Housing and Care.



The properties have been specially designed by Bield Housing and Care (www.bield.co.uk), a non-profit organisation with charitable status who devise innovative housing methods and care services aimed for the recently-retired and older market, in order to enable people to retain as much independence as possible. Properties available on a shared ownership basis £105,000 represents an 80% share of the property.

**West Highlanders head to polls for council elections**

PEOPLE across the west Highlands are today casting their vote to decide who will represent their areas in the Highland Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar for the next five years.

Prospective councillors have been campaigning for a number of weeks to try and persuade local people to vote for them at the ballot box. The counting of Highland Council votes will take place at Inverness Leisure Centre tomorrow (Friday). Results from the 22 wards, including Eilean a Cheo (Ward 11), Caol and Mallaig (Ward 12) and Fort William and Ardnamurchan (Ward 22), are expected to be announced by 3pm. The returning officer Alistair Dodds will announce the winning candidates from the stage, and the results will also be posted on the council website and Twitter page, as well as *The Oban Times* website.

Votes of Western Isles residents will be counted using an electronic counting device at Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais, Stornoway where it is hoped the new councillors in each of the nine wards will be announced by 2pm.

Highland Council currently has 25 Independent Group councillors, 22 Liberal Democrats, 17 SNP, seven Labour, five Independent Members' Group and four from the Independent Alliance Group. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has 25 Independent councillors, four from SNP and 2 from Labour.

**Motorcyclist killed**

A MOTORCYCLIST was killed in a crash with a van on the A86 near Roy Bridge on Tuesday evening.

The man, a 42-year-old from the Yorkshire area, was taken to Belford Hospital where he died from his injuries.

Police closed the road at around 6.30pm to allow investigations to take place. The road was not re-opened until Wednesday afternoon.

Police appealed for anyone with any information about the incident to contact them on 01463 715555.

**NEWSDESK**  
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Sail West chairman Garry Martin was assisted by local schoolchildren Shannon Cameron and Cian MacVarish to cut the ribbon to officially open the new facility.

**Celebrations mark opening of new Mallaig pontoons**

Large crowds gather to watch ribbon-cutting ceremony

LARGE crowds gathered at Mallaig Harbour on Friday to celebrate the official opening of the port's new £950,000 yacht pontoons.

By RICHARD HADDOCK  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

'Anything that brings more tourists in has got to be a good thing.'

The facility, which was completed last September, comprises of berthing for up to 48 yachts with water and electricity services available.

The Oban Times he hoped the pontoon would be good for the local area.

Officials from Donegal County Council, whose Sail West project has helped fund the new marina, attended the celebrations along with representatives of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Highland Council.

He said: 'We are certainly hoping both the harbour and the village will benefit from having the facility here. The day went really well. We wanted to get off with a good start and hopefully we can get plenty of yachts in over the summer.'

Sail West is an EU-funded initiative which aims to increase marine tourism throughout the west of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

'We're officially in business now and we're looking forward to our first full season in the yachting business.'

**Boost**  
Local resident and community council member Jacqueline MacDonald welcomed the new facility and hoped it would provide the village with a boost.

Local youngsters Shannon Cameron and Cian MacVarish won a competition to design a logo for the marina and took part in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

She said: 'Hopefully it will be a good thing for the village and bring people in. It looks really nice and it's all lit up in the evenings, which is lovely.'

Mallaig Harbour port manager Robert MacMillan, who spoke during the celebrations, told

**Hundreds take to Fort's streets for annual Lochaber Together 5k**

HUNDREDS of local people took to the streets of Fort William on Saturday to walk, jog or run a five-kilometre course to raise money for Cancer Research UK.



Winning trio, from left, John Treasurer, second place, race winner Craig MacLean and his brother Bruce, who finished third.

Early estimates suggest as much as £7,000 was raised at the second annual Lochaber Together 5k run, which saw more than 300 racers start from the BA Club, run up to Inverlochy and complete a loop back to the BA.

First to cross the finish line was local youngster Craig MacLean, repeating his win from last year. His superb time of 17minutes five seconds was one minute and 37 seconds faster than his

previous winning time. Second to complete the course was John Treasurer followed by Bruce MacLean, Craig's younger brother. Lochaber Together chairman

Adam Ramsey said: 'We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our sponsors who helped to make this event a success, to everyone that worked hard to make the event happen and to everyone that came along to take part or contribute.'

'Everybody had a fantastic day and we are thrilled with the amount we have raised so far. Cancer Research UK are dedicated to beating cancer and we will continue to help them achieve this.'

Every competitor completing the course was rewarded with a Cancer Research UK medal and goody bag. Youngsters were kept amused by the bouncy castle and new bouncy slide provided by Fort William Bouncy Castle Hire.

Face painting, circus skills, balloon modelling and fascinating DNA experiments with Cancer Research UK scientists also featured on the day.

**Skye carers nominated for award**

A SKYE-based charity has been nominated for a national charity award in the community action category.

Scottish Charity Awards. The charity, set up in 2000, provides support to combat isolation, access skill development and meet young carers' needs. Local MSP Dave Thompson nominated the Portree-based charity for the award. He said: 'It is a charity which makes a significant difference in Skye, Lochaber and

Badenoch. 'Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers has truly made a difference for youngsters who have the heavy responsibility of caring for a relative. The one to one and group support, the respite outings and advocacy support are crucial in alleviating some of the hardship of being a carer.'

**25 Years Ago**

**Those Were The Days**  
*The Oban Times*

Thursday, May 7, 1987



Best of friends: Bill and Ben with Mrs MacKay's 11-year-old daughter Nicola.

**Ben uses cat as bone of contention**

THERE is a limit to the patience of any self-respecting dog and Ben the Labrador is no exception.

When Ben gets tired of being teased by the family cat Bill, he has a novel way of establishing who's boss - Ben simply digs a big hole in the garden, lifts the

cat by the back of the neck and buries him.

that the cat seems to enjoy the game and quite happily submits to being buried.

**Disappears**

Luckily Ben's owner, Mary MacKay, of Jenkins Park, Fort Augustus, has always been on hand before the cat finally disappears.

'If the cat vanishes some day I'll just have to hope that Ben will lead me to the grave before it is too late.'

She said: 'The odd thing is

'I've heard of dogs burying bones - but a cat?'

**Hot chocolate debate ends**

THE SHED on Islay which caused a storm in a paint pot has now got the official seal of approval - and it will be staying its present colour.

Bridgend Sawmills' shed found itself in the middle of a row after Argyll and Bute District Council objected to the colour it was painted.

The shed was light brown with blue flashings but the council thought it should be chocolate brown - they had stipulated this colour when planning permission was granted.

Enforcement action was taken against the business, run by

Mike Harrison, but he appealed and elected to have his case heard by a public enquiry.

This was held last month and the Secretary of State has now found in Mr Harrison's favour.

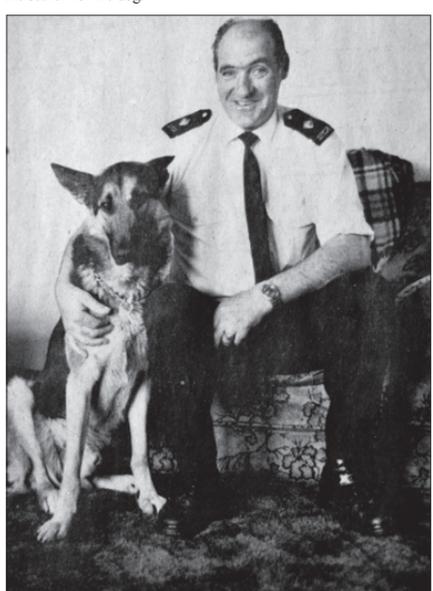
The findings said: 'There is no dispute that the alleged breach of planning control has taken place and the office has not been painted dark brown but I consider the issue to be whether the conditions requiring that the building be painted dark brown are necessary.'

'I do not find that the building is specially prominent or that it causes a major impact.'

**Connel Alsatian captured**

AFTER a week of evading capture, a huge Alsatian dog which was running free in the Connel area has finally been caught.

The dog, very thin and with a badly injured leg, is now recovering at the home of Bert Douglas, the local officer for the Glasgow and West of Scotland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Local people, the police force and Mr Douglas were all involved in the search for the dog.



Friends already: Bert Douglas with the Alsatian dog.



The wedding party - pupils with BBC presenter Bill Torrance, the band and teachers.

**Dunbeg 'wedding' on the BBC**

THE BRIDE and groom showed no trace of wedding nerves despite their youth and the fact the happy occasion was

being recorded by the BBC. But maybe it was because it was play acting. Dunbeg's school pupils were helping the

BBC out in a special series of Scottish dancing - their project had been to look at music and dancing at weddings.

**Smokers quit to boost funds**

FOUR EX-SMOKERS who all work in Strathclyde Regional Council's roads department in Lochgilphead have managed to kick the habit - and raised £211 for Cancer Research in the process.

McConnel, John McFadden and Dave Tomlinson all pledged to give up smoking for 30 days from No Smoking Day.

Their campaign started on National No Smoking Day in March and all four, who were heavy smokers, can still say they have not succumbed to temptation since.

They got their colleagues in the council offices to sponsor them for what was a team effort - if one of them gave in, the whole effort was lost.

But not only did the four manage the 30 days, they are still off the cigarettes. They now hope their success will inspire other smokers to kick the habit.



A western style 'Wanted' poster helped the four to publicise their campaign. Left to right: Alan, George, John and Dave.

**33 new jobs for Corpach**

THOMAS Smith & Sons (Kirkoswald) Limited has announced it is to open a new pallet wood and fencing mill creating 33 new jobs at the Kilmallie sawmill, based at Corpach, Fort William.

Managing Director Thomas Smith said on Tuesday: 'We have done our homework. We have investigated the availability of raw materials and we have decided to build a pallet wood and fencing mill.'

The new mill will be housed in the Old Log Line Building - the original mill building - and work to remove old equipment and re-equip the building for its new use will be being immediately, said Mr Smith.

He added: 'It is hoped to have it operational by the end of the year.'

The new venture will create 15 jobs in the mill, and one in the office, two in transport and another 15 jobs on the forest harvesting side.



**Lochalsh twins build nesting boxes**

LOCHALSH twins Christina, left, and Laura Robin with their own nesting boxes thanks to Plockton High School and the Forestry Commission.

The school make bird and bat boxes with commission supplied wood and the nesting boxes are then placed in woodlands throughout the area.

Ron Johnstone, Forest District Manager based at Balmacara, said the nesting box programme is an example of the commission's commitment to conservation and a celebration of the European year of the environment, which began in March. The five-year-old twins who live at Dornie, where their parents have the Robin's Nest Restaurant, now have their own nesting boxes for their garden.

# Isle of Mull lifeboat crew to the rescue three times in 24-hour period

TOBERMORY'S lifeboat launched three times in a dramatic 24 hours for the volunteer crew last week. They responded to the first call on Thursday April 26 after a 58-tonne sail training vessel carrying 11 youngsters and five crew got caught up in creel ropes in heavy seas off the Isle of Lona.

But the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) were not the only ones on hand to assist. The Royal Netherlands Navy's newly commissioned warship *Friesland* was already helping the stricken vessel when the lifeboat arrived. After an arduous 100 mile, 10 hour trip at sea the crew

successfully got the youngsters to safety at Kerrera. However, soon after returning home Tobermory's volunteer crew was called to launch again following a report of an empty rigid inflatable boat (RIB) adrift in the Sound of Mull. The RIB belonged to a local scallop diver who had been

diving when the RIB had been spotted apparently empty and adrift. **Amis** Tobermory RNLI Deputy Second Coxswain Andrew McHaffie said: 'This was a false alarm with good intent and I would always urge the public not to hesitate to call the Coastguard

if they think they see something amiss at sea. We would much rather be called out to a false alarm than be called out too late.' The third shout for the team came on Friday April 27. Just hours after returning from the previous incident they were rushing off to launch the

all-weather lifeboat *Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey* yet again. A research vessel had lost engine power and was drifting in the Sound of Mull five miles south of Tobermory. As the lifeboat rushed to the scene, the crew of the research vessel identified a fuel blockage and restarted the engines. The

lifeboat crew stood by as the vessel got under way. Tobermory RNLI Deputy Second Coxswain Jane Griffiths said: 'This was our third shout in 24 hours. 'As it turned out, our help wasn't needed but our rapid response shows that our volunteers are prepared to drop everything when their pagers go off.'

## Disabled parking in line for improvement

DISABLED parking at Oban's Corran Halls could be improved after Argyll and Bute Council revealed plans to repaint the bays.

The local authority announced the car parks opposite the venue would be re-marked this June after a reader complained the existing provision was inadequate - with a bike shelter having been built across half of one of the bays.

One local who had to use the bay said: 'Argyll and Bute's disabled parking bay at the Corran Halls has a bike shelter in it. We had to park over the other white line so that my wheelchair could get past.'

Current UK statutory government ratios for disabled parking requires one bay be made available per 20 spaces.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'The cycle parking was installed in 2009 after consultation with planning, roads and transport policy.'

'The cycle parking was funded by HTRANS/Argyll and Bute Council as one of the recommendations of the Active Travel Audit that was carried out for Oban.'

'The Corran Halls is not on a main road so are able to offer 'drop-off and turning' which aids accessibility when the disabled slots are full and this is not affected by the cycle shelter.'

'During opening hours there are trained staff available to assist users of all abilities and users can contact the Corran Halls in advance should they have any special requirements.'

'The short stay car parking bays, near gardens at the former public toilets, are also available for all users.'

'Should a further accessible parking bay be needed, simple road-marking would re-instate the bay.'

'The Corran Halls car park is scheduled to be re-lined June.'

# CalMac appoint new managing director ahead of re-tendering

'An iconic brand with a long and proud history'

MARTIN Dorchester will take over as Caledonian MacBrayne's (CalMac) new managing director next week, replacing interim MD Gary Robertson.

Coming from a strong retail and haulage background, Mr Dorchester joined the company on Monday but will officially take the reins on May 11.

One of his first tasks will be to oversee the company's bid to re-tender for ferry services across the Clyde and Hebrides, with the process due to start next year.

David MacBrayne chief executive Archie Robertson said: 'We're delighted to have secured the services of a senior manager with a proven track record in a number of sectors relevant in a ferry transport and logistics business such as ours.'

'We were looking for an individual with a proven track record in delivering sustainable growth through commercial and market development strategies and in Martin we have found that individual.'

'CalMac operates 29 vessels on 25 routes and each year we carry more than 4.5 million passengers, more than one million cars and around 100,000 commercial vehicles and coaches. It is a complex business



Martin Dorchester, who takes up his position as CalMac's new MD next week.

Gary Robertson who has acted as interim managing director on a short-term contract for the past six months.'

Mr Dorchester brings significant senior management experience from previous roles with Dixon's Store Group, Argos PLC, the London Borough of Hackney, Maersk/Norfolkline, B&Q and J Sainsbury.

He was until recently chief operating officer with Spicerhaart Group, the UK's largest independent property services company.

Mr Dorchester, a married man with two grown-up children and a daughter at secondary school, lives in Alyth, Perthshire, said: 'CalMac is an iconic brand with a long and proud history. I'm hugely looking forward to leading the business at such an important time in its development.'

'Much has been achieved in the past 150-plus years and I want to ensure that we continue to build on that. The focus will be on the continuing development of superb levels of customer satisfaction and operational delivery and to fine-tuning the process of making the company ready for the contract re-tender initiative next year.'



Paddy Crerar, Provost William Petrie and Ian Cleaver officially open the new visitor information centre alongside staff members, from left, Riona MacCormick, Lauranne Gibson, Martin McCara, David Nicolson, Annette Wood and Amy Robertson. 15\_1170urist01

# Oban's new visitor centre officially opens its doors

THE SUN shone on the new visitor information centre in Oban at its official opening last week.

Having opened its doors on April 2, the centre has seen a five per cent increase in visitors on this time last year.

The new office, between the Columba Hotel and the White Building on the North Pier, was officially opened by councillor William Petrie, out-going Argyll and Bute Council Provost; Ian Cleaver, chairman of the visitor

information centre committee of Argyll and the Isles; and Paddy Crerar, a board member on Visit Scotland.

Piper Harry Stage played to welcome members of staff and representatives of VisitScotland and Argyll and the Isles Tourism Partnership.

Damage to VisitScotland's Argyll Square centre led to its closure on May 13 last year, with the visitor information centre subsequently moving to Oban's Caledonian MacBrayne

(CalMac) ferry terminal in the interim. The new premises provide a central location and has undergone significant investment but is a much smaller office than in Argyll Square.

Mr Cleaver said: 'I think these premises fit the bill.'

'It's a nice location on the pier in Oban and I think most people will gravitate to this point, which has a beautiful outlook onto the town.'

'Whilst not all staff can be accommodated here, they may

have to be based at another office but with modern communications that is no hardship.'

At the opening Provost Petrie was wearing his Oban chain of office, presented to the council by former owner and editor of *The Oban Times* Mrs Flora Macaulay in 1953.

He said: 'From the council's point of view this is a tremendous step forward for Oban and we would like to thank CalMac who saw us through a difficult period.'

# Fancy dress to add colour to town carnival day

CARNIVAL spirit will be conjured throughout Oban for next month's Charities Day and Street Fair - which promises to be the best yet.

Oban and Lorn Lions Club is this year asking street fair stallholders and carnival participants to get into fancy dress to bring a touch of glitz to the annual event.

Held at Station Square on June 9, a parade is planned through the town from the town's Corran Halls to Station Square to bring even more glamour to proceedings.

One of the organisers, Alex Milligan, says it is all in the name of good fun. He said: 'This year the organisers would like to give the parade a bit more of a

carnival atmosphere with a bit of razzmatazz. It's a fun day when community and voluntary groups in the area can get dressed up, hopefully in fancy dress, set up fundraising stalls, sell their wares and raise awareness of what they do - having fun at the same time. We're hoping participants will dress up and be way out, even if only for a few hours.'

Any group wishing to participate in the parade, whether walking, dancing, playing trombones or riding on a float, should contact Alex at Webster of Oban, 19 Stafford Street.

Those organisations looking to take a stall should contact John Lloyd on 01631 562762 or email oban3108@aol.com.



MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust shop volunteer Mary Field presents cheques to Ellie MacNiven, left, of Oban High School Pipe Band, and Jenny Livingstone of Oban Pipe Band. 15\_118pipeband01

# Pipe bands benefit from charitable trust donations

Pipers and sea cadets gain funds from MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust

TWO Oban pipe bands have benefited to the tune of £1,000 each after a generous donation from the MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust.

Oban Pipe Band and Oban High School Pipe Band will incur major travel costs this coming competition season and Alistair Dewar, vice chairman of the school band and fundraising convener of Oban Pipe Band, described the grants as 'tremendous'.

He added: 'I, on behalf of both bands, wish to thank most sincerely MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust for the very

generous donation of £1,000 to each band.'

'It is a tremendous sum of money and always welcomed, as it is a very expensive business trying to finance both pipe bands.'

**Expense** 'In particular at this time of year as the bands prepare for the competition season, considerable expense is incurred in travel to the various locations throughout Scotland and indeed again this year to Northern Ireland.'

MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust has also made a donation of £1,000 to Oban Sea Cadets.

Disabled visitors to Oban's Corran Halls have to negotiate half a bay near the entrance after Argyll and Bute Council built a cycle-shelter in it three years ago. Parking bays will be re-lined next month. 15\_118corranparking1



# Top garden nominations sought by ACHA

GREEN-fingered tenants of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) are being invited to enter its annual gardening competition.

The Garden in Bloom competition invites tenants to nominate a friend or neighbour to win a trophy and cash prize for their beautiful gardens.

Entries must be received by June 29.



Lindsay, Rosanne and Andrea receive the cheque from Alan Cathro. 16\_118bids01

# Chamber and BIDS4Oban join forces

BID4Oban has received a cash boost from its new partner in the town - the Chamber of Commerce.

The two organisations have formed an alliance aiming to improve Oban for businesses and residents.

Alan Cathro, who donated £1,500 to the BID group on behalf of the chamber, said he was delighted to

contribute to the worthwhile project. 'I have seen a lot of projects come and go in this town but BIDs is a really worthwhile scheme and I wish it every success,' said The Iona Shop owner.

Lindsay MacDonald, owner of Corran House and Markie Dan's, Rosanne Ogden, senior solicitor in MacPhee and Partners, and Andrea

Simpson, partner in Ark Hairdressing, accepted the cheque on behalf of the BID4Oban steering group. Rosanne said: 'We see the BID working hand in hand with the Chamber to deliver opportunities for networking, co-operation and business development across the town and a unified voice for business concerns.'

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We are a family butchers run by Iain and son Graeme. We took the shop over from Thomas Wynne at the end of September 2010. We are situated just of the main shopping centre in Oban at 4 Combie street, a short walk from the top of Tesco car park, turning right at Bossards cafe. We deliver to businesses in and around the town we also deliver nation wide on request. We do

a range of beef, pork and lamb cuts and make our own steak pies, mince rounds and scotch pies in the shop as well as our own beef and pork and apple burgers. We have a selection of Stir Fry's that we make in the shop and Chinese pork ribs and pork steaks. You can also find us at the Lorn Market out at Benderloch every second Thursday from now until December. We are very

competitively priced and customers are guaranteed a warm and friendly welcome. We will always do our best to accommodate any special requests the customer may have. Have a look at our face book page at Iain Darling Butchers trading as I Wynne & Son. We would also like to thank all the customers that have supported us in the last 18 months since we took over the shop.

**The Iona Shop**

We are famous for our Celtic Jewellery and Gifts but we also do trophies and engraving on site, as well as other Jewellery services including repairs.

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 Tel. 01631 562071 ~ Email. info@iona.co.uk ~ Website. www.iona.co.uk



Sheila and Rick Fleet visit The Iona Shop

The Iona Shop is a 3rd generation family business, started in 1947 by George Cathro who opened a shop in Glasgow to specialise in Scottish Jewellery and Gifts, just as the shop in Oban does today. In 1966, his son Dennis Cathro opened the Shop in Oban, a place much loved by his father and so The Iona Shop has been on the same site in Oban since then...

A question often asked is why 'The Iona Shop', the inspiration for the name came from none other than the late Dr George MacLeod, founder of the Iona Community. Many of the designs drew inspiration from the Book of Kells, a highly decorated manuscript illuminated by the monks on Iona, so The Iona Shop was his immediate suggestion. Dr MacLeod and my grandfather were good friends, he also formally opened the renovated Iona Shop in Glasgow in 1957. Alan Cathro, the current proprietor added... 'there is a lot of history that goes with our shop, I think it is very

important that we continue to specialise in what we do, supporting the smallest of craftsmen that produce the finest jewellery, it is something I continue to love, the exquisite workmanship that goes into some pieces is simply wonderful. Beyond that we offer a major trophy and engraving business and have the latest computer engraver in the shop, along with our repair service we offer both local and visiting customers, the full selection of jewellery services.

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Quality ingredients and consistently excellent food are the name of the game at the Oban Fish & Chip Shop on George Street. Husband and wife team George and Lilian Macdonald took over the business in 2005, and together with their son Lewis and Lilian's brother Sammy have a loyal following of fish and chip lovers, with the

occasional celebrity guest such as Rick Stein and Tam Cowan, both of whom were lavish in their praise about the produce on offer. In addition to offering a great fish supper, you can also find a huge variety of local fish and shellfish, delicious steak pies, haggis and black and white puddings, all from local stockists and proudly

sold by the MacDonalds - either as a takeaway or in their newly refurbished restaurant. George and Lilian say: 'The focus is on Quality and consistency - we use as much local produce as possible which combined with the professionalism of our staff and our varied menu means that customers come back time and again.

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Argyll Agricultural Engineers are owned by the MacFarlane family. The Company is a partnership run by husband and wife Sine and Cameron MacFarlane with Sine taking care of the office admin. Cameron has almost 40 years' experience in the agricultural business. Situated close to the Ferry Terminal and the town centre, the business was established in 1989 to serve the farming, crofting, fish farming, construction and marine businesses in and around Argyll and the Western Isles. With a full-time staff of 4, they are official dealers for Landini tractors, Krone grassland machinery and Takeuchi

excavators. As well as their flourishing dealerships, the firm is multi-skilled with fully qualified engineers who carry out repairs both in their workshop as well as on-site to all agricultural machinery including tractors, forklifts and engines. In addition, the company has a wealth of knowledge on older equipment such as Massey Ferguson tractors and equipment, and can carry out repairs and restorations such as resprays and panel replacement. Their son Cameron, junior joined them when he left school in 1999. Cameron senior

who was born and brought up in Oban Seil Farm, Clachan Seil and went to Jack Olding, Agricultural Engineers in Perth at the age of 16 to serve his apprenticeship and attended Elmwood College in Cupar, Fife and went onto to be Service Manager of the company. They returned to Oban in 1988 when Cameron started up his own mobile repair business and then went on to premises in Lochavullin Ind. Estate until moving to our current premises in 2006. 'I feel the knowledge and experience I have gained over nearly 40 years in the business is invaluable'. Cameron MacFarlane snr.

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Angus MacLennan started MacLennan Motors Garage in 1978 on Tiree. A purpose built building was erected ten years later at the ferry terminal and the supply of fuel, coal and gas was added to the sales. The island's Car & Bike Hire is also run from the garage. The business expanded into haulage in 1996 by taking

over the delivery of essential goods from Cal Mac to the islands of Tiree, Coll, Colonsay and now recently delivering to Mull. Since the company began they have employed over 100 staff locally on Tiree and currently have 16 employees on the payroll, in Oban and throughout the islands. An-

gus and Catriona are slowly handing over the day to day running of the business to their children. Stewart, Ross & Carrie and their partners have now returned to live on the island with the next generation of grandchildren growing up locally, their involvement in the company makes it a truly family affair.

**HAMISH HOEY & SON LTD**

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Hamish Hoey established the business in 1981 with his wife Teresa doing the administration. All three sons served their time as apprentices over the years. Owen, their eldest son became a partner in 1992 and the business progressed to include their window company - SCOTWEST WINDOWS. Claire, John's wife took over the administration from Teresa in 1998 when she retired. When Hamish

retired in 2003, his three sons, Owen, James & John took over the business and their sister Catriona became the funeral arranger. The company has grown over the years from 3 employees to the company now employing 13 people, with a rich tradition of bringing their men through from apprentices to fully qualified joiners. They have not only invested in people but have invested in machinery, equip-

ment and vehicles, most recently commissioning the building of a new hearse. Owen schedules the jobs and does the estimating while James & John run the jobs and all three are experienced funeral directors. We offer a 24hr/ 7days a week service on both joinery and funerals. And with a third generation starting to come through the business you'll find a friendly family atmosphere.

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Eleanor's Hair Salon is a Family Run Business. We opened our doors in April 1987 when an opportunity arose for Eleanor to open her own salon. She had intended to open the salon for a few years but here we are 25 years later! One year down the line Eleanor's daughter Nathalie joined the business by coming into the salon to help after school. She then decided to follow her mother's career in Hairdressing.

Eleanor's other daughter Marsaili then joined the business and took care of the day to day running of the salon. Nathalie progressed to achieve Full Qualifications in hairdressing and is still, today, working in the salon while Marsaili left to start her own family. At present we have another two employees, Vanda who is currently training and Allyson who works with us on a Saturday. At Eleanor's we are always striving to bring in new ideas and keep up with the

new trends. We offer a wide range of services within the salon which include - All Hair Styles, Nails, Wedding Packages, New CID MakeUp which can be purchased in the salon or just come in for a makeover for that special occasion. We also offer a Global Keratin Treatment, Organic Hair Taming System for unmanageable, course hair. Come and see us instore for more details! 20 High Street, OBAN

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Nigel is an expert plant hunter.

## Crarae Garden's expert plant hunter to feature in National Trust's Scotland's Stories project

AN ARGYLL gardener has travelled to China to witness first hand the troubles that other plant hunters have in bringing new species to Scotland. Nigel Price, who is based at Crarae Garden near Inveraray, has taken part in a soundslide project to tell his story on behalf of the National Trust for Scotland. Nigel's is one of 20 stories featured in

the trust's Scotland's Stories project. He shares his knowledge and understanding of some of the world's most beautiful plants and how they came to Scotland. **Plant hunter** Director Verity Walker said: 'This story is quite deliberately called The Plant Hunter's Tale rather than The Gardener's.

'Hearing about early plant hunters and their gory ordeals from Nigel Price had the team mesmerised from the outset and although the day was very wet, the light and water add to the magic through our photographer Mike Bolam's beautiful images.' Scotland's Stories created soundslides to tell the story of the diversity of the

skills of the people needed to tend the places in the care of the National Trust for Scotland and their passion for their vital work to conserve and promote the country's heritage. **Online project** The online project and the Crarae Garden story can be found at www.scotlandstories.com.

## Save the Shed campaign gains momentum

AN ACHA tenant who faces having to demolish his shed because it is 35 inches too big has won support on Facebook. Oban's George Aitken started the Save the Shed page after becoming frustrated with Argyll Community Housing Association over its court bid to flatten his shed, which it says exceeds permitted size limits. Mr Aitken argues ACHA told him he would enjoy the same terms and conditions at 1 Croft Avenue as he did at 3 Croft Avenue before it was demolished and rebuilt. However, ACHA says it made no such promise.

## Coronation St star aims to spot specs

CORONATION Street star Helen Flanagan is hunting for Oban's most attractive glasses wearers. The actress, who has worn glasses since she was nine, is heading the Specsavers campaign for the Spectacle Wearer of the Year 2012. Every entry will see Specsavers donate £1 to the Kidscape charity. Kenneth MacDonald, store director at Specsavers in Oban, says: 'We see so many people in the store who look absolutely amazing in their glasses. 'The Spectacle Wearer of the Year competition gives us the opportunity to shout about the talent right on our doorstep who wear their specs with pride and plenty of style - and who are great role models for younger spec wearers to aspire to.'

## Hairdressers head for Scottish finals of world competition

THREE Oban stylists have beaten off nearly 1,000 competitors to make it to the Scottish finals of the world's largest hairdressing competition. Ann Marie Fraser and Iain Bruce-Low, from The Boutique Salon, and Aiden McLaren, from Rutherford's, are down to the last 40 and will be heading to Glasgow on May 15 to take part in the regional heats of Wella's TrendVision Award 2012. Despite the fact they will be competing against each other, the trio are firm friends and even used to work together. Iain has been at the Scottish finals of the competition before. 'The last time I entered was four years ago and I got to the finals in Glasgow. 'On one hand it is good because I know the setup but I'm more worried because I know how scary it can be,' said the 26-year-old. Aiden, 21, has recently qualified as a stylist. He said: 'I can't wait for the day. It is an amazing feeling knowing you are good enough, especially straight out of college.'



Aiden, Ann Marie and Iain are down to the last 40 of the competition in Scotland. 16\_118wella01

The two categories in the competition are young talent and colour. Five from each category will progress to the UK final in London and then, if successful, onto Madrid. Ann Marie, 35, said: 'To get this far is amazing, and I think it is really good for Oban to have three Scottish finalists. I'm very excited but very nervous. I didn't expect to get this far.'

The trio all agree that the profile of Oban in the hairdressing and fashion world needs to be raised. 'Oban has good hairdressers and that needs to be recognised,' said Iain. 'A lot of people travel to Glasgow thinking they are getting a better haircut but there are good stylists here.'

Aiden added: 'I have got clients that come to Oban from as far away as Edinburgh and Perth because they can't get as good a haircut there as they can here.' The final involves creating a look based on one of this year's trends. The stylists will have only 45 minutes to do hair, create makeup and present their model to the judges who are all big names in the industry.



Little James Haggart and great, great grandfather Bill Davis are the centre of attention, flanked by, from left, Kay Campbell, Daena O'Hare-Campbell and Sylvia Robertson. 15\_118gen02

## Dunbeg marine welcomes home great, great grandson

A FORMER marine, who served on HMS Ark Royal during WW2, has welcomed the birth of a fifth generation of his family. War hero Bill Davis, 90, who resides at MacCallum Court, Dunbeg, became a great, great grandfather on April 9 when little James Haggart came into the world at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley. All five generations of the Lorn

family were present on a visit to Bill's flat last Friday: Bill's daughter, Sylvia Robertson, 58, who lives in Inverness; his grand-daughter Kay Campbell, 36, who lives in Kilmelford; and great grand-daughter Daena O'Hare-Campbell, 18, who accompanied her newborn son. Bill was the youngest crewman on board HMS Ark Royal when it was involved in the famous

sinking of the battleship Bismarck and during its own demise on November 10 1941. **Family** After the war he moved to the Oban area from Liverpool after marrying Annie Cook. The family has been in the area ever since. Kay said: 'Everyone is really pleased. 'It is quite special to have

five generations of your family living at the same time. When Daena told me she was pregnant, I was grateful I had bought a full bottle of gin that day, instead of a half bottle! 'I knew I was going to be a very young grandmother and I have had my fair share of jokes. 'But looking at James, I wouldn't change anything for the world.'



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**BENDERLOCH**

BENDERLOCH and North Connel Drama Club has returned from the Argyll drama festival in Ardrishaig last Friday with another trophy – making it two trophies at two festivals for two plays this year.

The group has been working hard since January to produce two very different plays to be entered into all the 2012 drama festivals, from Appin to Oban and Ardrishaig. *The Canterbury Road Tales*, a dramatic play based in a squat by Colin Cross, and *Pandamonium*, a comedy about two pandas in Edinburgh Zoo by Peter Souter, were both rehearsed, directed and acted at the group's club hut in Benderloch for the last few months.

The club is also taking to the stage in December to bring Oban this year's spectacular family pantomime.

The club is also helping out another drama group this week. A Cornish group is cycling from John O' Groats to Lands End to fundraise for its next production. Benderloch Drama Club has sponsored one leg of the journey by providing the two cyclists with accommodation and full Scottish breakfast in a Benderloch guesthouse.

**ISLAY**

WHILE migrating geese flocks finally left Islay about a fortnight ago on their flights north to nesting grounds, Islay's farmers are still struggling with the aftermath of having about 50,000 extra mouths to feed on their grazings over the winter and early spring.

Barnacle geese and White Fronted geese, the main species wintering in Islay, eat mainly grass, all day and every day. Early grazing is badly needed for sheep, their lambs and cows and calves, but the herds of



Rhona McCracken with her prize and the Christmas card design.

**Surprise for young artist**

A TAYNUILT Primary School pupil received a late and surprising Christmas gift after her creative talents won her top prize in a card competition.

Primary seven pupil Rhona McCracken received an art set and had her Christmas card design from last year put onto canvases by card company Cauliflower Cards.

The Taynuilt school has done artwork for the company's Christmas cards for the past two years but didn't realise Cauliflower Cards selected the best designs to be given prizes.

Meanwhile, the school will host a special concert on Thursday May 10 to mark Willie Campbell's retirement as its lollipop man.

hungry geese have bitten grass north to nesting grounds, Islay's farmers are still struggling with the aftermath of having about 50,000 extra mouths to feed on their grazings over the winter and early spring.

Also, costly extra food must be bought in for cattle and ewes to make sure they have enough milk for new lambs or calves.

The Scottish Government proposes yet more cutbacks on the compensation, which some

Islay farmers receive for hosting these multitudes of geese and allowing them to damage grassland. However, the costs of buying in extra feeding and of re-seeding damaged grazing land are ever rising.

ARGYLL and Bute Council is currently proposing to remove the 10 yacht moorings from Leodanus Bay, Port Ellen, which have for some years been available for the free use of visiting yachtsmen.

The council doesn't want to spend any more money maintaining the moorings. The maintenance doesn't cost a lot but the moorings are a public facility, rather than an earner for the council. No fees are collected from skippers of sailing boats which use the moorings.

While the position of these moorings is some way from shore and so not immediately convenient for use, it has been observed that the moorings are in fairly regular use by yachts. When the Port Ellen marina pontoon berths are fully occupied, the only other options available to yacht skippers are either to sail on past Islay, in which case the visitor 'footfall' is lost, or else to anchor off which is often not practical or safe.

KEILLS Primary School Choir will be guest artists when Kilmeny Ceilidh Club launches its 2012 summer programme on May 15.

Keeping last year's successful format, subsequent family ceilidhs will be held on June 12, July 10, August 7 and September 11.

At the club's first AGM on March 27 this year, Andy MacCowan was re-elected chairman with Margaret Aitchison treasurer and Catriona Bell secretary. Committee members are Sheena Campbell, John MacGillivray, Libby Morris and Linda Currie.

The club has donated cash to Còisir Oig Ile, Ella Edgar's Highland Dancers and Islay

**TAYNUILT**

Pipe Band, organisations which all nurture talent in the island's young people, and is still in a good financial position for the start of the 2012 season.

**BARRA**

EVERYONE who has set foot on Barra is being asked to make a bunting flag for a new global craft project.

Barra and Watersay Island Produce Show's Barra Bunting project came about when the group considered the need to decorate Castlebay Community Hall for the annual produce show in September.

'It then blossomed into a worldwide craft project, bringing together a vast community of people who have visited the island,' said Sarah MacLean who is co-ordinating Barra Bunting.

'It is the type of project everyone can be included in and hopefully people will feel not only part of a much bigger community but also a great sense of achievement through creating their own flag.'

'We are certainly looking forward to the great diversity of flags from all around the world.'

Flags should all be made from fabric and a template can be downloaded from the website www.barrabunting.net so they are all the same size.

Everything else though, from material and pattern to colour, is up to the crafter. It can be embellished with buttons, sequins and ribbons to make the flag unique.

Sarah said: 'There will also be an archive with pictures of each of the flags and a little about the people that made them, where they are from, what their flag represents and their connection to the island.'

'The project has only been up and running a few weeks and already bunting is trickling through the door.'

The first lengths of bunting will be launched at this year's show on September 1 and it will then be available for island community events throughout the year. Sarah said: 'That will not be the end of the project. It will still be promoted and new flags added every year - one year Barra Bunting may even get into the record books!'

The project is financially supported by a CNES Arts Revenue Grant.

**LUING**

WORK IS in progress replacing wind turbines on Luing. There has been a lot of activity in the southern end of the island where there are existing turbines.

LUING'S ferry, the *MV Belnahua*, heads for its annual service today, Thursday May 3, and will be out of service for about five weeks.

The relief vessel, *The Grey Dog*, will take over the route. The timetable will be unaffected and the vessel can take vehicles but is limited to four tonnes capacity.

**SEIL**

PADDY Shaw will lead The Taynuilt Swing Band to his home parish of Kilbrandon on Seil Island on May 11.

The band will play for a soiree recalling the Great Days of Swing in Seil Island Hall at 7.45pm.

The evening is in aid of the Slate Islands Heritage Trust and will include tea and snacks. Visitors preferring wine should bring their own bottles.

**EASDALE**

A SMALL wind turbine – which would provide the energy to heat Easdale Hall – will not go ahead following the rejection of an appeal.

The planning application for the turbine was originally turned down by Argyll and Bute Council and now the Reporter has upheld the decision.

BUDDING film makers on Easdale presented their animated creation last Friday to an audience in the primary school.

'The Adventures of the Gingerbread Man' was scripted by pupils in primary 1 to 3.

SCHOOL pupils have been learning Gaelic – while enjoying nature. All the children went on a nature ramble, with a Gaelic emphasis, to Ballachuan Hazelwood Reserve.

THE SLATE Heritage Centre at Ellenabeich and Easdale Island Folk Museum are open seven days for remainder of the season. They provide a microcosm of island life past and present.

**KILCHOAN**

WORK is well underway on the new Kilchoan playpark. A local team has completed all the groundwork ahead of the company supplying the playpark moves in to install the play equipment.

**LOCHYSIDE**



**Pupils donate £400 to charity**

Big-hearted children at Lochyside RC Primary School recently presented Water Aid with £400. The charity works to ensure people in the developing world have access to clean drinking water. The pupils raised the money during Lent.

Details can be obtained from the Heritage Centre in Ellenabeich.

SEIL AND Easdale Community Council sent a survey to 377 voters to assess local opinion on the Clachan Wind Farm proposals. Of 208 returns, 60 expressed support, 138 objected and 10 stated no view.

Clachan Seil, which will be most affected by the proposed plans, had the highest return.

The application is now with Argyll and Bute Council.

CONSTRUCTION of the new Seil Island Hall Play Park is expected to start soon.

The tower is on its way from Germany and volunteers were out last Sunday helping to clear the site.

SEIL Natural History Group's speaker this month was Ian MacFarlane of SAMS and Biomara.

His subject was 'fuel and seaweed'. He heads a UK and Irish project that aims to demonstrate the feasibility and viability of producing third generation biofuels from marine biomass.

WEDNESDAY'S Slate Islands Lunch Club held at Seil Island Hall has been attracting record attendances recently but anyone interested in attending is still welcome to join.

**ARISAIG**

ARISAIG and District Community Council met on April 16 in Astley Hall.

Abridged draft minutes: Present: Gordon Stewart, chairman; Maureen McColl, secretary; Angela Hardman, treasurer; Father Andrew Barrett, Gerald MacDonald, councillors Allan Henderson and Eddie Hunter, Eleanor Barrie.

Minutes of the meeting held on February 20 2012 – proposed by G MacDonald and seconded by A Hardman.

Matters arising from the minutes of the February 20 meeting:

Wind turbine report – Letter received from the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals acknowledging there was no intention to use inflammatory comments about the state of the beaches, but denying any ability to affect the conduct of the press.

Path at St Mary's Church – work on the path through the

churchyard at St Mary's Church had been agreed and is going ahead. The community council had no prior consultation about the work being done to put a footpath in along the B8008 there. It is felt the path will reduce the carriageway width at the church and may cause problems for people passing there. TEC Services will be asked to suspend work there until consultation can happen and changes to the work made.

Reports: Treasurer's report - £2,904.35 in community council funds. £1,000 of Gower Trust Funds still not assigned. This is still available to be applied for.

An Tilleadh newsletter – the newsletter is available on the Arisaigh Highland Games website www.arisaighhighlandgames.co.uk.

AOB: The position of the Hope sign has been agreed and will be placed there soon. It was agreed by the community council that the village picture can be used to make a postcard/tea towel/mug, which would be sold through the Land, Sea and Islands Centre, which now has a broadband/wi-fi connection. This will be officially recognised on May 23.

Two more rubbish bins will be requested for the car park opposite the Spar as is normal for the summer season.

Eleanor Barrie has been co-opted as a full member of the community council. Date of next meeting: Monday May 21.

**PLOCKTON**

MORE than 40 people attended the open air church service at the open air church site at Plockton on Easter Sunday. Guest speaker was Jamie Stewart from Plockton who works at the London City Mission.

The annual village clean-up was held at Plockton on April 20. Plockton Primary School children picked up the litter during the day and adults filled three skips in the evening.

Fundraising for various organisations was held in April at Plockton. On April 9 an open day in the grounds of Rudha Mhor, courtesy of owner Lilius Simpson, raised £822 for Marie Curie funds.

The same evening the annual cruise on Calum MacKenzie's boat *Sula Mhor* raised almost £900 for prostate cancer research.

**LISMORE**

LISMORE Sunday School children had great fun hunting Easter eggs in the manse garden on Easter morning.

The hunt was organised by Anna Stewart, the eggs craftily hidden by Flora Maclean and Shayne Stewart. The previous day 26 children were treated to an Easter party hosted by Lismore Primary School Parent Council.

ULPAN Gaelic classes are underway at the museum.

There are two classes a week for learners but the teacher Ann MacLean Fleming is busy four evenings a week as the demand is such that two groups are running simultaneously. In addition there's Gaelic conversation at the café every Saturday between 2.30pm and 3.30pm.

LISMORE will be taking part in the Scotland wide Festival of Museums over the weekend of May 18 to 20.

It will start with a 'ceilidh in the front room' on Friday May 18 when the exhibition room will be transformed for an evening of song, storytelling, poetry, music, and dancing with guests being invited to do a 'turn. A buffet in the café will follow. Saturday May 19 will be for children with the centre lit by torchlight for story telling and refreshments. Sunday May 20 will be a 'knit and natter' session in the cafe in the evening with everyone invited to natter as they knit, felt, spin, quilt or any of the many crafts islanders are known for. The Friday event is £10 for adults and £5 children, Saturday and Sunday events are free. Booking in advance recommended.

**CRIANLARICH**

CRIANLARICH Primary School's playground is to be revamped thanks to a £15,000 grant. The Grounds for Learning money will allow the school to develop its own ideas and plans for the playground. There will be workshops and planning meetings with pupils and staff to finalise a full design brief.

**Down Your Way**

**Brae Lochaber**

PREPARATIONS are well underway in Brae Lochaber to commemorate the first skirmish of the 1745 Jacobite Rising at Highbridge, near Spear Bridge.

Battle re-enactment group Tir an Ailean 'The Royal Men' will again march to the site on August 19, the anniversary of the event. Roy Bridge seamstress Colette Strachan of Colette's Sewing Service made 12 '5'x3' Jacobite flags for last year's event – and could be in line for a bigger order this year.

On August 19, 1745, Major Donald MacDonald's tiny force of 11 men and one pipet put 85 government troops to flight.



Sandy competing at Oban with brother Finlay.

ROY BRIDGE piping brothers Sandy and Finlay Cameron will both compete at the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival at Oban this weekend.

Sandy, aged 14, and Finlay, aged 10, will play in several competitions in the under-15 category.

Sandy, who is considered one of the top young pipers in the country in his age group, won the overall title at the Wester Ross piping competition at Plockton on Saturday April 21, pipping Brighde Chaimbeul of Kyle.

SPEAN Bridge Mill has a new management team – with the emphasis firmly on the local.

General manager Marianne Campbell took over from her predecessor Stuart MacDonald a year ago and recently Ross MacLennan was appointed as catering manager at the busy Edinburgh Woollen Mill outlet.

Both are from Spean Bridge – and both were classmates at Kilmonivaig Primary School many moons ago - although Marianne admits she is 'a wee bit older' than Ross! Marianne reports that Easter this year was busier than in 2011, raising hopes of a busy summer ahead.

THE GAELIC Society of Inverness will visit Brae Lochaber on Saturday, May 19 to install a plaque in honour of St Mary McKillop at Cille Choirill, a roadside chapel near Roy Bridge.

Pope Benedict XVI canonised Mary as St Mary of the Cross on October 17 2010. She is the only Australian to be recognised by the Roman Catholic Church as a saint.

Local priest Father Tom Wynne told *The Oban Times* that Charles Kennedy MP would be attending the ceremony. Father Tom added both Mary's parents were Gaelic speakers from Brae Lochaber who emigrated to Australia in 1840. Margaret was born in Melbourne in 1842.

He said: 'The ceremony will also celebrate St Mary's connections with the Gaelic world. We will remember her energy and life in educating poor children in the outback in Australia.'

The travelling Art Bus, which is based in Edinburgh, visited Spean Bridge Primary School last Wednesday. It offered children from Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge the chance to view the gallery of art, craft and technology. Head teacher Kate MacGillivray said: 'The children and the staff found the gallery very interesting and thoroughly enjoyed themselves – especially sampling the new technology!'

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**Around the Rurals**

**Kilmore**

A GOOD turnout of Kilmore SWRI members attended the meeting on April 11.

President Isabel Smith welcomed members and after business introduced Kilmore's vice president Fiona Dickie who was demonstrator for the evening.

Fiona made lovely cold desserts, helped by Ann Ferguson. With much laughter, it was a lovely evening with eager ladies waiting with plate and spoon in hand for the tasting.

The vote of thanks to Fiona was given by Isabel Smith.

Competitions: Painting of spring – 1 Ann Sorley; 2 Margaret Whitton. Jack Frost photograph – 1 Anne Tully; 2 Margaret Whitton.

**Inverlochy**

THE APRIL meeting of Inverloch SWRI was very inspiring, as Lorraine Bellwood brought a box of goodies that would rival Aladdin's treasure chest.

When opened, out tumbled rings, bracelets, brooches, necklaces, make up bags, handbags, shopping bags, all sorts of nick knacks and soft toys – not made from silver or gold, but odd bits of material, wool and buttons.

She spoke of how her little boy drew a cuddly toy - so she made it! He loved it, so did all the other children who saw it and wanted one. Thus started a hobby, which

keeps her busy through cold winter evenings. After tea, Lorraine judged the competition of a floral arrangement in a teacup: 1 Cath Cameron; 2 Elma Fraser; 3 Cath MacDonald.

Raffles were won by Beatrice Gibson and Kathie O'Shaughnessy.

**Glenorchy**

GLENORCHY Institute met on March 28 in the community centre, Dalmailly.

Liz Gibson, president, welcomed members and two ladies from Lochawe Institute, Mrs P MacLeod and Mrs J Wylie, who had been invited along to judge Glenorchy's 'Taste and Try' competition.

This competition is held annually; members bring along a sample of their favourite recipe and a copy of the recipe to be judged and all the favourite samples make up a tasty treat to be shared at tea time.

Results: 1 S Boardman; 2 Helen Gibson; 3 equal K MacLennan and Mrs P Gibson.

As this was the AGM, a new committee was formed and discussions held on speakers and competitions for next year's session. Ideas were also put forward about where to hold the institute's annual dinner during which trophies are presented to the members who have gained the most competition points.

President Liz Gibson closed the meeting with a vote of thanks to the Lochawe ladies.

Email your district news to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

# Kinlochleven hydro scheme in spotlight at conference

A PROPOSED small-scale community hydroelectric scheme at Kinlochleven featured among the presentations at a major conference at Inverness last week.

Moir Hartley of Kinlochleven Community Trust briefed a community renewables discussion group on its plans for a 100MW scheme on a tributary of the Grey Mare's Tail above the village.

Ms Hartley estimated the project could deliver up to £80,000 a year to the village for local projects.

Ms Hartley told *The Oban Times*: 'I gave a talk on the challenges that we face in trying to develop our own community hydro scheme.

'It was a fantastic event. I got a lot of ideas and options on a whole new avenue to pursue.'

Key speaker at the Scottish Highland Renewable Energy Conference, which was attended by 250 delegates, was Energy Minister Fergus Ewing, who launched the Community and Renewable Energy Loan Scheme (CARES).

The fund supports small renewable energy schemes before they reach planning in the absence of commercial lenders, who usually consider providing finance at such an early stage as too high risk.

Communities and rural businesses across the Highlands and Islands are now being urged to apply to the £23.5 million Scottish Government scheme to help them get projects up to the planning stage. Individual projects can receive loans of up to £150,000 to cover 95 per cent of agreed costs. Free local advice and support is also available. Priority is given to schemes which give the highest value of benefit to their local communities.

Mr Ewing said: 'The CARES scheme empowers communities all over Scotland to capitalise on our green energy revolution by developing their own community energy.

'In practice, this could mean communities have lower power bills, a new playground, a scholarship fund for young people – it is up to the imagination of local people.'

Previous recipients of CARES loans include Barra and Watersay Wind Energy Limited (BVWE), which is planning to erect a single wind turbine on a site at Gob Sgurabhal, the most northerly point on Barra.

The community has secured a number of required consents and are currently focused on finalising the turbine access route. It is hoped the group will be in a position to install their turbine by the end of the summer.

BVWE project manager Euan Scott said: 'Without the CARES loan fund the community wind turbine project in Barra would not have progressed.'



Alan and Tanya Ross, left, and Jimmy and Bridie Ross with winning team of David Martin, Brian Gillespie and Neil Feggans.

# Golfers boost Harris fund

Competition raises £4,472 in memory of Corpach tot

THE THIRD annual charity golf competition in memory of Corpach tot Harris Ross raised nearly £4,500 on Sunday, matching last year's total.

Every available tee time was taken with 154 golfers taking part in the Texas scramble competition at a packed Fort William Golf Club.

The £4,472 raised on the day will be donated to STAR (Supporting Treatment and Awareness Raising) for Harris Ross Fund.

The event is held in memory of baby Harris who lost his long battle with a brain tumour aged just 16 months in 2010. His parents Tanya and Allan set up STAR to raise awareness of the early symptoms of childhood and teenage cancer.

The trio of David Martin, Brian Gillespie and Neil Feggans won a closely fought contest with a score of 52.5 points. With Peter Carmichael, Alan MacDonald and Steven McAllister scoring the same, the result went down to the better inward half score of both teams.

Ann Lovat, Kathleen Leitch and Helen Bryan won the ladies competition with a score of 62.5.

Tanya and Allan, along with Harris' grandparents Jimmy and Bridie Ross, were handed a cheque after the prizes were given out in the clubhouse at the end of a successful day.

Tanya told *The Oban Times*: 'It was such a fantastic day – the weather was great and there was a great atmosphere.'

Jimmy said: 'It's been a very successful day, thanks to all the people who took part and the businesses that supported us. You sometimes see things like this start with a bang and tail off, but this seems to be growing in strength.'

Results: Men's - 1 David Martin, Brian Gillespie, Neil Feggans 52.5 points (bh); 2 Peter Carmichael, Alan MacDonald, Steven McAllister 52.5 points; 3 James Duncan, Martin Duncan, Tommy Drummond 52.8 points. Ladies - 1 Ann Lovat, Kathleen Leitch, Helen Bryan 62.5 points. Nearest the pin - 3rd hole: Willie McCann; 6th: Martin Duncan; 12th: Iona Cameron; 16th Brian Gillespie. Longest drives - Kevin Ferguson, Rosemary MacIntyre. Hidden holes - Davie Matheson, Donnie MacInnes, Neil Young.

# Drivers urged to avoid using Lochybridge roundabout

DRIVERS in Fort William are being urged to avoid using the Lochybridge roundabout during peak times with concerns about congestions during the upcoming bank holiday weekend and the Scottish Six Day Trial event, which starts next week.

Drivers on the A82 and the A830 Road to the Isles have suffered long delays and tailbacks since the temporary traffic lights were put in place earlier this month as part of work to expand the junction into a two-lane roundabout.

A spokesman for Perth-based contractors I & H Brown said: 'We recognise there is no alternative route available and therefore suggest that road users should consider making their journeys outwith peak times wherever possible to ease the situation.'

'Friday evenings have been particularly busy, and the forthcoming bank holiday weekend and Scottish Six Day Trial could add to the difficulties.'

Traffic was moved on to a revised layout last Saturday following completion of the first section of the new roundabout.

The permanent signals at Lochaber High School are now being operated manually at peak times to assist traffic flows through the roadworks, but I & H Brown said delays were still 'inevitable'.

Traffic lights, manually controlled during peak times to minimise congestion, are in place until the junction is ready to re-open, and the pedestrian crossing has been removed with a temporary crossing point put in place.

The contractors thanked the public for their patience, and said the project remains on schedule for the removal of the three-way lights on May 18, with overall completion of the project by the end of the month.

Miller Developments is carrying out the roundabout upgrade under an agreed community benefit package associated with its Blar Mhor development, which includes a Tesco superstore. Miller agreed to remodel to junction before starting work on its project.

# Man denies baseball bat charge

A FORT William man has denied fighting another man in the town with a baseball bat.

Sandy Campbell, aged 25, of 6 Brown Court, pled not guilty to the charge at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Campbell is accused along with John Campbell of Coach House, 40 Carlisle Road, Biggar, of behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by fighting and hitting each other with a baseball bat at Brown Court and elsewhere in Fort William on March 24.

John Campbell, aged 43, failed to appear at court and Sheriff Douglas Small issued a warrant for his arrest.

A further hearing will be held on May 9. Trial was fixed for June 20.

# Fort William FC weekly lotto draw

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £200 is up for grabs this week in Fort William FC's weekly lotto draw. Numbers last week were 02-15-19.

# Police files

FOUR vehicles advertised for sale were badly scratched in Fort William on Friday night.

A silver Ford Focus, a black VW Golf, a grey Mazda 6 and a silver Peugeot 307, all parked near Carpet Right, North Road Retail Estate, were scratched on all body panels at around 8.45pm.

Police are keen to hear from anyone who may have seen a male wearing a grey hoodie and black trousers in the vicinity of the vehicles at this time.

POLICE are still actively investigating the circulation of illegal blue valium tablets that have led to recent hospital admissions in Fort William. Anyone with information about the supply or source of these tablets can contact police.

Anyone with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000.

Members of the public may also report any crime, offence or anything suspicious by phoning Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

# Isle of Lewis swimmers first to tackle wild water channel

A GROUP of nine Isle of Lewis residents are aiming to be the first people to swim The Minch waters between the mainland and the Outer Hebrides – one of the widest and wildest channels of water around the British coast.

The 'Big Minch Swimmers' - Saul Hindson, Colin Macleod, Rodney Jamieson, Chris Baker, Tariq Hussain, Scott Connor, Eilidh Whiteford, Laura Maynard and Mark Doug MacIver - will raise money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

They will set off from Ullapool at the end of June and swim around 100kms to Stornoway.

Team spokesman Saul Hindson said: 'We believe that we'll be the first to swim from Ullapool to Stornoway and we couldn't think of a better charity to support than the RNLI.'

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**WIN TICKETS TO ROCKNESS**

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Get set for the Highlands' premier music festival – RockNess. This year's dazzling line up of incredible acts includes headliners Biffy Clyro, Mumford & Sons, Deadmau5, Justice, Ed Sheeran and Friendly Fires, plus The View, Metronomy, Chic feat Nile Rodgers, Wretch 32, The Drums and Cassidy. The new Arcadia UFO stage is set to land with electronic dance parties from Soma Records, Sub Club Sound System and Mylo. A host of first class comedy acts have also been announced, headlined by international superstar Tim Minchin. Visit [www.rockness.co.uk](http://www.rockness.co.uk)

To celebrate the start of the festival season, The Oban Times has two pairs of weekend tickets with camping up for grabs.

**Each ticket is worth £159.**

To enter, simply collect two tokens – here is token one. Token two will be printed next week, May 10. Full details on how to send in your tokens in next week's Oban Times.

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. One entry per purchased copy. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. Closing date will be May 21, 2012.

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Thursday 3rd May > Disco  
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Saturday 5th May > Nightclub with DJs  
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Friday 4th May > Jon MacKenzie  
Markie Dans

Saturday 5th May > Cairdeas  
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Sunday 6th May > Too Far North  
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### what's on lochaber

Sunday 6th May > Antique and Jewellery Roadshow  
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Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House Beat the Clock

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The cast prepares for the production.

## Mull gets ready for 'The Crucible'

ISLANDERS of all walks of life have come together to take on the challenge of performing one of the most popular plays in American drama.

Locals in Mull will perform Arthur Miller's masterpiece 'The Crucible' with the cast list including a fisherman, a postman, schoolchildren and even a meteorologist.

The production will run over four nights in An Tobar, Tobermory's arts centre. Director Katharine Elwis said: 'Directing amateurs, like these, is an absolute joy. There is a real feeling of being a team and there are no egos (which can be quite a stumbling block in the professional theatre). We are all doing our bit for the play itself, not for money or

'fame'. The actors are committed and responsible and have made a tremendous effort to learn their lines.'

After the short run in Tobermory it is hoped that the production will tour some of the other villages on the island and then perform on Iona.

The remaining two nights are on May 5 and 6 at 7pm.

## Young drama stars bring 'Oliver' to life

ARGYLL'S best young drama stars took to the stage at the weekend for one of the best-loved musicals, Oliver.

A wealth of talent was on show at the Corran Halls, with tickets on both nights selling well, demonstrating the area's appetite for live theatre.

There were some outstanding performances, particularly from the lead characters including: Merle Harbron, who also designed the programme artwork, as the Artful Dodger; Mia Colquhoun as Nancy; a particularly sinister Fagin, played by Jamie MacLean; the frightening Bill Sikes, played by Finn Walton; while the tuneful Katherine Harris charmed the audience with her portrayal of Oliver.

The principal cast members were ably supported by a young and energetic chorus, which added to a well-planned production.



Merle Harbron, who also designed the programme artwork, as the Artful Dodger with the tuneful Katherine Harris charmed the audience with her portrayal of Oliver. 07\_118oliver01

## Sun boosts numbers at Mull festival



Above - The Rocking Caravan arrives in Tobermory Bay  
Below and right - The Park Lodge was busier than last year.



THE MULL Music Festival took place last weekend and the sunny weather ensured it was busier than ever.

Acts came from around the country - some by rather unconventional methods - with the rocking caravan arriving by boat pictured.

Chusie Morrison, from the Park Lodge said: 'It was very busy and really good. There were a lot of visitors to the island for it and the weather helped a lot.'



Some of the younger models strut their stuff ahead of the fashion show. 15\_118fashion01

## Young models steal the show at fashion night

MODELS of all ages gathered at M&Co in Oban to support a fundraising fashion show run by the Inner Wheel Club of Oban.

The event last Friday took in £600 for the club president Shona Neil's nominated charity for the current year - Ronald McDonald House at Yorkhill Children's Hospital.

Mrs Neil welcomed around 90 guests explaining Ronald McDonald House incurs annual costs amount to more than £300,000.

The audience were treated

to an enjoyable fashion show presented by volunteer models including children aged 3 - 15, all modelling M&Co fashions from their current seasons stock.

Mrs Neil said: 'I am very grateful to the management and staff of M&Co for giving up their own time to host the show, to all the volunteer models, to everyone who supported the event and to the ladies of the Inner Wheel who worked so hard to make the event the success it has been.'

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

### Taynult Swing Band

At Seil Island Hall  
Friday 11th May  
7.45pm to 10.30pm  
A nostalgic evening of music, song and sociability with teas and snacks provided (B.Y.O.B)  
Tickets £5 available at the door  
Scottish Slate Islands Heritage Trust Scottish Charity no SC29805

### ABCD

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### Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival

www.obanfestival.org

Accordion & Fiddle Masters  
4 May, St. John's Cathedral, 7pm  
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Festival Fling - Family Dance  
5 May, Argyllshire Gathering Hall, 8.30pm  
Sileas Sinclair Band  
£5 or family ticket £15

Concert of Champions  
5 May, Corran Halls, 7pm  
£4 & under 16 £2

Tickets: Oban Music or pay at the door  
Telephone: 07510 841198 for info.

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### Diamond Jubilee Luncheon

Sunday 3rd June 2012  
Argyllshire Gathering Halls  
2-4pm  
All Community Volunteers and organisations are invited to the Jubilee Big Lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.  
For info contact: Argyll Voluntary Action 01631 564839

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Please ask for details



## Irish band line up for Highland and Islands festival

AN IRISH pipe band - with a special connection to Mull - will be visiting Argyll this weekend to take part in the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

The Lisbeg Pipe Band, from Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone, will be

in Oban celebrating their 65th anniversary by taking part in a parade and concert in the town.

The band's tartan is Maclean of Duart and they will be heading to Mull on Sunday to play at the castle. Drum Sergeant Adrian

Somerville said: 'We have toured all over Europe but the whole band are looking forward to the trip to Oban and hope to meet some new friends along the way.'

Fifty three people are travelling over from Northern Ireland for

what promises to be an exciting weekend of entertainment. This is the 29th year of the festival, taking place from May 3 to 6 which sees competitors taking part in events including singing, fiddle, piping and accordion.

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# Bill Bailey finds Oban simply irresistible

'I had such a blast the last time I was in Oban. It's such a great place. The audience last time was a riot.'

AS ONE of Britain's best loved comedians, Bill Bailey has played some of the country's finest venues. For him though, the chance to tour his brand new show in Oban is too good to resist.

The QI, Hot Fuzz and Black Books star takes Qualmpeddler to Oban's Corran Halls on May 22, in a return to the venue he last played in 2010.

For Bill, who was voted seventh in Channel 4's greatest ever comedian chart, returning to Oban is more interesting even than the stadium tours, not only because of the audience reaction, but the location.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, the talented musician and fun-

nyman said: 'I had such a blast the last time I was in Oban. It's such a great place. The audience last time was a riot.'

'People seemed to get themselves into a mild state of hysteria - they were shouting things out at random.'

'One guy shouted up 'Why don't you do something about the Fiat Uno!' I have no idea why either.'

'Then, I heard his girlfriend say to him 'what did you do that for?' He said 'Yeah, other cars are available.'

'Stadium tours are great and I've done them, but in the smaller, more intimate venues you get more interaction with the audience and that creates a

great atmosphere.

'The best thing about touring is you get to go out and about during the day and I hope to see the area. I love Scotland in May and June. I am also hoping I get the chance to go to Mull again. I've been over a few times and I spent a week there filming white tailed sea eagles. It's a beautiful spot and I love going there.'

Bill loves qualms. Or at least has qualms about them. These feelings of unease and apprehension make up the fabric of his new show. He looks at the consequences of lies, the unending search for the Higgs Boson and the hiding skills of dentists.

He said: 'The show came

about because I love the word qualm. My mum used to talk about qualms. It would be daft things like qualms about sandwiches.'

'You never have one qualm, it's always plural. They're always low-level too.'

Music is a big part of the show and Bill could take a 12th century lute he picked up on a recent trip to China, along with his bouzouki and Horntallica. A dub version of Downton Abbey should be one of the more bizarre aspects to the show.

Bill Bailey's Qualmpeddler comes to the Corran Halls on Tuesday, May 22. For tickets phone the Corran Halls on 01631 567 333.



Bill Bailey is heading back to Oban

## Baking up a treat

FOLLOWING a taste test and hundreds of votes from its customers, Bossards Bakery in Oban has been shortlisted in this year's Scottish Baker of the Year competition.

It is the first time Bossards, run by couple Heinz and Sylvia Bossard, has entered any baking competition and the owners said they were surprised, but grateful to their customers for nominating them.

The bakery is included twice in the final 38 of the competition for its strawberry tarts and morning rolls and their products are two of only 12 from the Highlands and Islands region.

The final results will be revealed on May 12 when artisan baker and TV presenter Paul Hollywood will announce the results.

## Skerryvore to release new album

SKERRYVORE are to release their new album 'World of Chances' at a special launch night in the O2 ABC Glasgow on Friday, June 22. The band says the gig will be their 'biggest show ever'.

## Taynuilt's Caitlin in London's O2 Arena talent final

A MUSICIAN from Taynuilt is one performance away from the grand final of a national music talent competition, to be held in London's O2 Arena.

Caitlin Taylor will first have to get past the area final showcase of Live and Unsigned on May 12 at the Mill Volvo Theatre in Newcastle.

Having reached the penultimate stage of the competition, from an entry of more than 10,000 hopefuls across the UK, Caitlin is now preparing for the area final.

The 14-year-old first caught the eye by performing her own song All Yours and a cover of Bruno Mars' Count on Me for which she recorded her own backing track at Finlay Wells' Nutshell Records recording studio last Sunday.

The first prize in the grand final is a £10,000 main cash prize and the Live and Unsigned festival tour, which includes dates at Relentless Energy Drink Boardmasters, Norfolk Spectacular, Strawberry Fields Festival, Cloud 9 Festival, Glass Butter Beach, Brownstock, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and seven other summer festivals.

## Fort William forms first photographic club

KEEN PHOTOGRAPHERS from across Lochaber have set up the Fort William Photographic Society.

The inaugural meeting in the Nevis Centre followed a Facebook appeal by Armando Barcenas to find out if anyone would be interested in joining and forming the new club.

The response was an immediate 'yes' from more than 40 people and a constitution was agreed. Armando was elected as President with a support committee of those who helped organise the event.

He said: 'As a lecturer in Photoshop at the West Highland College, as well as being a very keen photographer, I often wondered what happened to the people who came on the course and what they were doing.'

'I also know that Iain Ferguson, who teaches evening classes in photography, was of the same mind and thought about what happened after the courses were finished and when I contacted him about forming a club and he agreed it was a good idea.'

'My initial Facebook post attracted a lot of interest and when I suggested a theme, there was a huge response with people adding pictures they had taken to the page and it was very in-



Fort William Photographic Society president, Armando Barcenas (seated) at the first meeting with members from as far afield as Mallaig, Spean Bridge and Kinlochleven.

teresting to see their individual interpretation.

'Our first meeting was very successful and I hope that now we have all met in person the club will go from strength to strength.'

Meetings will be held in the Nevis Centre on the second

Tuesday of every month, at 7pm.

Anyone with an interest in photography will be made welcome to come and share their views and skills, take part in competitions, to hear from guest speakers on a range of photography related topics and

spend time with those who have a similar interest.

More information can be obtained from club secretary Kirsteen Bell by e-mailing her at [kirsteenbell@gmail.com](mailto:kirsteenbell@gmail.com), or by visiting the Fort William Photographic Society Facebook page.

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Fans queue in the sun in the hope of snapping up a ticket. 16\_118bridges01

## Going, going - all gone in an hour

'BEDLAM' ensued at the Corran Halls on Tuesday morning as determined comedy fans queued for hours in the hope of getting their hands on Kevin Bridges tickets.

The Glasgow comic will be visiting Oban on July 14 - and tickets are already sold out. Some people were at the venue before 7am, despite tickets not going on sale until 9am.

One fan estimated those who arrived after 8.30am would have missed out. Certainly venue staff told *The Oban Times* it was absolute 'bedlam' and tickets sold out in an hour.





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I became a driving instructor in 2006 and work in the Fort William area, as a Grade 5 instructor I'm very proud of my high first time pass rate, 86% in 2010 and 85% in 2011; steadily increasing my business every year.

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Glencoe, Letterfinlay and Achardale. I'm involved with local charity work which is very rewarding, such as working with Macmillan Nurses. I have a large female and male clientele ranging from school age to my eldest client of 98!

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Neish Contracts was launched from job sites in Kilchrenan and Taynuilt, to now covering the whole of Argyll and the Islands. This increase in productivity has welcomed the addition of supervisor Alan Steel, dedicated to the same high standards and professionalism which has been a central ethos throughout. Looking ahead, manager Ruaraidh Neish plans to offer garden machinery repairs and servicing to both commercial contractors and private home owners, having recently employed a highly skilled mechanic. Neish contracts provide the complete landscaping service from planning to aftercare, as well as the supply of landscaping materials.

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The Clark family have presided over the proceedings at the George hotel since 1860. Three generations, five, six and seven presently live at the hotel. It has the distinction of being the longest continuously run hotel in Scotland. The family influence is evident when you enter the premises. Hiding behind the black and white Georgian facade is a well maintained interior influenced by exposed walls, flagstone floors, antique furniture and four open fires on the ground floor. The Cocktail bar is a stunning design mixing Olde World with the modern demands of customers. We provide Fyne Ales, Czech lagers, a huge whiskey selection, an extensive wine list, cocktails and quality coffee. The kitchen is headed up by two classically trained French chefs. They marry their knowledge with an understanding of the Scottish palate.

They have twice been awarded silver for best gastropub in Scotland and 2011 saw The Clark family have presided over the proceedings at the George hotel since 1860. Three generations, five, six and seven presently live at the hotel. It has the distinction of being the longest continuously run hotel in Scotland. The family influence is evident when you enter the premises. Hiding behind the black and white Georgian facade is a well maintained interior influenced by exposed walls, flagstone floors, antique furniture and four open fires on the ground floor. The Cocktail bar is a stunning design mixing Olde World with the modern demands of customers. We provide Fyne Ales, Czech lagers, a huge whiskey selection, an extensive wine list, cocktails and quality coffee. The kitchen

is headed up by two classically trained French chefs. They marry their knowledge with an understanding of the Scottish palate. They have twice been awarded silver for best gastropub in Scotland and 2011 saw The George being awarded the Best Pub in Scotland from The Soup Guide. All the products are fresh. The hotel also has it's own langoustine boat providing fresh prawns daily. The bedrooms have been extensively and sensitively restored, renovated and refurbished. They feature whirlpool baths, roll top baths, working fires and antique furniture. With the hard work and dedication that the team at The George commits to, we try and ensure that the customer has a good quality product and service at a fair price.

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Winston Churchill comes from a line of the Churchill family that has a long history of many generations of gamekeepers. Winston followed this tradition leaving school in 1966, aged fifteen to follow his passion for outdoor life working as a trainee gamekeeper and working with his father. Although Winston was born and bred in East Anglia he had a burning desire to move north of the border and work even closer with nature amongst the Scottish hills with Britain's largest land mammal, the Red deer. He moved north in April 1983 to work as a deerstalker on the Cowal peninsula, Argyll. Winston met Anne, a local girl, and they married in April 1985. During 1988 the Churchill's started their own deer stalking business called Winston Churchill

Stalking, which still operates today and produces the carcasses for Winston Churchill Venison. Winston and Anne have two sons, Angus who is part of the team and Jamie who is also a keen and competent stalker. Winston Churchill Stalking organises deer stalking holidays for sportsmen from all parts of the world to take part in a unique hunting experience in Argyll. With demand growing for natural healthy meats - Venison is very low in cholesterol and fat - the Churchill's built a purpose built facility to process their deer carcasses during 2000. Sales took off and they now employ two full time butchers to process, package and dispatch their venison, which has been sold mainly locally but now offers mail order and is going far and wide!

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geography that influence it - a sense of place, of terroir, that speaks of the land, of the raw ingredients from which it is made. We believe it should be a reflection of the soul of those who have laboured to produce it. As progressive Hebridean distillers we are passionately committed to producing the finest, truly artisanal, most thought-provoking single malt, of a flawless provenance and utmost integrity. That's why we still use the original Victorian equipment, slow natural fermentation, trickle distillation and are the largest employer on Islay after the State. We have respect for the past - organic farming, Bere barley, slow distillation, quality casks - and a passionate belief in the future. We have proven that artisanal craft and human spirit, not just efficiency and computer control, are profitable - and better.

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Oban, PA 34 4HQ

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Started in March 2011, Fin's Place is going from strength to strength. Fin Millar took the decision to set up on his own after gaining a wealth of knowledge of all things mechanical. Having spent 5 years in Aberdeen for his apprenticeship with a German car specialist, Fin has gone on to work for multiple manufacturers, namely Ford, Daewoo and Fiat. It was at Fiat that he qualified and gained his D.E.T (dealer expert technician) status. He has been MOT testing for over twenty years and while Fin's Place doesn't at present do MOTs, he can organise them for his customers, with plenty of knowledge. A self acclaimed Fiat and Alfa Romeo enthusiast, Fin is dedicated and passionate about cars and will provide a service that reflects this. He operates a "No fix, No Fee" offer, subject to certain conditions, and always welcomes new customers to his unit at Old Tweedmill. Fin is currently looking to expand and grow his business over the coming year. If in need of a vehicle technician who is friendly, helpful and reliable then Fin Millar is definitely worth a visit.

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I moved to Oban from Isle of Gigha 37 years ago, I have been a fisherman all my working days. I formed my company John MacAlister (Oban) Ltd in the early nineties starting with one fishing vessel and built my first vessel in 1997. I continued to work at sea until around 2006 until the many increasing fishing regulations forced me to give up the sea and attend to these matters ashore. Since then the company invested and built a further two boats, one with John MacAlister (Oban) Ltd and the other with sister company The Star Fishing Company Ltd. The companies now operate seven vessels within the office in Oban. The boats operate around the UK and Ireland fishing for scallops and prawns. We diversified into refrigerated transport which transport our shellfish and provide a service to other vessels operating around Scotland with a regular service around twice per week to and from the North and East of Scotland. We also run Low-loader transport and have an engineering workshop, manufacturing hydraulic hoses and repair work to both motor and marine equipment; we offer a 24 hour service. John MacAlister (Oban) Ltd transport and Auto and Marine Engineering Services operate from premises at The Workshop, Oban Livestock Centre, Oban.

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Forbes Boat Care is a business tailoring "Boat Babysitting" packages for people with boats in Argyll who live elsewhere. Founded by Michael Forbes in 2005, FBC has been based at Creran Marine where the business runs a chandlers and successful boat brokerage. Waterside property sales have been added to the business portfolio along with the release of FBC Marine Products which are boat care products released last summer. The business received a number of business awards shortly after start-up along with aid from both the SJ Noble Trust and the PSYBT for whom Michael now volunteers as an ambassador. The packages involve sub contracting work out to a list of contractors, allowing the boat owner to have their boat completely looked after with just one contact number. The business also takes on major repair and insurance jobs, made possible by the new indoor work units at Creran Marine. Having picked up a national award for staff training the Boat Babysitter 18 month training course gives a wide range of training to candidates, and FBC currently employs 4 full time staff. With a 2nd Argyll branch in sight and now trading overseas its all hands on deck...

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Will Currie of Renewables Now had been installing renewable heat technologies for over 9 years before Ann Rowan became part of the company in 2010. Using Will's technical background and Anns' quality management and customer care skills, Renewables Now became the first installers to gain MCS accreditation in all 4 renewable heat technologies. They are still the only business in Argyll accredited for Ground Source Heat Pumps, Air Source Heat Pumps, Biomass and Solar Thermal combined. Since opening the doors of their showroom at Barcaldine in March 2011 and employing another installer in May 2011, Will and Ann have seen their business grow from strength

to strength, with dozens of installations of renewable heat technologies throughout Scotland. Will and Ann believe their climb to success is due to their attention to detail in all aspects of every project and their commitment to superior levels of customer care. Combining that with the highest quality equipment and a desire to succeed is their recipe for success. The focus on quality is a corner stone of their business and they believe every customer deserves and get the best. The only barrier to their future growth is finding appropriately skilled installation personnel and an office technician who will share their high company values.

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Trying to create better pasture by re-seeding is simply attracting even more geese

**Falling prime  
sheep trade**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 667 sheep of all classes at Dingwall last Wednesday when a mixed show of sheep found trade in line with the falling prime trade. Lambs sold to £86 for Cheviots from Free Farm, Tomatin. Ewes sold to £104 for Texel crosses from Druid Temple Farm, while rams and feeding sheep sold to £74 twice for Blackfaces from Lairgandour, Daviot, and Cheviots from Free Farm. Blackface lambs from Ardnamurchan Estates sold to £74, and Cheviots to £71. Cheviot rams from Corriebeinn Farms, Skye fetched £70.

**Quality in demand at Portree sale**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 145 store cattle, three breeding cattle, two OTM cattle and 69 sheep at Portree last Saturday when all classes continued to sell at similar rates to other centres. Quality kinds were particularly sought after. Bulls averaged 211.6p and sold to 250p per kg for a 300kg Limousin cross from 1 Eyre, Snizort, and £1000 for a 440kg Limousin cross from 2 Kingsburgh, Snizort. Heifers averaged 203.3p and sold to 226.3p per kg for a 190kg Limousin cross from 6 Kilvaxter, Portree, and £840 for a 440kg Limousin cross from 2 Kingsburgh, Carbost. Breeding cows sold to £1310 gross for an in-calf Charolais cross cow from Glenbrittle, Carbost. OTM cattle sold to 130.3p per kg and £860 for a 660kg Simmental cross from 11 Clachan, Staffin. Sheep sold to £77 for Blackface widders from Kerrol Farm, Edinbane, while Cheviot ewes from 3 Drumuie fetched £70.

Bullocks up to 200kg - 8 Balmeanach, Struan, £440, 231.6p; 201-250kg - 8 Balmeanach, £530, 7 Kingsburgh, 228.6p; 251-300kg - 1 Eyre, £750, 7 Ullinish, Struan, 236.7p; 301-350kg - 2 Kingsburgh, £805, 1 Eyre, 234.4p; 351-400kg - 2 Kingsburgh, £910, 1 & 2 Stenscholl, Staffin, 235.1p; 401-450kg - Kilmahuag, Duntulm, £920, 2 Kingsburgh, 227.3p; 451-500kg - 2 Kingsburgh, £800. Heifers up to 200kg - Balnacnoe, Uig, £445, 222.5p; 201-250kg - 6 Kilvaxter, £500, Balnacnoe, 209.1p; 251-300kg - 7 Ullinish, £670, South Cuidreach, Earlish, 224.1p; 301-350kg - 2 Kingsburgh, £750, 220.6p; 351-400kg - 1 & 2 Stenscholl, £830, 4 Bay, Waternish, 216.2p; 401-450kg - Glenbrittle, £830, 2 Kingsburgh, 190.9p. Breeding cattle: In-calf cow - Glenbrittle, £1180. Sheep: Cheviot: 3 Drumuie, Portree, £70. Rams - Texel: Orbost, £70; Cheviot: 3 Balgowan, £68.

## Mull grassland comes under threat from geese

GEESE are presenting a challenge to the improvement of grassland on a monitor farm on the Isle of Mull. Iain Mackay has a five year Short Limited Duration Tenancy (SLDT) on Torloisk, one of Quality Meat Scotland's national programme of monitor farms. Mr MacKay is determined to boost productivity by improving the grassland and increasing the feed options for his Elite Health status fold of 50 pedigree Highland cows, some of which are crossed with the Simmental bull, plus his sheep enterprise, which totals 850 breeding ewes. But this new, sweet and succulent grass mix has been heavily grazed by Greylag geese, an increasing problem for many island and coastal farmers. In addition, heavy rainfall, which during the winter on Mull has averaged over half an inch a day for the last six months, has also taken its toll on the fragile

young plants. Peter Addie of Watson Seeds, suppliers of the seed, said: "Geese are attracted to this tasty area and pull up the young clover, so it's important to try to keep them off to enable the remaining clover to grow on and produce stolons to create new plants." Cattle will be kept off for at least another year, to allow the remaining clover to establish. "While it's tempting to re-seed the area, it will simply attract even more geese," Mr Addie added. The benefits and challenges of improving grassland and forage crops were hot topics at the recent monitor farm meeting on the west of the island. Torloisk is a predominantly hill unit of 7,600 acres, with a limited amount of ploughable land in the approximately 380 acres below the hill dyke. Having identified some cultivatable areas on Torloisk last year Mr Mackay re-seeded

a three acre block with West-erwolds, Mingary and clover following a forage rape crop. He also planted 4.5 acres of forage crops - a mixture of Stygo fodder rape, Samson stubble turnips and Swift, a hybrid kale/rape. A further 8.6 acres had been over-sown after harrowing, with a bespoke mix which included clover and Timothy. At the recent meeting, Mr Mackay confirmed that the rumen of lambs under 25kgs cannot cope with forage crops, however lambs over 27kgs at turn-out had thrived particularly well. Mr Mackay is also part of the NFUS' New Generation group, which aims to support new farming businesses into the future - ensuring they don't face any disadvantages and are treated in an equal manner to existing farms. The next meeting of the Mull Monitor Farm is scheduled for early June.

## Kintyre cattle dominate trade at Caledonian Marts' Stirling sale

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 589 store cattle at their fortnightly sale at Millhall Mart, Stirling on Monday when the entry included 77 head from the Kintyre area which topped the sale in both the bullock and heifer sections. The overall sale was topped at 279.5p per kg for six Limousin bullocks from L Black and Co, Lephimore, Saddell.

Heifers sold to 252p per kg for four Limousins from J J Black, Tanga, Kilkenzie. Two Limousin bullocks from D McKendrick, No.5 Tomaig, Campbeltown, scaling 495kg, sold at £1085, while Limousin heifers sold to £780 for a 360kg from A McLean, Killeonan, Campbeltown. Simmentals sold to £690 for 270kg bullocks from A Bate-

man, Langholm, Southend. In the native bred section all classes met good demand with Kintyre bullocks selling to 228p per kg for Aberdeen Angus from Messrs Taylor, High Cruibsdale, Muasdale, while heifers sold to 230p per kg again for Aberdeen Angus, this time from W Skilling, Cara View, Tayinloan. Shorthorn bullocks sold to £770 from High Cruibsdale.

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Candidates should possess excellent computer skills, particularly in Microsoft Excel and Word, along with competence in basic statistics and exceptional literacy skills. A driving licence is also essential for this role.

In return, Marine Harvest offers a competitive salary and benefits package and assistance will be considered should relocation be required.

If you would like to apply for this interesting post, please put your application in writing to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT. The closing date for the receipt of applications is 18th May.

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We are looking for an experienced Project Administrator with excellent organisation and communication skills who enjoys a busy working environment and who can be flexible to the needs of the project to support our European funded BioMara project.

The post has responsibility for organising meetings & workshops, taking minutes, liaising with project partners and producing project reports. In addition, they will provide general admin support to the project.

For further information and to apply for this position online, go to: [www.smi.ac.uk](http://www.smi.ac.uk) Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Project Administrator, D03/12.MS, The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA or e-mail to [recruitment@sams.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@sams.ac.uk).

**Closing date: Monday 14th May 2012**  
SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

**Scottish Sea Farms Freshwater Technician Isle of Mull**

Scottish Sea Farms Ltd are currently seeking to employ Freshwater Technicians at Knock Hatchery on the Isle of Mull.

Applications are invited from individuals who have an interest in aquaculture and feel that they could play a key part in strengthening an already skilled team responsible for producing Atlantic Salmon Fry, Parr and Smolt. Previous experience in the industry would be an advantage, but is not essential, as training will be supplied. A full clean driving license is essential for this position.

The successful applicant would be required to carry out a variety of tasks including:

- Routine stock husbandry
- Environmental monitoring
- Stock health & welfare monitoring
- Site and equipment maintenance
- Weekend working and alarm cover on a Rota basis

An attractive salary is on offer to the right person along with assistance with accommodation, if required. To apply, please contact Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email [claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com) for an application pack.

**Closing Date for applications: Friday 18th May 2012**

**Year of Creative Scotland 2012**

**Appointment of Board Members**

Creative Scotland is the Scottish Government's national body for the arts, culture and creative industries. It is governed by the Creative Scotland Board whose members are responsible for the overall strategy and for ensuring the body takes forward its vision.

Scottish Ministers are seeking to appoint up to 3 new members of this high profile public body. We are seeking board members who can contribute broadly to achieving Creative Scotland's objectives, so applications from a range of backgrounds are welcome, but in the process we would also hope to supplement our collective experience in New Media and in Gaelic arts and culture.

Board Members play a key role in Creative Scotland delivering its remit, acting as champions and advocates for the body and overseeing, supporting and challenging the work of the senior executive team.

Board Members are non-remunerated, with an anticipated time commitment of around 12 days per year. Reasonable travel expenses and childcare/carer costs will be reimbursed. Member appointments will be for a term of 4 years with the possibility of re-appointment for a further term.

The closing date for applications is Friday 25 May 2012.

You can find full details of what is involved and can apply online or by visiting the dedicated public appointments website: [www.appointedforscotland.org](http://www.appointedforscotland.org) Alternatively application packs can be obtained by calling (freephone) 0800 015-8449 Fax 0131 244 3833 emailing [paapplicationsmailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:paapplicationsmailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) or by writing to the Scottish Government, HR Public Appointments, Saughton House (E15pur), Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh EH11 3XD. You should provide your name, address and the public appointment you are interested in.

Scottish Government welcomes applications from eligible candidates from diverse backgrounds and actively encourages applications from disabled people. Appointed on merit; committed to diversity and equality.

**MORHAM & BROTCHE**  
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The successful candidates will join our experienced team in our Head Office in Oban and will be involved in all aspects of Quantity Surveying Services on a wide range of projects throughout the UK.

You should have good professional or educational qualifications or be willing to work towards appropriate qualifications and have first class interpersonal and IT skills. You should be well organised and be capable of delivering quality outcomes as required while managing competing priorities.

This is an excellent career opportunity for which an appropriate remuneration package is being offered for negotiation. A full driving licence is essential.

Please apply in writing enclosing your C.V to:  
Tommy McQuade, Principal  
Morham & Brochie, Chartered Quantity Surveyors,  
5 Stafford Street, Oban, PA34 5NJ

**JIM MARTIN SUPPLIES OFFICE PERSON**

A vacancy has arisen for a part time (approx.20 hours) Office Person. This post requires multi skills to include: Sales and purchase ledger, reception & telephone, sales counter and store duties.

Applicants should have experience of clerical work and general office procedures, have knowledge of Sage-Line 50, Microsoft Word and Excel packages.

Salary to be discussed, depending on experience.

Applications in writing with CV to:  
**Jim Martin, J.M.S., 109 - 119 Longrow, Campbeltown, PA28 6EX.**  
Tel: 01586 550066/77

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Application packs are available from [www.scottishwater.co.uk](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk) careers section.

**Closing date for receipt of applications: Friday 18 May 2012.**

**Full time sales staff required for busy Outdoor Sports Shop**

Would suit an outdoor enthusiast with sales experience

Application in writing to include a CV to Outside Edge, 6 MacGregor Court Oban, PA34 4DJ

**Celtic Sea**

Celtic Sea Ltd, one of Scotland's leading mussel producer, is looking for a

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Applicants should be reliable, physically fit and hold a full clean driving licence. Practical experience in forklift, crane and boat handling is preferred but not essential as training will be given. Level of pay is relative to experience and skills. Place of work is Loch Melfort.

Please send comprehensive CV to:  
Celtic Sea Ltd, Loch Melfort, Arduaine, Argyll, PA34 4XQ, Phone 01852 200 576

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bringing people together since 1923

**PCV Driver**

We are seeking to recruit a full time PCV driver based at our **Ardrishaig** depot. This position will cover a range of services including local bus, schools, express coach and private hire.

If you hold a PCV licence and are interested in such a position, please apply in writing (enclosing your c.v.) to:

**Personnel Department  
West Coast Motors  
Bennhor  
Campbeltown  
Argyll PA28 6DN**

or complete our online application form at [www.westcoastmotors.co.uk](http://www.westcoastmotors.co.uk)

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[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

**BLUE TRIANGLE (GLASGOW) HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

We work with people affected by homelessness, providing person-centred support and quality accommodation.

**HOUSING ASSISTANTS**  
Location: Oban Services. £13,956 - £15,513 (pro rata based on 35 hrs p/w).

**Day Duty - Temporary, 35 hrs p/w. Ref: OBANHA350512.**  
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With a positive flexible attitude, you will provide a quality housing management service in an environment which accommodates vulnerable service users.

You will ensure effective security of the premises through observation, awareness and routine checks. Able to maintain high health & safety standards throughout the premises, you will complete regular cleaning and maintenance duties, which will be reported to the Project Manager.

**RELIEF HOUSING ASSISTANTS**  
Ref: ABCREL0512. Location: Oban & Campbeltown. £7.65 per hour.

We are looking to recruit highly motivated individuals, able to provide a quality Housing Management Service with experience of working with vulnerable service users and an awareness of drug and alcohol issues. You will be able to work shifts at short notice and cover holiday and absence.

For further information, and to apply online please visit our website [www.btha.org.uk](http://www.btha.org.uk) Alternatively please call 0141 221 8365 for an application pack. PVG Membership is required for these posts (expense met by employer). Please quote the reference number.  
Closing date: **Friday 18th May 2012.**

A Registered Scotland Charity No SC010858. **INVESTORS IN PEOPLE** Bronze

[www.btha.org.uk](http://www.btha.org.uk)

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59 Peugeot 207s SWHD Estate, Silver, 14,000 miles.....	£9,650
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09 Peugeot 107 Urban 3 door, Silver, 15,000 miles.....	£5,250
58 Renault Laguna Exp DCI 150 Black, 21,000 miles.....	£8,750
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07 Renault Megane HB GT DCI 150 5 Dr, Black, 23,500 miles.....	£6,750
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www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00619/PP	Erection of 15 kilowatt wind turbine (21 metres high to blade tip)	Land South East of Croish House Caolis Isle of Tiree Argyll And Bute	Tiree Area Office
12/00638/PP	Erection of extensions, porch and increase in verandah area	10 Dalavich Chalet Park Dalavich Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1HS	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
12/00790/PP	Demolition of bunkhouse, external terrace structure to hotel bar, extensions to hotel cottage and store extension to main hotel. Erection of 3 single storey buildings (hotel accommodation), sauna, new extension to hotel cottage, external terrace and stores to existing hotel and alterations to hotel main entrance to accommodate platform lift and improve access.	Bridge of Orchy Hotel Bridge of Orchy Argyll and Bute PA36 4AB	Sub Post Office Dalmally
12/00803/PP	Alterations and extensions to existing dwellinghouse, replacement double garage with studio accommodation above.	Ardcluan Track From Bonawe Road to Achnacreebeag North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1RE	Oban Area Office
12/00810/PP	Formation of forestry/agricultural access road.	B8035 Access Between Derrach and Killenore Pennymuir Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA70 6HQ	Sub Post Office Craignure

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Whitegates Offices Whitegates Road Lochgilphead Argyll PA31 8SY, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of application should be made to the above address within 21 days of the advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00827/PP	Erection of new 63 bedroom hotel (amendment to planning permission reference 1Q/01831/PP) - incorporating caretakers accommodation	Argyll Hotel Corran Esplanade Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5PZ	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street, Ardaraigh PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00791/PP	Erection of conservatory	Jura Cottage Jamieson Street Bownmore Isle ofIslay Argyll and Bute	Bownmore Area Office Isle ofIslay

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Offices Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY. A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Offices.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**THE ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL (MAIN STREET, TOBERMORY) (DESIGNATED TAXI/ DISABLED PERSONS' VEHICLE PARKING BAYS)(AMENDMENT) ORDER 2012**

On Monday 30th April 2012, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order in terms of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.

The Order, which comes into operation on 15th June 2012, introduces a taxi bay and an additional disabled persons' vehicle parking bay on Main Street Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

A copy of the Order as made and plan relative thereto are available for inspection during normal working hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the following offices:

(i) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Broadalbane Street, Tobermory;

(ii) Roads & Amenity Services, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban;

(iii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Any person, who wishes to question the validity of the Order or any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act or any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from 3rd May 2012, apply to the Court of Session for this purpose.

**THE ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL (OBAN TOWN CENTRE) (TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2012**

On Monday 30th April 2012, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order in terms of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.

The Order, which comes into operation on 15th June 2012, introduces new and amends existing restrictions on various roads within Oban. The following roads are affected: Albany Street, Dalriach Road, Ganavan Road, Quarry Road, Shore Street, Sinclair Drive, Soroba Road, and Soroba Lane.

The Order has been confirmed as previously advertised with the exception of the length of the proposed no waiting/ no loading at any time restriction on the northwest side of Ganavan Road. This is being modified to a no waiting at any time restriction and will also be reduced in length, thus making the restriction less stringent.

A copy of the Order as made and plans relative thereto are available for inspection during normal working hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the following offices:

(i) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban;

(ii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Any person, who wishes to question the validity of the Order or any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act or any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from 3rd May 2012, apply to the Court of Session for this purpose.

Sandy MacTaggart, Executive Director, Development & Infrastructure Services, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RD

**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	Time period for comments
12/00806/PIP	Land 25M West of Lois Mhoire Tigh A Phuir Ballachulish	Erection of house	(14 days)
12/01052/FUL	Land 60M North of Glen Leac Na Muilthe Glencoe Ballachulish	Erection of house (Renewal of 05/00393/FULLO)	(14 days)
12/01375/PIP	Land 40M SW of St Andrew's Lochaline Morvem	Erection of three houses	(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)

**BREEDON**

**AGGREGATES**

**Blasting at Banavie Quarry-  
Tuesday 8th May 2012  
at noon**

**An Comunn  
Gaidhealach  
Meur Chruachain**  
(Cruchan Branch)

**AGM**

Taynuilt Village Hall  
Committee Room  
To be followed by a  
Committee Meeting  
Thursday 10 May, 2012  
At 7.30pm  
All Welcome  
To enter please use back door

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

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**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**AGM**

**The Hydrotherapy Ltd**

Wednesday,  
May 23, 2012, 7.15 pm  
at the Hydrotherapy  
Pool, Belford Road,  
Fort William  
All welcome.

# FOR EVERYTHING BMW.

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**£289** deposit **£289** per month

- 17" light alloy wheels • Bluetooth hands-free facility
- Start/Stop button with keyless engine start
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BMW 116i Sport 5-door - representative example

<b>£289</b> Customer deposit	<b>£289</b> Monthly payment x47	<b>£1330<sup>60</sup></b> Dealer deposit contribution	<b>48</b> Months	<b>£21,310</b> On the road cash price*	<b>£1619<sup>60</sup></b> Total deposit	<b>£19,690<sup>40</sup></b> Total amount of credit
<b>£10</b> Option to purchase fee <sup>^</sup>	<b>£8,847</b> Optional final payment	<b>£22,729</b> Total amount payable by customer	<b>£24,059<sup>60</sup></b> Total amount payable	<b>4.9%</b> Rate of interest (fixed)	<b>4.9% APR</b> Representative	



BMW 118d Exclusive Edition Coupé

**£299** deposit **£299** per month

- 17" Star spoke alloy wheels • Bluetooth Handsfree with USB audio interface
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BMW Z4 sDrive20i SE Roadster

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**BIRTHS**

**MACKENZIE** - Chas and Isla (nee Coleman), are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Mollie Rose Joan, on March 29, 2012. A little sister for Cara and Charlie, 8th grandchild for Tommy and Ann MacKenzie, third grandchild for Pat Gillies and Ed Coleman. Thanks to Southern General Maternity Unit and Oban midwives

**McKIE** - Allan and Gemma (nee Brady) are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter Connie, on April 24 2012, a first grandchild for Allan and Mary and David and Caroline, first great-grandchild for Sheila McKie and Wilson and Oban midwives

**ENGAGEMENTS**



**CLUCKIE - MACDOUGALL** - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Stuart, son of Gordon and Irene, and Donna, youngest daughter of Donnie and Andrea. We wish them both every happiness.

**MARRIAGES**

**SMITH - CAMPBELL** - Susan Catherine, third daughter of Jim and Susan, Lawriestown, Achintore Road, Fort William and John David, eldest son of Kenny and Marion, 15 Nairn Crescent, Fort William were married on April 28, at St Mary's Church, Fort William, by Monsignor MacKinnon. The couple held their reception at The Moorings Hotel.

**DEATHS**

**COOPER** - Peacefully in the Royal Northern Infirmary, Inverness on April 29, 2012, Isobel Scott, aged 79 years, 124 Fairfield Road, Inverness, (formerly of Queen Elizabeth Cottages, Furnace), beloved wife of Victor, much loved mother of Evelyn and Linda, also a loving nanny. Funeral service on Friday, May 4, at 1pm in Inveraray Church of Scotland; thereafter to Kilmorynne Cemetery, Minard. All welcome to attend. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired, to Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland may be given at the service or forwarded to D Chisholm & Sons, Huntly Street, Inverness IV3 5HP.

**COTMAN** - Suddenly but peacefully at home on April 24, 2012, aged 71 years, Mabel Lorna Jane Cotman, nee Gillespie (Lorna), dearly beloved wife of John, much loved sister of Marjorie, Alastair and Jan and a loving Aunt and Great Aunt. Funeral to take place from Kilbrandon Parish Church, Isle of Seil on Friday May 4, at 1 pm. Thereafter to Kilbrandon Cemetery. All family and friends are respectfully invited to attend. Family flowers only please, retiring collection / donations if desired for North Argyll Carers Centre, Oban.

**GULLY** - Fiona Margaret (nee Mackenzie), aged 68, passed away peacefully on Tuesday at the Golden Jubilee Hospital, Glasgow, surrounded by her husband and two sons. A private funeral service will be held this week. Memorial service, in Oban, to be announced.

**HILL** - At the Lynn of Lorne Nursing Home, Benderloch, on May 1 2012, in her 85th year, Harriet, (Rita), after a long illness bravely borne. Sadly missed.

**LAURIE** - Peacefully after a short illness on April 29, 2012, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, Marjorie Laurie, aged 86 years, of 13 Highbank Park, Lochgilphead, beloved wife of the late John Thomson Laurie, former pharmacist, Argyll and Bute Hospital, much loved mum of Jeanne and the late Petra, and adored granny of Ailish and Arwen. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church on Saturday, May 5 at 11.00am, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to MS Centre and Mid Argyll Hospital.

**LEIPER** - James Murphy Leiper of Eredine. Peacefully passed away after a long illness. Helped others when possible, regardless of cost to himself. One good turn deserves another was his rule in life. Sadly not many visitors in the end, but lived life the way it should be - "His way". Many thanks to a very hard working and dedicated Dad. Survived by Mary, Douglas, Corrina and Malachi. Son-in-law Angus and Daughter-

in-law Michelle. Dearly loved by his grandkids and great grandkids. Funeral service will take place at Cardross Crematorium today, Thursday May 3, at 12.15pm. 'Grandad, you were great fun and always managed to chat to anyone. I will miss you so much and know you are watching from above. Love Samantha x x'

**MACCORMICK** - Peacefully at Thornton Mews, Falkirk on April 23, 2012 in her 97th year, Morag of Newcroft, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull, beloved wife of the late Dugie MacCormick, a much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Sadly missed.

**MACLEOD** - Peacefully at the Royal Alexandra Hospital on Monday, April 23, 2012, John beloved husband of the late Nena and a much loved uncle of the family. Funeral service at Clydebank Crematorium, Mountblow Road, G81 4SL on Tuesday, May 8 at 2pm to which all are respectfully invited.

**MACNEILL** - Peacefully, at the home of her son in Roy Bridge, on Friday, April 27, 2012, Annie MacNeill, of 59 Riverside Park, Lochside, beloved wife of Hughie and mother of Lachie and Hugh. Funeral service took place at the Duncansburgh-MacIntosh Church.

**WYNDHAM LEWIS** - Peacefully, at Ardernaig Residential Home, Ardrihaig on April 29, 2012, Simon Wyndham Lewis, in his 78th year, of Lunga. Private cremation service. Memorial service details and date will be announced at a later date.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**MATHERS** - The family of Flora Mathers, who passed away on April 19, 2012, aged 91 years, would like to thank all family and friends for cards, flowers and donations. Special thanks to Mossbank Nursing Home whom we can't thank enough for the kindness, patience and care shown to us all, to Rev Corbett, Ewen and Staff at McLellan & Co, Faye at CoL Community Centre and to all who paid their respects at church and graveside.

**McCOLL** - Bobby would like to sincerely thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy, for flowers, cards, letters, phone calls and home baking received, following the sad loss of Flora. The support has been very uplifting. Special thanks to Rev Thomas Bryson for a comforting service, Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for guidance and professional services, Tarbert Hotel for an excellent purvey and to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside. The collection of £1400 was shared by Tarbert Parish Church Restoration Fund and Tarbert Senior Citizen's Annual Dinner Fund.

**MEMORIALS**

**CLARK** - In loving memory of my dear brother Tommy who died on May 4, 2009. There is a very special gift in life

That's very rare or true It's the gift of special memories Especially the ones I have of you - Your loving sister Mary

**CLARK** - In loving memory of my dear uncle Tom, died at Kilmorian, Isle of Mull, on May 4, 2009. Quietly today your memory I treasure

Missing you always Forgetting you never Loved and remembered always. - Niece Mary and her husband Bobby.

**COLETTA** - Precious memories of our dearly loved dad, Joseph, who died 20 years ago on the May 5, 1992. We love you and we miss you, always Memories make love eternal.

**DOWNIE** - Treasured memories of Alistair a much loved husband, father and grandpa, who died May 2, 1999. We do not lose the ones we love

They only go before So smile and remember. - Margaret and son Niall, Kinlochleven. Also remembered with love and affection

- By Cilla, Calum and grandchildren Stuart and Ashleigh, Bracknell. Sleep in peace grandpa.

**DOWNIE** - Alistair, May 2, 1999. Loving father and grandfather Loved and remembered everyday.

- Marianne, Bob, Kirstie, Euan, and Caitlin. **DRUMMOND** - Cherished memories of my dear wife Grace who passed away May 2, 2011. Always in my thoughts

David, Dunmar Court, Oban Always remembered, all the family Taynuilt, Oban and Glasgow

**GALBRAITH** - Remembering with love today as every day, James, a dear son, husband, dad and brother who died so suddenly on May 6, 2011 Always in our thoughts.

- Dad, Sue, Heidi, Calum, Christine, Valerie and Colin. **GALBRAITH** - James (Jim) 6 May 2011. One year has passed since that sad day

You closed your eyes and slipped away You never said I'm leaving, you never said goodbye You were gone before we knew it and God only knows why

All the gifts in life however big or small, To have you as a husband and dad Was the greatest gift of all All our love always. - Sue, Heidi and Calum.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of our dear brother-in-law and uncle Donald Neil MacDonald, who died May 9, 2009. Forever in our thoughts.

- Ellen and family. **MACKECHNIE** - In loving memory of our dear parents, John who died April 29, 1972 and Catherine MacCallum died March 6, 1953. - Sadly missed by all their family.

**MACKINNON** - In loving memory of my granny Dolina Marnoch, died May 4, 2006. I miss you most And loved you best Sleep on dear one And take your rest Best love always. - From the Boy xxx

**MACLEAN** - Ellen 'Marie', Inverloch. We little knew that morning That God was going to call your name In life we loved you dearly In death we do the same It broke our hearts to lose you

You did not go alone For part of us went with you The day God called you home Together always. - Duncan and Family xx

**MACPHEE** - Margaret. Precious memories of a loving aunt (Manda), who died on April 28, 2006. Sorely missed and always in our thoughts.

- Catriona, Margaret, Christina and Lorraine. **McAFFER** - In loving memory of a dear mother and granny Annie, who passed away May 15, 1990, also our dear uncle and great uncle John, who passed away May 4, 2009. Always in our thoughts.

- Dugie, Teen and Angela. **REID** - To our Dad, father-in-law and papa, Willie, who died May 7, 2011. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts.

**SINCLAIR** - Achaleven Farm. Treasured memories of our dear grandparents, Donald, who died March 21, 1985 and Duncan who died May 6, 2003. No words, no verse Could ever say How much we miss you every day

Precious are our memories of a Shen and Grampa We will never forget. - Granddaughter Marie, great-grandson Duncan and Dugald.xxx

**SINCLAIR** - In loving memory of our dear Grampa Duncan, who died on May 6, 2003. Gentle Jesus up above Please give grampa all our love

Love always. - Granddaughter Josephine, Kevin and great-grandson Gabriel xxx. **STOTT** - Treasured memories of a dear mum and granny, Christina, who died May 6, 1987. But not from our hearts.

- Daughter, Rosemary, son-in-law, Ewen and grandsons, Ewen and Ross, Tigh-na-Coille, Spean Bridge. **TAYLOR** - Remembering always with love my darling husband William, who passed away May 5, 1992. The years are swiftly passing

As the seasons come and go But loving memories hold you close In the heart that loved you so. - Love always Violet. **TAYLOR** - Cherished memories of a loving dad and grandpa, William who passed away on May 5, 1992. A beautiful memory Dearest than gold Of a dad whose worth can never be told

There's a place in our hearts No one can fill We miss you dad and always will. - Shaun, Eilidh, Ryan and Zoe, Steven, Christina, Lauren and Danielle, Tony, Janice and William.

**CHARITY DONATIONS**

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT** Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer West of Scotland Fundraising Office 1st Floor, Erskine House North Avenue, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR Tel 0808 100 6000 In memory of Dawn Joyce

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**MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE** Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch Donations always gratefully accepted Please contact Mrs Lillian Kernode Tynwald, Glenburn, Soroba Road, Oban 01631 571009

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**ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES** ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN Campbell Street Church Sunday 6 May 2012 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 6 May 2012 5th of Easter St John's Cathedral, Oban Holy Communion.....08.00 Sung Eucharist.....10.15 Loop System Large Print Hymn Books Kilbrandon Kirk Holy Eucharist.....15.15 Holy Cross, Portnacroish, Appin Evensong.....18.00 St Columba, Gruline, Mull Holy Communion.....11.00 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist.....08.00 Evensong.....20.15 Holy Eucharist..... Wed 9 May 14.30

**LONDON QUARTERLY GAELIC SERVICE** Will be held in Crown Court Church of Scotland, Russell Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 on Sunday, May 13, at 3.30pm. Preacher Rev Malcolm MacLeod, Shawbost, Isle of Lewis.

**MEMORIALS** **OBAN MEMORIALS** Alistair MacLean Master Sculptor Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban Design and prices on request LETTING AND RENOVATING DONE IN ANY CEMETERY TEL: 01631 563123 / 565269



Children from Rockfield Primary School raised an additional £165.78 for David at their end of term service. David, centre, is pictured receiving the cheque from girl captain, Shannon McKay, and boy captain, Jonathan Head. 15\_117davidmacque1

# Oban man raises funds for Falklands war veterans

AN OBAN man is hoping to raise £30,000 for Falklands war veterans as he makes final preparations for an emotional trip to the island in a fortnight's time.

'Yomp' David MacPherson is currently breaking in the shoes he'll wear when he attempts to traverse 120km across the remote island's harsh terrain in just seven days, starting May 12, in aid of the Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund and the South Atlantic Medal Association.

The 'Yomp' from Port San Carlos to Stanley will mark the 30th anniversary of the date David's older brother, Gordon, died while on duty with the Royal Marines during the

Falklands' War, aged just 20. It is the first chance he's had to visit the suite and he hopes to raise a glass of Oban whisky at Two Sisters to toast his memory.

But having nearly reached his original £20,000 target in just a few weeks, the painter and decorator is now hoping to reach £30,000.

Other plans have changed too. David was originally to do the walk with Simon and Gareth Spencer, whose father, Corporal Frank Spencer, also died while on duty. They have had to pull out for family reasons, meaning David will now be walking with Mike Cole, Zuli Company Commander in 1982, and Colour Sergeant Trev Law, a Royal

Marine Mountain Leader serving in the Falklands Islands. David said: 'Mike felt it was important we reach for the £30,000 figure, as this is the 30th anniversary of the war and we're hopeful of reaching that target.'

'The Yomp has gone global. We've had donations from North America and Australia now as well, with lots of ex-Oban people getting in touch. 'We're just delighted and very grateful for the support.'

Meanwhile, Mike has been asked by the Commando 999 charity, also in aid of former marines, to take with him a 5lb bronze statue to photograph at various points across the island. This will then be auctioned

to raise funds for the charity. The weight of all this is starting to weigh on David's shoulders, but he's taking it in his stride.

He said: 'Training is going well. It is just a case of putting one foot in front of the other - but I've not done anything like the distances I'll be doing in the Falklands, where the worst day will be 23 miles.

'I am starting to get a bit nervous because the biggest fear is not being able to complete it. This kind of thing is totally new to me. 'I am looking forward to it though.'

To sponsor David on his Falklands' mission, visit [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/yomp2012](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/yomp2012).



## Pupils keen on 'paper time' at Lochgoilhead

Primary seven pupils from Dunbeg and Lochnell schools took time out during their annual outdoor trip to Lochgoilhead to catch up on their Oban Times. The schools thanked all the local businesses and organisations that generously contributed to their fundraising for the trip.

## Visitor arrested

A VISITOR to Oban was arrested after allegedly brandishing a screwdriver and smashing a door in a hotel on Oban's Esplanade. The 24-year-old man was reported for brandishing a screwdriver and challenging others to a fight. He also smashed glass doors and damaged a car outside the hotel during the incident at 8.45pm last Wednesday.

## Obituary

### Duncan McKay, Inveraray

IT WAS standing room only at Cardross Crematorium when Duncan McKay's many friends from across Argyll, the Highland and Islands and Inveraray came to pay their respects and remember with fondness this remarkable man.

Duncan could never be described as conventional or boring. He did everything his way or not at all.

Born and raised in Ladyfield Farm in Glenaray and he was schooled at Inveraray under the watchful eye of the headmaster the 'wee man' Donald MacKechnie.

Under the tutelage of Bushy Black, Duncan found his great love of shinty and he developed into one of the finest players the Royal Burgh has ever produced. He sometimes played in the forward line but will be best remembered as full back. His motto 'Though shalt not pass' and with his strong strides, total determination and commitment in the tackle ensured that rarely happened. Donald MacPhail of Strachur recalls invariably after a tackle you ended up on your backside, the ball long gone, and Duncan giving you a wry smile indicating there was more of that to come. His great jousts against old rivals Dougie MacIntyre, Tommy Nic and Neil Blair, Lachie Birrell and the Camanachd Cup Finals games against Kilmallie and Newtownmore were a spectacle to behold. He developed many life long friends in the sport particularly the Kyles and Newtownmore boys and in particular John MacKenzie.

He provided great fun and entertainment on and off the park at the Newtownmore Veteran 6



aside competition. The MP Sir Russell Johnston rarely had the stamina to survive the Sunday morning brunch with Duncan and his accordion. Needless to stay the stop enroute home at the burger van on Loch Laggan often turned into a minicelidh.

An accomplished accordionist and he played at every possible chance to spread his love of Scottish Dance music and in his young days played with his great pal Dolly Munro, fiddle

player and head keeper on the estate, and were regular features of Guild, WRI and fund raising concerts in the town and playing hymns at the Rev Kellas's open air Sunday services at the caravan park.

The Mackays have a great talent at mimicking especially of Dolly and Donald Baan and were so accurate you would swear they were standing next to you.

The old green farm A55 van ESB791 would take Duncan's Bluebell Dance Band to village halls throughout the county.

His wide smile and definite style launched many happy nights. His overseas trips to Tیره were legend and he felt it was his duty to set up the band on board the ferry in the bar to shorten the journey, make them unaware of a choppy sea and deliver many happy refreshed passengers to Scarrinish jetty.

He was proud of his family's roots on Raasay and on his mother's side wee Jeanie MacIntyre with a two hundred year tenancy of Ladyfield.

The 12th Duke Iain summons Duncan to the estate office to explain that for commercial reasons the tenancy would end at term. His response was to grab His Grace by the jacket and utter 'you were lucky I wasn't at Glencoe' - needless to say his next job and until retirement was with the Estate and both had a healthy respect for one and other.

In the house, when Duncan put on his horn rimmed glasses and took out his diary or box of news cuttings you knew you were in for an evening of humorous nostalgia about Inveraray, East Fife FC, rugby or shinty with his own internal slant on events.

His stern command 'Nancy get the box' was a prelude to music and fun. It was fitting that his musical friends Calum MacPhail and Ross MacPherson bid Duncan farewell at the end of the service at Cardross.

Will we ever see his likes again, never. Will he be missed, most definitely. To Nancy, Alistair and family, brothers Malcolm and John and the family our deepest respects. A true character. DC

**WEDDINGS**



**WALLACE - WATSON** Dawn Wallace and Allan Watson of Glasgow were married at Crear, by Kilberry on 3rd March 2012.

Photography by George John Stewart of Crear Photography.

**GRADUATIONS**



Angela Kennedy, mother of Michael and Meghan Kennedy, graduated with a Diploma of Higher Education in Adult Nursing. Proud parents Alexander and Patricia MacKenzie (nee MacAllister). Angela is due to take up a new position with the Mallaig Community Nursing Team.

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# All-Argyll clash of ash at Winterton

## Results

Saturday 28 April 2012

**Orion Group Premiership**  
Kinlochshiel 4 Bute 2  
Kyles Athletic 2 Kilmallie 0  
Fort William 2 Lovat 4  
Inveraray 0 Kingussie 3

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Caberfeidh 2 Lochaber 5

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Lochaber 3 Aberdeen Uni 3  
Newtonmore 7 Kinlochshiel 0

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Inverness 0 Lochbroom 1

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Aberdour 1 Taynuilt 2  
Glasgow MA 3 Strachur 1  
Kilmory 6 Oban Celtic 2

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Glasgow MA 1 Lochside 3  
Inveraray 5 Ardnarmurchan 0

## The Co-operative

**MacTavish Cup**  
Beaully 1 Glenurquhart 6

**Balliemore Cup**  
Oban Camanachd 6 Strathglass 1  
Skye 2 Lochcarron 0

**Sutherland Cup**  
Kingussie 4 Skye 0

Newtonmore w/o Taynuilt  
Glenurquhart 0 Fort William 2  
Kilmallie 4 Ballachulish 4  
Lovat 4 Strathglass 0

Boleskine 2 Caberfeidh 3  
Glenurquhart 5 Kyles Athletic 1  
Beaully w/o Aberdour

## Fixtures

Saturday 5 May 2012

(Throw-ups 2.30 unless stated)

**Orion Group Premiership**  
Newtonmore v Fort William  
Evan MacRae

Glenurquhart v Kingussie  
Graham Irving  
Kilmallie v Kinlochshiel  
Ted MacDonald  
Kyles v Lovat  
Colin MacDonald  
Inveraray v Bute  
Billy Wotherspoon 3pm

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Fort William v Newtonmore  
Rovbert Baxter  
Kingussie v Glenurquhart  
Duncan Kelly  
Kinlochshiel v Skye  
John Matheson  
Lovat v Aberdeen Uni  
Ronnie Campbell

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Beaully v Kilmallie  
Donald MacRae  
Boleskine v Lewis Camanachd  
Callum Duff  
Lochbroom v Strathspey  
Daniel MacRae  
Inverness v Strathglass  
Kevin Cheeseman

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Inveraray v Ballachulish  
Gus Campbell 12 noon  
Ardnamurchan v Aberdour  
John Sloggie  
Bute v Kyles Athletic  
Euan Pearson  
Col Glen v Lochside Rovers  
Lachie Wood  
GMA v Tayforth  
Douglas Ferguson 3pm

**Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup**  
GMA v Oban Camanachd  
David Mitchell 12 noon  
Oban Celtic v Beaully  
Graham Cameron  
Skye v Caberfeidh  
Innes Wood  
Strathglass v Aberdour  
Robert Morrison  
Lochaber v Lochcarron  
Deck Cameron  
Kilmory v Taynuilt  
Duncan Kerr

**Strathdearn Cup**  
Glenurquhart v Caberfeidh  
John Angus Gillies

AN all-Argyll clash at the Winterton this weekend will go some way to deciding whether Inveraray or Bute can pull themselves away from the drop zone in the Orion Group Premiership.

Both had disappointing results last weekend, but with very different performances.

**BUTE** manager Barry Martin said his depleted side's 4-2 defeat at Kinlochshiel did not tell the full story.

Two Robert Walker goals gave the away side hope after 'Shiel opened a three-goal lead but a 90-minute goal sealed the home win.

Barry said: 'The scoreline doesn't tell the full story, because we had them on the ropes in the last 10 minutes. They scored on the break at the end as we pushed on.'

Hector Whitelaw was deployed up front and his presence helped Oban Camanachd 6 Strathglass 1 Skye 2 Lochcarron 0

**Sutherland Cup**  
Kingussie 4 Skye 0  
Newtonmore w/o Taynuilt  
Glenurquhart 0 Fort William 2  
Kilmallie 4 Ballachulish 4  
Lovat 4 Strathglass 0

Boleskine 2 Caberfeidh 3  
Glenurquhart 5 Kyles Athletic 1  
Beaully w/o Aberdour

'It is always a tight game against Inveraray,' said Barry. 'But we are hoping to take something from it.'

'We are not unduly worried about our current league position because we only have two away games to play after this weekend, so it will be summer shinty on Bute. We like to think of The Meadows as our fortress and we will pick up points there.'

'For the first time this season, we were poor,' admitted **INVERARAY** manager John Smylie after his team succumbed 3-0 to Kingussie on home turf.

A pre-match plan to stop the supply to Ronald Ross was not executed by 'Ary's usually reliable defence and the veteran hitman bagged a first-half hat-trick on his return to the team.

John said: 'Our hitting and tackling was poor and the boys didn't seem to be up for it. We improved in the second half but by that stage the damage was done.'

However, John was in a more bullish mood ahead of this weekend's clash with Bute and John has set his team a target for maximum points from the next two games.

'We know what we are up against with Bute,' he added. 'It will not be an easy game - they beat us 1-0 in the Macaulay Cup last season - but I have a full strength squad available, with Scott Robertson and Russell McKinlay to come back.'

**KYLES ATHLETIC** remain two points off top spot of the Orion Group Premiership, despite an indifferent start to the season.

The young Tighnabruaich side has struggled to meet the high standards set last season but a hard-fought 2-0 win over Kilmallie on Saturday kept their title challenge alive.

This Saturday they host Lovat and welcome back defenders Donald Irvine and Andrew King to the squad. Kyles trainer James Perlich explained players and coaching staff shared frank words before last Saturday's game about the team's indifferent form.

'After last season we lost about five starting players and the young boys that have come in have been expected to maintain that standard,' James said.

'The players made it clear they were trying their best but that we had set an unrealistically high standard at the start of the season and with injuries there has not been the team continuity we had last year.'

## SHINTY

'Saying that, we managed to get a good result at Newtonmore, so we are a capable side.'

League leaders **NEWTONMORE** return to action with a home tie against a young Fort William team after having a weekend to rest.

Fort William's youngsters have it all to do against Norman MacArthur's reigning league champions.

It will be the second meeting of the sides this season, with The 'More coming out on top of a hard fought MacTavish Cup tie two weeks ago. The game went to extra time with Newtonmore's grabbing a late win despite being a man down for much of the game.

The 'More did not have a game last weekend and saw their lead at the top of the Orion Group Premiership cut to just a point by surprise packages Lovat and Kinlochshiel, who both picked up wins.

It will be one of the toughest tests of the season when **FORT WILLIAM** travel north to face the Orion Premiership pacesetters this Saturday.

The Lochaber side will be looking to bounce back from last weekend's 4-2 home defeat to Lovat.

Bryan Simpson and Gary Innes gave Fort a 2-0 lead with 22 minutes on the clock, but Lovat fought back with three goals in the second half to take the win.

Fort coach Peter MacIntyre said Gordy MacKinnon should be available to play this weekend against Newtonmore after missing the game with Lovat.

MacIntyre told The Oban Times the closely-fought MacTavish Cup encounter between the sides recently gives his side confidence they can match Newtonmore this weekend.

He said: 'We just have to look at our result against them recently when we took them to extra time and nearly penalties.'

'We have to stop leaking such sloppy goals - if we are sloppy at the back, Newtonmore will punish us.'

Struggling **KILMALLIE** will host high-flying Kinlochshiel this Saturday as they search for their first league win of the season.

Manager Johnnie Morrison told The Oban Times Shiel would provide another tough challenge for his side.

He said: 'They're sitting third in the league, they've obviously adapted well and have built on

first half.

'We've had a few injuries but we are very pleased with the young players who have come into the side. Things are looking good for us.'

**LOVAT** will be looking for another major scalp when they travel south to play Kyles Athletic this Saturday.

The Kiltarilly side came back from two goals down to record

their confidence, so we'll have our work cut out. But our luck has got to change at some point. We've been in every game so far apart from the one up at Newtonmore and we've lost by the odd goal. Other teams have taken their chance and we haven't.'

Morrison said he expects to be able to call upon Peter Carmichael, Peter MacIntyre, Mark MacPherson and Brian Stewart for the game.

A threadbare Kilmallie squad lost 2-0 to Kyles at Glendaruel last weekend.

Morrison said: 'We were nine players short, and I don't think it would be fair to say we were in with a chance of winning, but with the team we put out we did okay. We had a makeshift forward line and we were still able to create a few chances.'

'Hopefully this weekend we should have a few of those boys back.'

**KINLOCHSHIEL** know a win at Canal Parks on Saturday could take them top of the league.

Manager Johnston Gill said he feels despite sitting bottom of the table the Caol side are a 'sleeping giant' who will cause problems for other teams in the league this season.

He said: 'I feel Kilmallie are in a false position. I know a lot of their players and how good they can be.'

'They have a lot of good players - boys like John Stewart, you can't take those guys lightly. They will have a big say in who goes up and who goes down.'

Gill added forward Finlay MacRae may be fit to return to the side following a hamstring injury.

'Shiel had a 2-0 lead at half time against Bute last weekend through goals from Duncan Ach MacRae and Neil Fraser. Bute pulled two goals back but Fraser and MacRae both netted again to give their side a 4-2 win.'

Gill said he was pleased with the performance. 'We certainly deserved the win, especially in the first half when we were in the ascendancy. We could have been a bit further ahead in the



Kyles Athletic secured another two league points thanks to a 2-0 win against Kilmallie at Glendaruel. Picture - John MacTavish



All eyes firmly on the ball - Kingussie's Ronald Ross executes the perfect full volley at the Winterton last Saturday as Inveraray defender Alan MacDonald aims to get the block on the move. Picture - John MacTavish

an unlikely 4-2 win against Fort William at Black Parks last weekend, a result which moved them to within a point of Orion Premiership leaders Newtonmore and kept them a point ahead of this weekend's opponents.

Two goals from Greg Matheson were added to strikes from Martin Bell and Fraser Gallacher to give Lovat the victory.

Lovat first team coach Allan MacRae said his side were not getting carried away with their early season success.

He said: 'Kyles will be a hard game. We'll not be underestimating them, that's for sure. They had a really good season last year and we've struggled with playing them in the last few seasons. We're just taking things one game at a time just now.'

'Every game is a hard game in this league now. A lot of teams will take points off each other.'

**GLENURQUHART** will be keen to continue their recent good form when they take on Kingussie at Blairbeg Park this Saturday.

Co-manager Fraser Mackenzie told The Oban Times playing Kingussie always provided a 'very tough prospect'.

He said: 'We've got a bit of momentum and confidence going into this game, but it's always a tough ask against Kingussie, especially with Ronald Ross back. We'll have to prepare ourselves well during the week.'

Mackenzie said he should have a full squad to choose from with the exception of Liam Girvan, who may miss out after picking up an injury last week against Beaully.

Glen booked a date with Newtonmore in the semi final of the MacTavish Cup after knocking Beaully out with a 6-1 win.

Mackenzie said: 'We were very pleased, and it was good to be able to continue our good form from the Fort William game. When we played Inverness a few weeks ago the second half performance was dismal so we didn't want a repeat of that.'

'It was good to get six goals but it really should have been more. We missed another penalty, which means we've missed four in a row so we'll have to do a bit of work on that.'

**KINGUSSIE** moved to within three points of leaders Newtonmore with a comfortable 3-0 win away to Inveraray last weekend while Glen were busy beating Beaully 6-1 in the MacTavish Cup.

Ronald Ross returned to the Kingussie side and showed he hasn't lost his goal scoring touch to fire in a hat trick to give his side the win.

The match was moved from Kingussie to the Winterton in Inveraray as Kingussie's second

team were playing a Sutherland Cup tie against Skye at The Dell.

**LOCHABER'S** attention moves to the Camanachd Cup this Saturday when they take on Lochcarron for a place in the next round.

It will be the third meeting of the season already between the two sides, with a 1-1 draw on the opening day of the season followed up by a 5-1 win for Lochaber in March.

The Spean Bridge side continued their flying start to the season with a 5-2 win away to Caberfeidh in the only North Division One match played last weekend.

First half goals from Zands Ferguson and Scott Paterson gave Lochaber a 2-0 lead, but Cabers hit back with two goals to level the tie.

But Ben Delaney stepped up to score a 25-minute hat-trick, with the final goal coming from the penalty spot, to give his side another big win. Lochaber have now scored 22 goals in their last four league games and have a two point lead over Beaully.

Meanwhile **LOCHCARRON** manager Andrew Mackenzie has blasted the officials who took charge of his side's 2-0 loss to Skye in the Balliemore Cup last weekend calling some of their decisions 'farical'.

Lochcarron's Ross Matheson was sent off early in the second half, although the visitors to Portree managed to keep the game scoreless until the 82nd minute. And Danny Morrison's goal for Skye should have been disallowed for offside, according to Mackenzie.

He said: 'We had a man sent off at the start of the second half, and it was really just bad refereeing. Ross was booked once for swearing and then he ended up putting his stick in for a challenge, more to defend himself than anything, and he's been sent off.'

'And for their goal the man was two metres outside but the Skye goal judge said he didn't see it. We were more than matching them and we had more chances than them.'

Lochcarron face form side Lochaber in the Camanachd Cup this weekend.

Mackenzie said: 'Its just about getting the young boys into the side for the rest of the season, the results aren't so important.'

'Two young boys who played last weekend - Nick Dalgety, who is 14, and Kieran Stark, who is 16 - were the two best players on the park.'

**SKYE** Camanachd play host to North Division One rivals Caberfeidh in the Camanachd Cup this Saturday.

The Portree side staged a dramatic comeback from three goals down with 25 minutes to

play to win 4-3 when the two sides met in Strathpeffer on the opening day of the season.

Coach Willie MacRae will be hoping his side can continue their good start to the season which sees them sitting in third place in the league with games in hand on the teams around them.

It took two late goals for Skye to overcome a stubborn Lochcarron in the Balliemore Cup last weekend. Lochcarron had a man sent off just minutes into the second half, but Skye couldn't make the breakthrough until the 82nd minute when a strike from Danny Morrison found the back of the net.

Ally MacDonald added a second goal in the final minute to put the islanders through to the next round.

favourites ahead of their Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup tie on Saturday.

After a promising start, Celtic's form has hit the buffers, while the visitors sit second in the competitive Marine Harvest North Division One.

David said: 'We'll take heart from having a home tie and that Beaully don't seem to be firing on all cylinders either but they should win this game and are clear favourites.'

'However, we will give it our best and if we can win it will be a great result.'

Last weekend Celtic suffered a costly defeat at Kilmory, in which goalkeeper Jack Hill was dismissed along with the home team's Hal Jones following a melee in the closing minutes of Celtic's 6-2 defeat.

Gary McKerracher got Celtic off to the best possible start with a strike after two minutes but as Kilmory got a grip of the match, they opened up a 4-1 lead before Kieran Gallagher pulled a goal back just before half time.

However, as the visitors chased the game, Kilmory scored two more goals to seal a seemingly convincing win.

David said: 'Because of injuries we had to field a couple of younger boys in defence and, although they did everything that was asked of them, we could have done with a bit more experience at the back.'

'Over the 90 minutes we must have had around 70 per cent of the play, so the scoreline does flatter Kilmory a bit.'

**LOCHSIDE** Rovers will look to maintain their 100 per cent record in South Division Two as they travel to play Col Glen on Saturday.

Lochside continued their domination of the division with a 3-1 away win at Glasgow Mid Argyll, courtesy of goals from Brian MacCallum, David MacInnes and Craig MacDougall.

Not even at the halfway stage in the season, the Oban side has won all eight games, scoring 44 goals and conceding 11.

**GLENORCHY** will have missed at least two weeks of shinty when they next swing their camans in anger, with no game on Saturday, as well as not having played last weekend.

However, manager Allan MacKechnie is taking a positive outlook on the enforced break and insists his players will be 'buzzing' on their return.

Allan concluded: 'This season was always about rebuilding team confidence. The first couple of games gave us victories we didn't have last year.'

## League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	7	5	1	1	29	12	11
Kinlochshiel	8	4	2	2	24	18	10
Lovat	7	4	2	1	17	12	10
Kyles Athletic	7	4	1	2	20	15	9
Kingussie	7	4	0	3	15	15	8
Fort William	6	2	2	2	11	10	6
Glenurquhart	6	3	0	3	10	13	6
Inveraray	6	2	0	4	5	15	4
Bute	7	0	3	4	5	14	3
Kilmallie	7	0	1	6	9	21	1

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochaber	5	4	1	0	23	5	9
Beaully	6	3	1	2	14	14	7
Skye	4	3	0	1	11	11	6
Inverness	5	1	2	2	9	10	4
Lochcarron	6	1	2	3	9	17	4
Caberfeidh	4	1	1	2	9	11	3
Strathglass	6	1	1	4	11	18	3

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glasgow MA	7	5	0	2	17	9	10
Oban Camanachd	4	4	0	0	17	2	8
Glenorchy	4	3	0	1	8	4	6
Kilmory	6	2	2	2	16	13	6
Taynuilt	6	1	2	3	6	15	4
Aberdour	6	2	0	4	7	16	4
Strachur	6	1	1	4	6	11	3
Oban Celtic	5	1	1	3	6	13	3

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	7	7	0	0	37	5	14
Glenurquhart	6	4	0	2	13	8	8
Skye	5	3	1	1	13	6	7
Glenurquhart	6	3	0	3	12	12	6
Kinlochshiel	7	2	2	3	13	22	6
Aberdeen Uni	7	2	2	3	10	16	6
Lochaber	8	2	2	4	19	31	6
Lovat	7	2	1	4	12	23	5
Kingussie	6	1	2	3	11	13	4
Fort William	5	1	0	4	5	9	2

Marine Harvest South Division 2							

**Lochaber host annual 7s tournament**

**RUGBY**

LOCHABER Rugby Club host their annual Seven-a-Side Tournament this Saturday at Banavie, with eight teams competing for the Quaich.

The teams competing this year are Lochaber 1st XV, Lochaber Golden Oldies, Mull, Oban, Highland, Northern Constabulary and The Fire Brigade and Aberdeen-shire. Last year's winners The Black Watch are unable to attend as they are on annual leave after recently returning from Iraq.

Club captain Kenny Turnbull is looking forward to a good day to finish off what has been a very difficult season for the team with the pitch drainage problems, but he hopes that all being well this will not be an issue on Saturday and the rain will stay away.

Hot and cold refreshments are available all day with live music and entertainment later in the evening. Everyone is welcome to come along and play kicks off at 12noon.

**Fort William reserves win over Ross County**

**CRICKET**

WITH Fort William Cricket Club's senior game called off due to rain in Huntly, the reserve side took centre stage and took a 58-run victory over Ross County at the BA Club.

Fort batted first and got off to a shaky start at 11-2 after seven overs, but Davy Duncan and Ronnie Maclean teamed up and they had added a reserve team record of 85 for the third wicket.

Maclean completed a fine 53 before a clatter of wickets saw Ross fight their way back. Peter Brown's home debut was marked by confident batting (32), and well supported by Scott Calam, he saw Fort to the close on 166-9. New captain Col Lavin opened the bowling and clean bowled Ross Rac, but James Blake (18) and Howard Tolliday (15) began to look dangerous. They were both soon bowled and Fort seemingly in control at 60-5. Roy Fraser scored 24 for County but his side were bowled out for 108. Peter Shepherd took two wickets in two balls and Tom Findlay took his first two wickets for the club.

Lavin said: 'This was a great team effort and a good start to the season. The bowling and fielding was excellent but the real difference was the wonderful stand between Ronnie Maclean and Davy Duncan.'

# Makeshift line-up go down to Deveronvale

'To have only 14 players available for a home game is very disappointing' - Manager Danny Conlon

**FOOTBALL**

FORT William's threadbare squad was stretched to the limit last weekend with just 14 players available on the match day for manager Danny Conlon to choose from.

The Lochaber side suffered a heavy defeat, going down 6-0 to Deveronvale at Claggan. Manager Danny Conlon was forced to field a makeshift line up with senior players such as Sean Grant, Lewis Campbell, Chris Macleod and captain Andy Martin all missing.

Inverurie Loco Works will provide another tough challenge when they visit Claggan Park, and Conlon will be hoping to have some of those first team regulars back as they strive to pick up points before the season's end.

Conlon told The Oban Times his makeshift side had not performed well enough against Deveronvale.

He said: 'We were just never at the races; we never competed with them. We spoke before the game about their set pieces, and not giving space to the boy who comes up from the back for them, but we just didn't do it and he had a free header which led to the penalty.'

'We were really disappointed on the day. I didn't think Deveronvale were a particularly great side, they are pretty strong in most areas, but we hardly had any players with pass marks.'

Fort conceded a penalty in the

**REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK**  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Formartine United come to Lochaber for an afternoon kick off on Monday.

Conlon continued: 'At the moment we seem to put in one good performance and the next week we're pretty poor, so who knows? If we can get a stronger squad available for the last three games hopefully we can get something from them.'

'I was really disappointed with the lack of commitment from some players. It's bad enough for an away game but for a home game to only have 14 players available is very disappointing.'



Tom MacMahon came fifth in his first race at Innerleithen



Fort midfielder Michael Gillespie rises above Craig Cowie to win the header 20\_f18f00t01

## Outdoor Capital Team bike competes at Innerleithen

Ballachulish rider fifth in first competitive event

A NORTH Ballachulish rider is celebrating after coming fifth in the juvenile category in his first ever downhill mountain bike race.

Tom MacMahon was competing the newly formed 'Outdoor Capital of the UK Lochaber' team at the Scottish Downhill Association event at Innerleithen.

Other riders in the new team also did Lochaber proud.

**MOUNTAIN BIKING**

Alastair MacLellan, 13, came fourth in the juveniles, Keir Copeland, 15, was 22nd in the youth category, while 16 year-olds Lachlan Blair and Sean Petig 16, came third and 21st, respectively, in the junior section. Tom's mum Mairi told The Oban Times said further local

business support would be greatly appreciated.

She said: 'Nevis Cycles, No Fuss Events and Outdoor Capital UK sponsor team already, but the team are in real need of any further sponsors willing to help the local boys become a force to be reckoned with.'

The next SDA race is at Glencoe on Sunday, May 20. Any potential sponsors can contact Mairi on 01855 821 498.

**MacGillivray wins at Fort William Golf Club**

**GOLF**

FORT William Golf Club's Captain's Prize competition on Saturday saw David MacGillivray take a three shot win.

MacGillivray's net round of 74 was enough to see off the challenge of Alex McSorely, who set a 77. James Duncan also went round in 77 to finish third.

**McCombie takes 10-stroke win at Dragon's Tooth**

DRAGON'S Tooth Golf Club's April medal competition saw Scott McCombie pick up a comfortable 10-stroke victory.

McCombie's net round of 58 was more than enough to give him victory ahead of Graham Lobb. The ladies stableford competition at the Ballachulish club was won by Sue Watson by five points.

- Results  
April medal:  
1, Scott McCombie 83-25=58;  
2, Graham Lobb 82-14=68;  
3, John Buchan 79-10=69.  
Ladies -  
1, Sue Watson 17 pts;  
2, Marylin MacDonald 12 pts;  
3, Kate Ward 8 pts

**Glencoe Boat Club off to racing start**

**SAILING**

IT WAS a blustery start to the racing season at the Glencoe Boat Club on Wednesday evening when four boats took to the water to kick off the 21-race keelboat point series.

Stuart Robertson on 'Aperitif' was first across the start line and held his lead for most of the race.

Despite a knock down with winds gusting over 30 knots, he was in front at the finish to take line honours with David Cooper's Trapper 28 'Redwing' close behind.

On adjusted time, the Trapper won, with Bob and Jean Aitken's 'Didima 4' coming second and 'Aperitif' third.

Details of Club activities including the Regatta in June can be found on the web site www.glencoeboatclub.org.

**Early lead in 10-pin bowling league**

**10-PIN BOWLING**

AFTER two weeks of play in the Lochaber ten-pin bowling single leagues at the Nevis Centre Tony Whitelocke leads Pam Weller by two points in the scratch division.

Tim Attack sits two points further back in third place on 21 points.

Rossamy Wareing, Sandy McIntosh and Tim Attack are locked on 20 points at the top of the handicap competition.

The top scratch game was a 189 from Tim Attack. Tim also had the highest two game scratch series with 324, and also rolled the top handicap two game series of 436.

Total scratch pinfall so far is led by Tony Whitelocke with 626 followed by Pam Weller with 611 and Tim Attack in third with 569.

## Glencoe regatta set June date

**SAILING**

GLENCOE Boat Club will hold their annual regatta on Saturday, June 16 as the showpiece for its 40th anniversary celebrations.

The club is planning various events throughout the year, culminating with a club dinner in October.

The club was formed in 1972 to encourage boating and other aquatic sports in the Loch Lven area. The regatta, the central event in the calendar, attracts competitive yachtsmen and women from around the west coast.

The event features yacht and

dinghy racing and culminates with the annual dinner and prize giving.

The build up to the big day will begin on Friday, June 15 with the passage race from Oban Bay to Ballachulish.

Always a popular event, the 30 mile race usually involves a colourful spinnaker run up the coast to a finish on the Onich side of the Ballachulish Bridge allowing boats to motor against the tidal race under the bridge the last mile or two to the clubhouse.

The regatta will see two classes of keel boats and the dinghy class assemble their crews and receive the final race instruction briefing.

The three racing groups have a morning race, which can last a couple of hours depending on conditions.

The fleet will sail down towards Kinlochleven and back up to towards the Ballachulish Bridge, rounding the famous Glencoe burial islands in the process.

More information on www.glencoeboatclub.org

## Phoenix Boxing Club's Scott Lawrie stuns Kilmarnock crowd with 30 second knockout

**BOXING**

NOVICE Lochaber middleweight boxer Scott Lawrie lit up a boxing show in Kilmarnock by knocking out his opponent within 30 seconds on Friday night.

Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club took three novice fighters and 14-year-old James Aitchison to Ayrshire for Northwest ABC's show.

Lawrie rocked Scott Dickson in the opening exchange, with the 22-year-old showing good finishing instincts and leaving

the referee with no alternative but to stop the contest. Dickson showed tremendous bravery but was no match for the power and aggression of Lawrie.

Aitchison featured in the penultimate bout of the night against Northwest's Kieron MacMaster, and neither boxer disappointed, keeping the crowds were on their feet for the duration.

Home favourite MacMaster came out throwing bombs at an incredible rate, but Aitchison refused to concede ground, holding the centre of the ring and working

at the same high rate.

Aitchison produced an incredible onslaught in the last round to have MacMaster hanging on for the bell, but the decision of the local judges went to MacMaster by a single point.

Club spokesman Steve Docherty said: 'This is the second week in a row that James has lost by a single point but while last week it was understandable as the bout was so close, this decision was very unfair on a young boxer who showed

bravery, commitment, fitness and desire in abundance. Next season

we truly believe James will get the just rewards for all his hard work.'

Robbie Hall took on Harry Lowe and continued to show great potential. The 12-year-old only took part in his first bout around a month ago but is already showing a rare maturity. He was always a step ahead of Lowe and controlled the action with a sharp jab ensuring he had the last word in every exchange.

Igor Sliwinski faced British champion Connor Greenan and ran him desperately close. Greenan found himself backpeddling often

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If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

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Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

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**Taynuilt Golf Club**  
GOLF

**Gents**  
Team Trophy Qualifier and Medal April 29: 1 Fraser Inglis, 62 (6); 2 Kenny MacGregor, 64 (18); 3 Stuart Scott, 64 (13); 4 Hugh Nicolson, 65 (12).

**Ladies**  
Captain's Prize and Medal on April 24: 1 Carol MacLarty, 62 (19); 2 Liz Mudie, 65 (34); 3 Sue Asher, 66 (36).

**Glencruitten**  
Isis Cup: 1 James Muir, 64 - 4 = 60; 2 Kevin MacKie, 63 - 2 = 61.

Captain of Dunstaffnage: Winner - James Scott, 70 - 12 = 58; Runner-up - Samuel Jackson 88 - 28 = 60.

**Tobermory**  
THE NINE-hole Grandparents Trophy, in the men's section, was won by John Wilshire with 18 points. Runner up was Donald Brown snr 17 points and third Graham Davidson 17 points.

The Jimmy Reid Memorial Trophy which is a Tombstone Format was won by Andrew MacAffie who holed out on the 18th green.

**Islay**  
Higginbotham Trophy: 1 David Livingstone 39pts; 2 Charles Holyoake 37pts; 3 Lachlan Gairns 36pts. Css 71

Laphroaig Trophy: 1 Norman MacDonald 36pts; 2 Neil Johnston 33pts; 3 Lachlan Gairns 33pts. Css 74

Hunter Trophy: 1 Norman MacDonald, 74 less 3 net 71; 2 Gordon Ross, 97 less 23 net 74; 3 Keith MacDonald, 80 less 6 net 74. Css 74

## Taynuilt win final league tie

Craig Campbell nets winner

TAYNUILT faced a much-improved Yoker side on Saturday at Glencruitten in their final league game of the season.

The previous league meeting saw Taynuilt win 6-0 at a hostile Blairdardie Parks. However, the Yoker team had been completely overhauled and replaced with tricky, hard working opponents.

Taynuilt had some new faces of their own, however, with Steven Fox, Dean Smith, Elliott Dougall and Dene Cassells coming in to bolster the squad ahead of a series of forthcoming cup games.

On a hard and uneven surface at Glencruitten, it was Taynuilt making best use of the ball in the opening 10 minutes. The first chance fell to Dean Smith after excellent work from Dene Cassells on the right hand side. His square ball left Smith with only the keeper to beat but he was denied by a remarkable save.

On 15 minutes Taynuilt were forced into making an early change when Elliott Dougall got a nasty gash above his left eye. Kris Gillies replaced him, partnering Dean Smith.

**FOOTBALL**

At the other end, Ben Pollock wasn't troubled and any attacks were thwarted by the makeshift centre defence pairing of Craig Campbell and Steven McLeod.

Taynuilt took the game to Yoker in the 2nd half with Cassells and Scott Maitland making great driving runs. Maitland hit the upright on the 63rd minute from a powerful drive from outside the box but just 10 minutes later Taynuilt made the breakthrough. A free kick into the box fell to Craig Campbell, who smashed it into the bottom right hand corner for his 15th goal of the season.

Both teams looked to be suffering from heavy legs as this hard-fought game fizzled out in the remaining minutes.

Final score - Taynuilt 1 Yoker 0

Next week Taynuilt are away to Knightswood in the quarter final of the C.D.L Cup. The team then has three important cup fixtures: Wilson Cup semi final versus Kirkmichael; the League Cup final; and the Unico Cup first round v Kirkmichael.



The Yoker defence clear their lines, as Taynuilt's Dene Cassells, Kris Gillies and Stephen Fox prepare to pounce on any mistakes.

## Primary footballers snatch points before May break

**PRIMARY FOOTBALL**

THE OBAN Express Primary Football League convened once more on Sunday in glorious conditions at the high school pitch with the seniors utilising the 3G with their three 7 a-side pitches and the youngsters continuing on the grass in their fun fours.

The seniors opened their matches with a Lochgilphead Red Star win against Thistle with Jake Young and Joseph Harper netting without reply. In a good day for the Star they went on to record two further victories with Jake Young scoring the only goal against the All Stars and Ewan Litster producing the late winner past Lochnell's goalkeeper Gary McCuish to send the boys down the A816 with a 100 per cent record. Lochnell had earlier defeated the Lochgilphead Scorpions with a fine display of end-to-end football. Despite some great saves from Alastair Cupples trying to keep the waves of attacks from Lochnell at bay they had four individual scorers in Stewart MacAllister, Sandy Bavington, Scott Rowley and Finlay Bennett without reply.

In their next match Lochnell and Thistle cancelled one another out in the first half but Lochnell went two up with goals from Bennett and Rowley.

However the Thistle lads dug in and a double from Keir MacLean levelled for the draw which was a fair reflection on a really close game. Thistle had earlier recorded a win over Wasps with MacLean going one better than before and grabbing a hat trick, a Rory Dowd double and a good goal from Cameron Hill.

The Wasps had earlier matched up to Tralee and found themselves on the losing end to the odd goal in five as Tralee's Ryan Henriksen, Stuart Black and Dougie MacDonald ensured the win. The youngest of the Saints teams, 03s, started their day with a goalless draw against the Galaxy with both teams well matched as ever. The 03s then had Tralee pinned back for long spells before Adam Munro opened the scoring with a strike into the bottom corner. Tralee fought back and found an equaliser just before half time when Rowley fired home. Second half sub Garry McIvor made a big impact for the 03s and came up with the winner. The 03s then recorded the result of the day against the Jags.

**Saints youths - results and fixtures**  
YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Plate competition - Under 13s 4, Lenzie 2. Jay Cooper netted all four goals for Saints. League game - Under 13s 3, Lenzie 2. Saints scorers were Zander Kilmurray, Jay Cooper and Owen Neilson.

League Cup semi final - Clydebank 1, Under 14s 0. League game - Under 15s 0, Allander Colts 2.

League Cup semi final - Under 16s 2, Clydebank Phoenix 1. Ryan MacDougall scored both goals for Saints.

Next week's fixtures: Thursday: League game - Blair Thistle v Under 13s; Under 14s no game; Saturday - League Cup semi final Under 15s v Allander Colts;

Sunday: League game - Under 16s v Lenzie Youth.

**50th anniversary programme**

**RUGBY**

THE PROGRAMME of events to celebrate Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club's 50th anniversary year is coming together.

There will be a veterans' match on the evening of Friday, August 31, followed by youth, ladies and senior rugby matches the next day.

The anniversary dinner will be held on Saturday, September 1 in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, where Bill Nolan (Scotland IRB representative and Oban Lorne honorary member) and John Beattie (former Scotland and British Lion player and BBC sport presenter) will be among the speakers.

**Double up for Trialists**

**OVER 35s FOOTBALL**

TRIALISTS completed the double in this year's Oban Over-35s League competitions by beating Teachers in the final 7-4 in the league cup.

Next season is scheduled to start up again in September.

**Season gets underway at Seil**

**GOLF**

THE ISLE of Seil Golf Club teed off the season with a three club competition a fortnight ago. Brien Dickey was the winner with a net 71.

The club but which blew away during the end of year gales is in the process of reconstruction.

**Prizes given out at Easdale**

**CARPET BOWLS**

EASDALE carpet bowls club brought its season to a close with its annual prize giving and social last Friday. Ian MacColl and Colin Campbell won the doubles. Graham Campbell won the singles and Brien Dickey won the Hughie Brown handicap competition.

## Six away points out of six as Saints hit the road

Thursday  
Scottish Amateur League  
Premier Division  
St Joseph's FP 0  
Oban Saints 3

THE local side played the first of two games in three days when they travelled to take on St Joseph's FP at William Street Park in Duntocher last Thursday evening and it was a very happy squad that arrived back home at 11pm with a well deserved 3-0 win under the belts.

The visitors started off well and passed up a couple of good chances before Donald Campbell got on the end of a Willie Gemmell pass to dink the ball over St Joes keeper Stephen Harkness in the 25th minute.

Both teams then contrived to miss good scoring opportunities, Willie Gemmell being the culprit for Saints and Kevin

Seagrave for the home side.

Saints got off to a great start in the second half with a goal in the third minute when Donald Campbell crossed for his strike partner Craig MacEwan who scored with a well placed header.

Saints killed the game off as a contest in the 63rd minute when Myles McAuley fired in a great right foot shot which was saved by the keeper, but the ball fell kindly for Asen Gaydradzhiev and the Bulgarian striker buried it past the helpless keeper to make the score 3-0.

The home side pushed forward to try and get back into the game and put the visitors under pressure but the Saints rearguard were in great form and they held out reasonably comfortably for a hard-fought and impressive away victory.

Saturday  
Scottish Amateur League  
Premier Division  
Inverclyde 3  
Oban Saints 4

SAINTS played their second game in three days when they travelled to Parklea to take on Inverclyde and what should have been a comfortable victory turned into a rather nervy final five minutes as the Oban side let a 4-1 lead slip to 4-3.

Saints opened the scoring the first minute when Willie Gemmell fired a tremendous 35 yard free kick into the net, just the start the Oban lads were looking for.

The visitors were playing some great football but scored a number of good chances to increase their lead.

However, on the 18 minute mark they netted again when

Donnald Campbell made a great run up the right flank before crossing for Asen who scored with a well placed header.

The Oban side were in complete control at this stage but again they failed to convert a couple of excellent chances.

Craig MacEwan hit the bar and Donnald Campbell hit the post. Inverclyde pulled a goal back with a great strike from Steven Morris just after half time.

Saints then restored their two goal advantage when Donnald Campbell netted from the penalty spot then Lewis Cameron scored to make it 4-1.

It should have been game over, but Inverclyde scored two late goals through Gary Baird to make it a nervous few minutes at the end.

However Saints managed to hold out for another very impor-

tant away win.

This Saturday the Oban side take on Postal United. The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.



Willie Gemmell

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**World Eightball Pool place up for grabs**

ONE POOL player from the region that covers Argyll and the islands will be given a place at this year's World Eightball Pool Championship in Blackpool next month.

The representative from region five (West Coast and Islands) will be chosen at a tournament to be held in Oban's Balmoral Hotel today (Thursday) and contested by 20 invited players.

The winner of the tournament, which starts at 3pm, will be granted a place at the event in Blackpool's Imperial Hotel on June 24 and 25.

Oban's Laura Ann Sneddon, who is organising the event, said: "Due to the hard work from both organisers and players, the newly formed Scottish Eightball

**POOL**

Pool Federation region five, will have a qualifier's place 2012 World Eightball Pool Championships.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for the 10 locals to battle it out for the coveted spot and we would welcome supporters for the event at the Balmoral Hotel."

The region five qualifier will not take part in the team event but they will gain a world singles place.

They will be given their hotel accommodation in Blackpool and entry fees as part of winning the local tournament next week.

The world championships will be aired on Sky Sports.

**Islay hosts rugby event**

MORE THAN 60 young rugby players from Oban, Kintyre and Islay gathered at the playing fields in Bowmore on Saturday for the first rugby event on the Island for some time, the Islay Rugby Gathering.

The event, hosted by Islay High School, aimed to encourage playing numbers in Argyll and help develop partnership working between the rugby clubs.

The players were split into their two age sections: under-14, who played Kintyre/Islay v Oban, and under-16, who played in a round robin format with Oban, Kintyre and Islay.

Oban comfortably beat Kintyre/ Islay in the under-14 game while Kintyre eased past Islay in the first under-16 game.

Islay fought hard in their second game to run Oban very close, while the final game ended in a 17-17 draw between Oban and Kintyre.

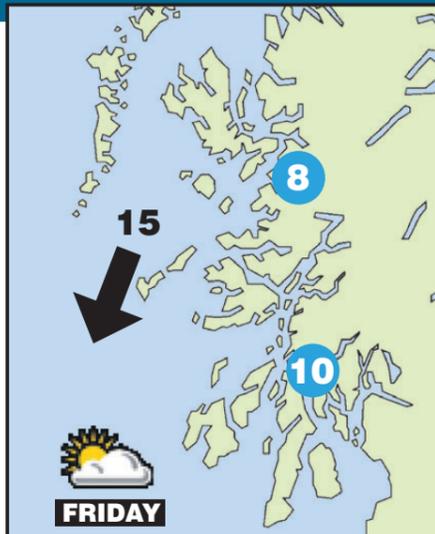
**Weather**

**Thursday** Sunny  
Winds light north-westerly  
Temperatures 8°C to 14°C

**Friday** Sunny  
Winds moderate north north-easterly  
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

**Weekend** Cloudy, followed by sunny intervals  
**Outlook** Winds light northerly  
Temperatures 2°C to 9°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Calm  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Calm  
Kennacraig to Islay Calm



**Tides**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, May 3, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.11 3.5 09.42 1.1 15.50 3.5 21.37 0.8	
Fri	03.58 3.8 10.26 0.8 16.27 3.7 22.29 0.6	
Sat	04.41 4.0 11.08 0.6 17.06 3.9 23.18 0.4	
Sun	05.24 4.1 11.50 0.4 17.47 4.0 *** **	
Mon	00.06 0.3 06.05 4.0 12.33 0.4 18.29 4.1	
Tues	00.55 0.3 06.49 3.9 13.17 0.4 19.12 4.0	
Wed	01.44 0.4 07.38 3.7 14.03 0.6 19.58 3.8	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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# **The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.**

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

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## West Highlanders head to polls for council elections

PEOPLE across the west Highlands are today casting their vote to decide who will represent their areas in the Highland Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar for the next five years.

Prospective councillors have been campaigning for a number of weeks to try and persuade local people to vote for them at the ballot box. The counting of Highland Council votes will take place at Inverness Leisure Centre tomorrow (Friday). Results from the 22 wards, including Eilean a Cheo (Ward 11), Caol and Mallaig (Ward 12) and Fort William and Ardnamurchan (Ward 22), are expected to be announced by 3pm. The returning officer Alistair Dodds will announce the winning candidates from the stage, and the results will also be posted on the council website and Twitter page, as well as *The Oban Times* website.

Votes of Western Isles residents will be counted using an electronic counting device at Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais, Stornoway where it is hoped the new councillors in each of the nine wards will be announced by 2pm.

Highland Council currently has 25 Independent Group councillors, 22 Liberal Democrats, 17 SNP, seven Labour, five Independent Members' Group and four from the Independent Alliance Group. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has 25 Independent councillors, four from SNP and 2 from Labour.

## Motorcyclist killed

A MOTORCYCLIST was killed in a crash with a van on the A86 near Roy Bridge on Tuesday evening.

The man, a 42-year-old from the Yorkshire area, was taken to Belford Hospital where he died from his injuries.

Police closed the road at around 6.30pm to allow investigations to take place. The road was not re-opened until Wednesday afternoon.

Police appealed for anyone with any information about the incident to contact them on 01463 715555.



Sail West chairman Garry Martin was assisted by local schoolchildren Shannon Cameron and Cian MacVarish to cut the ribbon to officially open the new facility.

## Celebrations mark opening of new Mallaig pontoons

Large crowds gather to watch ribbon-cutting ceremony

LARGE crowds gathered at Mallaig Harbour on Friday to celebrate the official opening of the port's new £950,000 yacht pontoons.

By RICHARD HADDOCK  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

'Anything that brings more tourists in has got to be a good thing.'

The facility, which was completed last September, comprises of berthing for up to 48 yachts with water and electricity services available.

The Oban Times he hoped the pontoon would be good for the local area.

A new website to raise awareness of the marina has been created at [www.mallaig-yachting-marina.com](http://www.mallaig-yachting-marina.com).

Officials from Donegal County Council, whose Sail West project has helped fund the new marina, attended the celebrations along with representatives of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Highland Council.

He said: 'We are certainly hoping both the harbour and the village will benefit from having the facility here. The day went really well. We wanted to get off with a good start and hopefully we can get plenty of yachts in over the summer.'

Pupils from Mallaig Primary performed the Gaelic song 'Thig a Mhalaig' ('Come to Mallaig') while Rev Pamela Gordon and Father Andrew Barrett offered opening and closing prayers.

Sail West is an EU-funded initiative which aims to increase marine tourism throughout the west of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

'We're officially in business now and we're looking forward to our first full season in the yachting business.'

Local piper Callan MacBeth played a number of tunes during the ceremony from the new pontoon, while the crowds looked on before everyone moved into the nearby West Highland Hotel for a buffet lunch.

Local youngsters Shannon Cameron and Cian MacVarish won a competition to design a logo for the marina and took part in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Local resident and community council member Jacqueline MacDonald welcomed the new facility and hoped it would provide the village with a boost.

The new facility was part funded under the Sail West project and co-financed by Mallaig Harbour Authority, (HIE) and by The Highland Council. Sail West is funded through the EU's INTERREG IVA programme and currently has around 20 mostly public sector partners.

Mallaig Harbour port manager Robert MacMillan, who spoke during the celebrations, told

Local resident and community council member Jacqueline MacDonald welcomed the new facility and hoped it would provide the village with a boost.

She said: 'Hopefully it will be a good thing for the village and bring people in. It looks really nice and it's all lit up in the evenings, which is lovely.'

## Hundreds take to Fort's streets for annual Lochaber Together 5k

HUNDREDS of local people took to the streets of Fort William on Saturday to walk, jog or run a five-kilometre course to raise money for Cancer Research UK.



Winning trio, from left, John Treasurer, second place, race winner Craig MacLean and his brother Bruce, who finished third.

Early estimates suggest as much as £7,000 was raised at the second annual Lochaber Together 5k run, which saw more than 300 racers start from the BA Club, run up to Inverlochy and complete a loop back to the BA.

First to cross the finish line was local youngster Craig MacLean, repeating his win from last year. His superb time of 17 minutes five seconds was one minute and 37 seconds faster than his previous winning time. Second to complete the course was John Treasurer followed by Bruce MacLean, Craig's younger brother.

Adam Ramsey said: 'We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our sponsors who helped to make this event a success, to everyone that worked hard to make the event happen and to everyone that came along to take part or contribute.'

'Everybody had a fantastic day and we are thrilled with the amount we have raised so far. Cancer Research UK are dedicated to beating cancer and we will continue to help them achieve this.'

Every competitor completing the course was rewarded with a Cancer Research UK medal and goody bag. Youngsters were kept amused by the bouncy castle and new bouncy slide provided by Fort William Bouncy Castle Hire.

Face painting, circus skills, balloon modelling and fascinating DNA experiments with Cancer Research UK scientists also featured on the day.

## Skye carers nominated for award

A SKYE-based charity has been nominated for a national charity award in the community action category.

Scottish Charity Awards. The charity, set up in 2000, provides support to combat isolation, access skill development and meet young carers' needs. Local MSP Dave Thompson nominated the Portree-based charity for the award. He said: 'It is a charity which makes a significant difference in Skye, Lochaber and

Badenoch. 'Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers has truly made a difference for youngsters who have the heavy responsibility of caring for a relative. The one to one and group support, the respite outings and advocacy support are crucial in alleviating some of the hardship of being a carer.'

## Screen Machine Cinema

Mon 7 - Wed 9 May

Nevis Centre Car Park, Fort William



### The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists (U)

Mon 7 & Wed 9 at 5:30pm

The latest adventure from the makers of Wallace & Gromit

### The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (12A)

Mon 7 & Wed 9 at 8:30pm, Wed 9 at 2:00pm

Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Tom Wilkinson

### War Horse (12A)

Tue 8 at 5:00pm

Steven Spielberg's epic adventure adapted from Michael Morpurgo's acclaimed novel.

### The Artist (PG)

Tue 8 at 8:30pm

Winner of 5 OSCARS! An enchanting tale of two actors in Hollywood's silent film era. "Simply irresistible" Empire

Book in advance at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk) or phone 0871 902 5750. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. £7.00 Adults. U16s & Concessions £5.50



## Village volunteers in two-day clear-up ahead of Pre 65 trial

KINLOCHLEVEN will be looking its best for this weekend's Pre-65 motorcycle trial after a large number of volunteers cleared approximately two tonnes of rubbish from the village over a two-day blitz.

The initiative, run by Kinlochleven and District Angling Club, Kinlochleven Community Trust and Kinlochleven Community Council, involved around 40 local people of all ages.

Included in the haul collected by the volunteers were 10 discarded bikes, gutters, scaffolding poles, shoe racks, drain pipes, hoses, wheels and old prams.

KCT's Moira Hartley was delighted with the community response and gave a special thanks to all the volunteers, Co-operative food manager John Groundwater for providing refreshments,

Highland Getaway for supplying soup and filled rolls and Ian Cameron of TECS Services for providing the skip, bags and gloves.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'We would all like to thank everyone for coming along and taking part; it was a real joint effort.'

'During the refreshments the main discussion was the impact that litter and fly tipping had on our environment. Most people think the loss of our skip has led to an increase in fly tipping around the village.'

'Two tonnes of rubbish is not just crisp packets but larger items that would normally have gone in the skip. For Highland Council to say fly tipping has not increased in the last year is not the reality we have seen.'

Angling club chairman Jim McKinlay, with

help from Simon, Jane and Eddie Postle, started the tidy up by clearing the river of rubbish thrown in over the years.

He said: 'Their help was invaluable as Simon, wearing a wet suit, snorkel and flippers, diving in water with a temperature of four degrees, wrestled with objects stuck fast on the bottom and brought them up to pass to myself, Jane and Eddie. How he stayed in the water for more than four hours beggars belief as he was not just in the Canteen pool but from there all the way to the mouth of the river.'

Highland Council lorry driver John McConnell was on hand to take the waste away and said: 'These folk have done a fantastic job in keeping their own areas clean and tidy - especially ahead of the forthcoming events.'

## The Bake House

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# Kinlochleven hydro scheme in spotlight at conference

A PROPOSED small-scale community hydroelectric scheme at Kinlochleven featured among the presentations at a major conference at Inverness last week.

Moir Hartley of Kinlochleven Community Trust briefed a community renewables discussion group on its plans for a 100MW scheme on a tributary of the Grey Mare's Tail above the village.

Ms Hartley estimated the project could deliver up to £80,000 a year to the village for local projects.

Ms Hartley told *The Oban Times*: 'I gave a talk on the challenges that we face in trying to develop our own community hydro scheme.

'It was a fantastic event. I got a lot of ideas and options on a whole new avenue to pursue.'

Key speaker at the Scottish Highland Renewable Energy Conference, which was attended by 250 delegates, was Energy Minister Fergus Ewing, who launched the Community and Renewable Energy Loan Scheme (CARES).

The fund supports small renewable energy schemes before they reach planning in the absence of commercial lenders, who usually consider providing finance at such an early stage as too high risk.

Communities and rural businesses across the Highlands and Islands are now being urged to apply to the £23.5

million Scottish Government scheme to help them get projects up to the planning stage. Individual projects can receive loans of up to £150,000 to cover 95 per cent of agreed costs. Free local advice and support is also available. Priority is given to schemes which give the highest value of benefit to their local communities.

Mr Ewing said: 'The CARES scheme empowers communities all over Scotland to capitalise on our green energy revolution by developing their own community energy.'

'In practice, this could mean communities have lower power bills, a new playground, a scholarship fund for young people - it is up to the imagination of local people.'

**Turbine**

Previous recipients of CARES loans include Barra and Vatersay Wind Energy Limited (BVWE), which is planning to erect a single wind turbine on a site at Gob Sgrubhal, the most northerly point on Barra.

The community has secured a number of required consents and are currently focused on finalising the turbine access route. It is hoped the group will be in a position to install their turbine by the end of the summer.

BVWE project manager Euan Scott said: 'Without the CARES loan fund the community wind turbine project in Barra would not have progressed.'



Alan and Tanya Ross, left, and Jimmy and Bridie Ross with winning team of David Martin, Brian Gillespie and Neil Feggans.

# Drivers urged to avoid using Lochybridge roundabout

DRIVERS in Fort William are being urged to avoid using the Lochybridge roundabout during peak times with concerns about congestions during the upcoming bank holiday weekend and the Scottish Six Day Trial event, which starts next week.

Drivers on the A82 and the A830 Road to the Isles have suffered long delays and tailbacks since the temporary traffic lights were put in place earlier this month as part of work to expand the junction into a two-lane roundabout.

A spokesman for Perth-based contractors I & H Brown said: 'We recognise there is no alternative route available and therefore suggest that road users should consider making their

journeys outwith peak times wherever possible to ease the situation.

'Friday evenings have been particularly busy, and the forthcoming bank holiday weekend and Scottish Six Day Trial could add to the difficulties.'

Traffic was moved on to a revised layout last Saturday following completion of the first section of the new roundabout.

The permanent signals at Lochaber High School are now being operated manually at peak times to assist traffic flows through the roadworks, but I & H Brown said delays were still 'inevitable'.

Traffic lights, manually controlled during peak times to minimise congestion, are in place until the junction is ready to re-open, and the pedestrian crossing has been removed with a temporary crossing point put in place.

The contractors thanked the public for their patience, and said the project remains on schedule for the removal of the three-way lights on May 18, with overall completion of the project by the end of the month.

Miller Developments is carrying out the roundabout upgrade under an agreed community benefit package associated with its Blar Mhor development, which includes a Tesco superstore. Miller agreed to remodel to junction before starting work on its project.

# Man denies baseball bat charge

A FORT William man has denied fighting another man in the town with a baseball bat.

Sandy Campbell, aged 25, of 6 Brown Court, pled not guilty to the charge at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Campbell is accused along with John Campbell of Coach House, 40 Carlisle Road, Biggar, of behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by fighting and hitting each other with a baseball bat at Brown Court and elsewhere in Fort William on March 24.

John Campbell, aged 43, failed to appear at court and Sheriff Douglas Small issued a warrant for his arrest.

A further hearing will be held on May 9. Trial was fixed for June 20.

# Golfers boost Harris fund

Competition raises £4,472 in memory of Corpach tot

THE THIRD annual charity golf competition in memory of Corpach tot Harris Ross raised nearly £4,500 on Sunday, matching last year's total.

Every available tee time was taken with 154 golfers taking part in the Texas scramble competition at a packed Fort William Golf Club.

The £4,472 raised on the day will be donated to STAR (Supporting Treatment and Awareness Raising) for Harris Ross Fund.

The event is held in memory of baby Harris who lost his long battle with a brain tumour aged just 16 months in 2010. His parents Tanya and Allan set up STAR to raise awareness of the early symptoms of childhood and teenage cancer.

The trio of David Martin, Brian Gillespie and Neil Feggans won a closely fought contest with a score of 52.5 points. With Peter Carmichael, Alan MacDonald and Steven McAllister scoring the same, the result went down to the better inward half score of both teams.

Ann Lovat, Kathleen Leitch and Helen Bryan won the ladies competition with a score of 62.5.

Tanya and Allan, along with Harris' grandparents Jimmy and Bridie Ross, were handed a cheque after the prizes were given out in the clubhouse at the end of a successful day.

Tanya told *The Oban Times*: 'It was such a fantastic day - the weather was great and there was a great atmosphere.'

Jimmy said: 'It's been a very successful day, thanks to all the people who took part and the businesses that supported us. You sometimes see things like this start with a bang and tail off, but this seems to be growing in strength.'

Results: Men's - 1 David Martin, Brian Gillespie, Neil Feggans 52.5 points (bh); 2 Peter Carmichael, Alan MacDonald, Steven McAllister 52.5 points; 3 James Duncan, Martin Duncan, Tommy Drummond 52.8 points. Ladies - 1 Ann Lovat, Kathleen Leitch, Helen Bryan 62.5 points. Nearest the pin - 3rd hole: Willie McCann; 6th: Martin Duncan; 12th: Iona Cameron; 16th Brian Gillespie. Longest drives - Kevin Ferguson, Rosemary MacIntyre. Hidden holes - Davie Matheson, Donnie MacInnes, Neil Young.

# Fort William FC weekly lotto draw

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £200 is up for grabs this week in Fort William FC's weekly lotto draw. Numbers last week were 02-15-19.

# Police files

FOUR vehicles advertised for sale were badly scratched in Fort William on Friday night.

A silver Ford Focus, a black VW Golf, a grey Mazda 6 and a silver Peugeot 307, all parked near Carpet Right, North Road Retail Estate, were scratched on all body panels at around 8.45pm.

Police are keen to hear from anyone who may have seen a male wearing a grey hoodie and black trousers in the vicinity of the vehicles at this time.

Police are still actively investigating the circulation of illegal blue valium tablets that have led to recent hospital admissions in Fort William. Anyone with information about the supply or source of these tablets can contact police.

Anyone with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000.

Members of the public may also report any crime, offence or anything suspicious by phoning Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

# Isle of Lewis swimmers first to tackle wild water channel

A GROUP of nine Isle of Lewis residents are aiming to be the first people to swim The Minch waters between the mainland and the Outer Hebrides - one of the widest and wildest channels of water around the British coast.

The 'Big Minch Swimmers' - Saul Hindson, Colin Macleod, Rodney Jamieson, Chris Baker, Tariq Hussain, Scott Connor, Eilidh Whiteford, Laura Maynard and Mark Doug MacIver - will raise money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

They will set off from Ullapool at the end of June and swim around 100kms to Stornoway.

Team spokesman Saul Hindson said: 'We believe that we'll be the first to swim from Ullapool to Stornoway and we couldn't think of a better charity to support than the RNLI.'

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**Man to stand trial on drugs charges**

A FORT William man is due to stand trial on May 8 on a series of alleged drug-related offences. Gary MacKinnon, aged 39, of 3 Maryburgh Court, denies smashing a window at 18 Kilmallie Road, Caol, on November 22 and stealing a quantity of prescribed medication from the same address. MacKinnon also denies being in possession of class 'B' drug hydrocodone, class 'C' drug buprenorphine and class 'A' drug diamorphine at Fort William Police Station the same day. MacKinnon further denies acting in a threatening and abusive manner and appearing to have put himself in an apparent state of intoxication and ill-health after being found allegedly in a soporific state in a toilet at Morrisons superstore in Fort William. MacKinnon pled not guilty to all six charges.

**Woman made false assault claim**

A GLENCOE woman who falsely told police she had been the victim of a domestic assault has been admonished at Fort William Sheriff Court. Elaine Lamb, of Upper Carnoch Lodge, was told by Sheriff Douglas Small she would face no punishment after fulfilling a court order to be of good behaviour for six months. Lamb, aged 52, previously admitted making the false claim and wasting police time on October 10 last year. Defending, Stephen Kennedy said Ms Lamb 'has found the whole experience extremely distressing'. He said: 'I would be extremely surprised if she ever appeared in court again.'

**Man denies Parade attack**

A 22-YEAR-OLD Dunbartonshire man has appeared from custody at Fort William Sheriff Court to deny assaulting another man in Fort William town centre. John MacPhee, of 73 (5) Colquhoun Drive, Alexandria, pled not guilty to repeatedly kicking and punching the man on the head and body on The Parade on December 30. No application for bail was made and MacPhee was remanded in custody. A further hearing will be held on May 9.



Last year's Pre-65 Trial at Kinlochleven turned out a roaring success. 20\_118kinloch01

**Lochaber gears up for Scottish Six Days Trial**

LOCHABER is gearing up to welcome thousands of motorcycle enthusiasts as final preparations are made for the Scottish Six Days Trial and its sister competition, the Pre-65 Trial at Kinlochleven. For the south Lochaber village, the event tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday is one of the biggest events on its calendar. Up to 1,500 spectators and 180 riders are currently arriving from across Scotland. Local estimates suggest the pre-65 could pull in around £100,000 for the Kinlochleven economy.

Riders from as far afield as Spain, Sweden and Germany will spend two days tackling a course in and around the village on vintage motorcycles manufactured before 1965, watched by enthusiastic fans lining the course. The Scottish Six Days Trial launches on Sunday with the traditional parade of the 275-strong field riding along Fort William's pedestrianised High Street on their machines. Competition begins the following day. Riders face tough technical sections over some of Lochaber's wildest terrain. The man who puts his foot down the fewest times by the time the gruelling event ends on Saturday will be declared the winner. The Pre 65 gets underway tomorrow morning with the riders starting from the car park behind the Aluminium Store. Once the event is over, competitors will ride through the mountains to join the 'Six Days' pre-event festivities. The West End car park will be the event parc fermé (base) over the week. Free evening entertainment will include live music in the licensed 'Event-Tent' in Fort William.

One fan coming again this year will be 60-year-old David Cordle, who made his first 500-mile trip from Ipswich in Suffolk in the mid-1970s - and has been back to Lochaber more than 20 times since. He told *The Oban Times*: 'Unfortunately my wife was unable to take the time off work this year. So I'm going up with three friends who all follow trials, but have never been to The Scottish before. 'It is a beautiful part of the world - the scenery is breathtaking and the people of Fort William are always so welcoming.'

**Landowners and managers urged to take care when muirburning**

LANDOWNERS and managers are being warned to take care when muirburning following recent fires throughout the Highlands and Islands. Police and fire chiefs advise:  Always inform the Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service (HIFRS) prior to and on the completion of muirburning  Ensure there are enough people to control the fire  Make sure fires are extinguished before leaving the scene

HIFRS head of operations Billy Wilson said: 'We would encourage landowners who are carrying out controlled burning of vegetation to be fully aware of their responsibilities. 'Fires of this nature can rapidly spread to vast areas of moorland, forestry plantations and in some cases property. They are not only damaging to the natural environment, they cause a considerable drain on fire and rescue service resources as well as putting firefighters' safety at risk.'

Members of the public are also asked to take care. Cigarettes should be completely extinguished before disposal and campfires and portable barbecues should not be lit in remote areas where surrounding vegetation can easily ignite. Anyone wishing to notify HIFRS before and after muirburning can call 01463 240999. Anyone witnessing a person starting a fire not thought to be muirburning should contact their nearest police station or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

**Jail for drugs mule collared in car park**

A 'DRUGS mule' was collared by police in a Fort William supermarket car park with a carrier bag stuffed with 4,000 diazepam tablets.

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

As a result Aberdeen man Christopher Dunbar was jailed for almost six months at Fort William Sheriff Court for his part in the drug running racket between the two towns. The sentence came only days after 14 people were hospitalised in The Belford Hospital after swallowing illicit 'Valium' tablets at a house party. Dunbar, of Flat 6, 663 Great Northern Road, had earlier admitted being concerned in the supply of class 'C' drug diazepam outside Morrisons on February 29. Police officers were waiting for Dunbar and found him at the An Aird superstore, the court heard. Prosecutor Alison Wylie said Dunbar had a black carrier bag filled with 4,000 diazepam

tablets, with a street value of £2,000. Interviewed by police, Dunbar said he was being paid £300 to come by bus from Aberdeen to Fort William, uplift the consignment and return to the city, also by bus. 'He would not name who asked him to do it,' Ms Wylie said. Defending, Stephen Kennedy said Dunbar had experienced drug and alcohol misuse 'from a very young age' and had been in a 'desperate financial situation'. He was approached by 'a third party' and agreed to act as a courier to collect a package in Fort William. Mr Kennedy said: 'A sum of £300 was agreed to be paid after he completed the transaction. He has never been paid. 'He only did it because the

drugs in the package were not serious. If he had thought they were a class 'A' drug such as heroin he would not have undertaken the transaction. 'Having heard the news about recent events in Fort William, that has brought it home to him what can happen to people who take illegal drugs. 'He realises how serious this matter is. He pled guilty at the earliest opportunity. He has started attending church and is getting help with his drug problem. He feels if he goes back to jail all these steps he has taken would be for nothing. Sheriff Douglas Small took account of Mr Kennedy's plea, but ruled a custodial sentence was his only option. Jailing Dunbar for 172 days, he told him: 'You have previous convictions where alternatives to custody have been tried without success. Being concerned in supplying illegal drugs is an extremely serious matter.'

**'Great Glen' chosen as new pub name**

PUB CHAIN JD Wetherspoon has decided on the name of its new branch within Fort William's new £8million retail park. The street level bar and restaurant next to the start/finish point of the West Highland Way in the town's west end will be called The Great Glen. *Oban Times* readers had suggest-

ed several other names including The Pierhead, The Waverley Hotel, The Provost's Robes, The Linnhe Arms, Neptune's Lounge and The New Grand. A JD Wetherspoon spokesperson said: 'Thanks to those readers who took the time to write in with their suggestions and ideas, which were all considered by the company.'

Work is progressing well on the £8million development, which will also include a Superdrug store, a Cotswold Outdoor clothing shop and a 60-bed Travelodge on the upper floors. Developer Ashford Property Group aims to have the 20,000 square foot project completed by July.

**Warning: bracelets contain deadly plant seeds**

HIGHLAND Council has issued a public health warning about bracelets containing deadly plant seeds. The bracelets are made up of distinctive red and black beans and strung together with fine cord. The seeds inside the beans contain the toxin abrin, which can have fatal consequences if

swallowed. Abrin is chemically similar to ricin. It is believed three Highlands retailers sold the bracelets, which have been removed from sale. Trading standards manager Gordon Robb urged anyone with the potentially lethal jewellery to phone 08456 004222 or email trading\_standards@highland.gov.uk.



Bracelet: could be lethal.



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**Development at Glenshellach Oban, Argyll £105,000 each for 80% share**

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- Within easy reach of the town centre and local facilities.
- The development will comprise: Six 2-bedroom cottages with fully fitted amenity showers/WC areas and newly-fitted kitchens.
- Double glazing. Dimplex Duo heat electric panel heating. Benefits from solar panel water heating.
- Managed gardens to the front and rear, with patios to the rear.
- Dedicated off street parking for each property. Bus service close by.
- Adjacent smaller cottages are also available to rent through Bield Housing and Care.



The properties have been specially designed by Bield Housing and Care (www.bield.co.uk), a non-profit organisation with charitable status who devise innovative housing methods and care services aimed for the recently-retired and older market, in order to enable people to retain as much independence as possible. Properties available on a shared ownership basis £105,000 represents an 80% share of the property.

FW

**Coll bids for 'Dark Skies' recognition**

COLL is preparing a bid to become Scotland's first 'Dark Skies' island in a bid to boost the island's tourist market.

Islanders have long extolled the virtues of Coll's complete lack of street lights, meaning nothing interferes with the spectacular view of the stars and planets when darkness falls.

It is hoped that by obtaining 'Dark Sky' status, the island would be able to attract amateur astronomers and tourists hoping to catch an unmatched view of the universe - or even the Northern Lights.

If successful, Coll would be only the second place in the UK, after Galloway Forest Park, to be awarded the status.

**More than 1,100 to compete in 29th Oban festival**

THE 29TH Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival takes place in Oban this weekend at a variety of venues.

More than 1,100 participants will compete in 125 competition classes in 12 disciplines, including piping, accordion and fiddle.

**Unexplained death**

A 27-YEAR-old Oban man was found dead on Tuesday night at Donmor Lodge in the town.

Police described the incident as an 'unexplained death', while enquiries continue, but added there were no suspicious circumstances.

It is believed the death was possibly drug related.

**Argyll and Bute election results - as they happen**

ELECTION results will be announced tomorrow (Friday), May 4 - for the latest news on the results in Argyll and Bute follow The Oban Times on Twitter @obantimes or take part in the discussion #otelection.

We will update the results as they come in, so hear the news first with us. Full results will also be available on our website obantimes.co.uk/elections.

And don't forget to vote today - polling stations are open until 10pm.

**NEWSDESK**  
01397 703003



2012 Oban Times Bonnie Baby Abbey with mum, Denise.

**Abbey is our Bonnie Baby of 2012**

AS RECENTLY as February this year, baby Abbey Prosser was in Yorkhill Children's Hospital in Glasgow for a major operation on her neck.

But just a few weeks later, the Oban infant has been named as The Oban Times' Bonnie Baby for 2012 after sweeping the vote.

Abbey's mum, Denise Maccoll, said she was delighted her daughter had won the competition after a 'scary' and emotional start to the year.

'When I found out she had won I just screamed with excitement. I didn't know what to say,' said Denise.

'The family are all delighted

she won after what she has been through and it is a nice story to tell her when she is older. We want to thank everyone who voted for Abbey.'

Denise and her fiancé, Abbey's father John Prosser, received £500 of shopping vouchers, courtesy of competition sponsors, The Co-operative.

Abbey, who will be one year old on May 23, also won a framed Bonnie Baby Competition 2012 certificate and an Oban Times teddy bear.

Of the eight babies in the final, Abbey received 257 votes, 127 ahead of Willow Livingstone of Mull, in second. Mull's Ruairaidh Maclean was third.

**Tourism expo raises expectation**

Unprecedented international interest in Argyll and the Isles offers huge opportunities

ARGYLL and the Isles is expecting a major tourism boost after unprecedented interest in the region at a major international tourism show.

The Duke of Argyll was among those who manned the stalls for Argyll and the Isles Tourism (AIT) during the two-day VisitScotland International Tourism Expo at Edinburgh's Royal Highland Centre.

Manned by 15 volunteers, from the Duke himself to a 'prisoner' at Inveraray Jail, AIT had expected to welcome about 60 buyers to its six-stand stall over the course of the event.

However, it exceeded that target by 11.30am on the first day and ended up more than trebling expected numbers by the end of the show last Thursday.

As well as holding in-depth meetings with 184 buyers who expressed a serious interest in arranging trips to Scotland, a

**"Spanish company interested in sending 23,000 people a year."**  
vice-chairman AIT Mike Story

further 40-50 lodged informal interest.

The next step for the new organisation is to follow up with firm details for each company who expressed an interest and it is hoped most if not all will soon offer holidays to Argyll and the Isles.

Meanwhile, bookings for next year's Expo have already doubled, with 12 stands set to make up the Argyll and the Isles corridor.

Vice-chairman of the group,

Mike Story, said there was 'massive potential' in the meetings.

He said: 'These are buyers that have not worked with Argyll and the Isles before. For example there was a Spanish company interested in sending people to Mull and Iona. They're talking about 23,000 people coming every year.'

'Not every buyer will be as big as that, but these buyers are all representing organisations who would have been going elsewhere.'

The project received financial assistance from the Scottish Government, LEADER, Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and VisitScotland's Growth Fund.

In addition, it received support, both physical and financial, from the 28 marketing organisations

Continued on Page 11

**Oban guest house hit by shock £4,000 water bill**

FAILURE to read meters as promised resulted in commercial water supplier, Business Stream, demanding £4,000 from an Oban guest house.

Three years ago, the company took over from Scottish Water in supplying water to businesses, at the time promising the meters would be read regularly.

However, Valerie Bichener of the Thornloe Bed and Breakfast

on Albert Road, found her meters were not being read and every bill was an estimate.

Just over a year ago, a new meter was installed, showing £4,000 of water had been used over and above the usual monthly use since Business Stream took over.

The cause was a leak that would have been detected had meters been read as promised,

but more than a year passed before Business Stream last week finally acknowledged they did not fulfil the terms outlined in their contract.

The company has now written-off the bill, but told *The Oban Times* the situation had been resolved to Mrs Bichener's satisfaction - it wasn't.

A subsequent promise to set up eBilling so she could read

her own meter to provide accurate bills was not fulfilled. She said: 'I'd asked to have eBilling set up in December, then again in March. It still hasn't been done.'

After contacting Mrs Bichener, Craig Watson, head of customer experience at Business Stream, said: 'We know we have not delivered the level of customer service we would

normally expect and in recognition of this we have written off the entire bill.'

'We have now also set up Mrs Bichener's eBilling account, and discussed this with her, which will help her to monitor her water use and avoid any unexpected bills in future.'

'We're sorry for any distress and inconvenience this has caused.'

**Connel yachts go back to sea**

TWO large yachts washed ashore at Connel during dramatic December storms have been returned to the sea - with the help of a forklift.

Local builder, Michael MacPhee, took his telescoping forklift down to Connel's foreshore to aid the owners of the yachts in their bids to refloat them.

The *Rosanne of Rhu* was refloated last week, before the

second stranded vessel, *Tanika*, was eased back into the water at the weekend.

Chairman of Connel Community Council, Sandy Dunlop, said: 'Michael came down last Wednesday and a trench was dug to get the first boat out. That worked quite well.'

'The other boat was back in the water by the weekend.'

'It's good to seem them floating again.'

25 Years Ago

**Those Were The Days**  
**The Oban Times**

Thursday, May 7, 1987



Best of friends: Bill and Ben with Mrs MacKay's 11-year-old daughter Nicola.

**Ben uses cat as bone of contention**

THERE is a limit to the patience of any self-respecting dog and Ben the Labrador is no exception.

When Ben gets tired of being teased by the family cat Bill, he has a novel way of establishing who's boss - Ben simply digs a big hole in the garden, lifts the

cat by the back of the neck and buries him.

**Disappears**

Luckily Ben's owner, Mary MacKay, of Jenkins Park, Fort Augustus, has always been on hand before the cat finally disappears.

She said: 'The odd thing is

that the cat seems to enjoy the game and quite happily submits to being buried.

'If the cat vanishes some day I'll just have to hope that Ben will lead me to the grave before it is too late.'

'I've heard of dogs burying bones - but a cat?'

**Hot chocolate debate ends**

THE SHED on Islay which caused a storm in a paint pot has now got the official seal of approval - and it will be staying its present colour.

Bridgend Sawmills' shed found itself in the middle of a row after Argyll and Bute District Council objected to the colour it was painted.

The shed was light brown with blue flashings but the council thought it should be chocolate brown - they had stipulated this colour when planning permission was granted.

Enforcement action was taken against the business, run by

Mike Harrison, but he appealed and elected to have his case heard by a public enquiry.

This was held last month and the Secretary of State has now found in Mr Harrison's favour.

The findings said: 'There is no dispute that the alleged breach of planning control has taken place and the office has not been painted dark brown but I consider the issue to be whether the conditions requiring that the building be painted dark brown are necessary.'

'I do not find that the building is specially prominent or that it causes a major impact.'

**Connel Alsatian captured**

AFTER a week of evading capture, a huge Alsatian dog which was running free in the Connel area has finally been caught.

The dog, very thin and with a badly injured leg, is now recovering at the home of Bert Douglas, the local officer for the Glasgow and West of Scotland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Local people, the police force and Mr Douglas were all involved in the search for the dog.



The wedding party - pupils with BBC presenter Bill Torrance, the band and teachers.

**Dunbeg 'wedding' on the BBC**

THE BRIDE and groom showed no trace of wedding nerves despite their youth and the fact the happy occasion was

being recorded by the BBC. But maybe it was because it was play acting. Dunbeg's school pupils were helping the

BBC out in a special series of Scottish dancing - their project had been to look at music and dancing at weddings.

**Smokers quit to boost funds**

FOUR EX-SMOKERS who all work in Strathclyde Regional Council's roads department in Lochgilphead have managed to kick the habit - and raised £211 for Cancer Research in the process.

Their campaign started on National No Smoking Day in March and all four, who were heavy smokers, can still say they have not succumbed to temptation since.

Alan McDonald, George

McConnel, John McFadden and Dave Tomlinson all pledged to give up smoking for 30 days from No Smoking Day.

They got their colleagues in the council offices to sponsor them for what was a team effort - if one of them gave in, the whole effort was lost.

But not only did the four manage the 30 days, they are still off the cigarettes. They now hope their success will inspire other smokers to kick the habit.

**33 new jobs for Corpach**

THOMAS Smith & Sons (Kirkoswald) Limited has announced it is to open a new pallet wood and fencing mill creating 33 new jobs at the Kilmallie sawmill, based at Corpach, Fort William.

Managing director Thomas Smith said on Tuesday: 'We have done our homework. We have investigated the availability of raw materials and we have decided to build a pallet wood and fencing mill.'

The new mill will be housed in the Old Log Line Building - the original mill building - and work to remove old equipment and re-equip the building for its new use will be being immediately, said Mr Smith.

He added: 'It is hoped to have it operational by the end of the year.'

The new venture will create 15 jobs in the mill, and one in the office, two in transport and another 15 jobs on the forest harvesting side.



Friends already: Bert Douglas with the Alsatian dog.



A western style 'Wanted' poster helped the four to publicise their campaign. Left to right: Alan, George, John and Dave.



**Lochalsh twins build nesting boxes**

LOCHALSH twins Christina, left, and Laura Robin with their own nesting boxes thanks to Plockton High School and the Forestry Commission.

The school make bird and bat boxes with commission supplied wood and the nesting boxes are then placed in woodlands throughout the area.

Ron Johnstone, Forest District Manager based at Balmacara, said the nesting box programme is an example of the commission's commitment to conservation and a celebration of the European year of the environment, which began in March. The five-year-old twins who live at Dornie, where their parents have the Robin's Nest Restaurant, now have their own nesting boxes for their garden.

**Alleged house robber arrested**

A 39-YEAR-old man and a 26-year-old woman have been arrested in connection with a robbery at a house in Combie Street, Oban.

A 58-year-old occupant of the house was allegedly threatened with a knife during the incident between 1.30am and 2.30am on Monday morning.

The assailants are accused of demanding money and stealing property after pushing the victim to the ground.

**Man caused alarm with gun**

A 39-YEAR-old man has been charged with causing alarm by presenting an air weapon at a 26-year-old woman in Oban's Combie Street in the early hours of Monday morning.

**Attempted theft at Dervaig**

POLICE on Mull are seeking information in relation to an attempted theft from a shipping container at Balmacara, Dervaig.

The incident occurred between 7pm last Monday and 8am the following morning.

It was clear that the container, which is used to store diesel and plant equipment, had been tampered with during that period.

Anyone with any information should contact PC Donald MacCuish at Tobermory Police Station.

**Cocaine charge in Tobermory**

A WOMAN, who was stopped and searched by police in Main Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull was allegedly found to be in possession of cocaine at 11.30pm on Saturday.

The 22 year old is subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

**New harbour master at Oban**

OBAN'S North Pier has a new Harbour Master.

Vicki McKenzie was appointed to the post in April and her presence will ensure the town can continue accepting visiting international cruise boats.

She has completed her training as a Port Facility Security Officer and will be responsible for the day-to-day running of three council operated ferry services.

**RIB Rendezvous set to hit Easdale this weekend**

EASDALE will be inundated with boats this weekend as the island's annual RIB Rendezvous is set to take place.

May 5 and 6 will see almost 40 RIBs head to Easdale for a weekend of 'cruising in company' followed by evening entertainment on the island itself.

Contact the Seafari ticket office for more information.

**College students raise cash for Yorkhill**

ARGYLL College students who organised an Easter Fun Day at Oban's Atlantis Leisure have raised £500 for Yorkhill Children's Foundation.

Traditional Easter games and egg hunts were combined on the day with other attractions such as beat the goalie, running competitions and Body Zorbing.

**No wardens - no parking tickets**

PARKING tickets have dropped by over 60 per cent on this time last year with less than 20 being issued in Oban since the new year.

Compared to 2011 when January to March saw 48 tickets handed out to offending motorists the first three months of this year has only seen 18 issued.

The reduction in tickets follows the withdrawal of police traffic wardens from the town last September.

A meeting of Oban Community Council heard that 'residents now know they can park anywhere except double yellow lines for as long as they want without having to pay'.

**Oban cinema job deadline**

THE DEADLINE for applications for the manager's post at Oban Phoenix Cinema has been extended to May 9.

**Tourism expo raises expectation as interest in Argyll grows**

Continued from Page 6

AIT represents, including Oban and Lorn Tourism Association, Islay and Jura Marketing, Heart of Argyll Tourism Association, Holiday Mull and Iona, Inveraray

Marketing Group and Food from Argyll. Since it started, AIT has operated under the motto 'Stronger Together', something Mr Story believes underpins the whole ethos behind Argyll and the Isles as

a marketing brand. He said: 'I think having the Duke of Argyll on the stand was a big plus. The Duchess of Argyll became one of our directors two weeks ago and she has been very hard working. She wasn't

able to make it to the Expo so the Duke came instead. Nobody could really compete with that and it showed we're working hard together.'

'We hope to have two good years before our success is

measured. It is always tough in a recession - especially in a double-dip recession, but there are more international buyers out there than ever before.'

VisitScotland chairman, Mike Cantley, said: 'Argyll and the

Isles is more co-ordinated than we've seen for some time and the different communities have come together really well.'

'The AIT stall was excellent and the enthusiasm of the team was a factor in its success.'



Sitting behind the wheel of a fire engine is a joy for Oban four-year-olds Cameron Crowe, left, and Carrick Hobson. 15\_11810r0b001

**Soroba families' support fundraising steps up a gear**

VOLUNTEERS battling to save children's services in the Soroba area have stepped up their fundraising efforts.

**Support**

The Soroba Young Families Project Group, part of the Soroba Young Families nursery, provides childcare support for families with young children that require extra help.

On Sunday the group made

£500 at a fun day in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls and plans are being finalised to host a Ladies Night on May 18 in the Palace Hotel.

At the weekend families enjoyed a bouncy castle, face painting and browsing colourful jewellery and other trade stalls.

There was also a visit from the emergency services, as police officers and firefighters

impressed the youngsters with their vehicles.

Jayne Donn, chairwoman of Soroba Young Families Group's fundraising committee, explained the majority of the group's funding came from its own fundraising initiatives.

She said: 'Our group offers support to mothers with children under three who are referred to us from a doctor or social work.'

'Although we receive funding from Argyll and Bute Council, our income has been cut drastically, so events like the ones we are planning are essential to allow us to carry on.'

Jayne became involved with fundraising after benefiting from the work of the project group.

The mother of six received assistance after going into hospital for a back operation.

**ACHA aim for value for money**

**Housing provider answers critics**

AN ARGYLL social housing provider says it has to consider best value after the use of contractors from outside the county was criticised.

**Best value for tenants' money**

Readers contacted *The Oban Times* to express concern that Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) had brought Forster Roofing in from Brechin to work alongside Helensburgh company, Stewart and Shields, on projects in Oban.

Critics say local contractors are 'crying out' for work and should have received preference, but ACHA's chief executive, Alastair MacGregor points out his association has to get best value for its tenants' money through its tendering process, which all companies are invited to participate in.

Furthermore, a range of local businesses are already working on a number of contracts for the association, having previously submitted the best tender.

Elizabeth Smith, of Barcaldine, said: 'I would like to know

why they have hired a Glasgow firm to provide scaffolding instead of using a local firm, when the local firms are crying out for work.'

Another correspondent, said: 'ACHA has again employed outside contractors to carry out works on Oban housing for Oban people. Why?'

'The local economy, particularly in the construction sector, is experiencing a considerable downturn and here were have ACHA transferring money out of the town.'

Mr MacGregor said: 'A range of Argyll firms currently work for the association on contracts they have won. Companies such as M&K MacLeod, Lochgilphead, Neil McGougan, Taynuilt, Oban Electrical Services and Kevan Brown, Tیره are all working on current contracts for the Association.'

'Argyll firms were on the tender list but, as I am sure you will appreciate, the Association has to get the best value it can for its tenants' money.'

**Taynuilt's interest in hotel reignited**

THE COLLAPSE of a tabled offer for Taynuilt Hotel has reignited interest in a community takeover of the premises.

While administrator RSM Tenon said it was discussing two alternative expressions of interest, it confirmed an offer that had been accepted had fallen through last week.

Now residents of the village have reformed a community initiative to discuss the potential takeover and are inviting residents to a meeting in the hotel at 7pm today (Thursday).

A statement from the community group said: 'Most people in Taynuilt were aware of the community initiative that was started in December 2011 to look at the purchase of the Taynuilt Hotel.'

'We put together a questionnaire that went round the whole community and gained overwhelming support for the initiative.'

'We propose to have another meeting at the Taynuilt Hotel to cover; whether to continue with a community buyout initiative; the company structure options, i.e. community interest company, co-operative or limited company; setting up a steering committee; raising the capital.'

'We hope to see as many people as possible.'

**'Blocked' post boxes to reopen**

CONCERNS over the blocking of postboxes in Oban have been troubling residents lately - with one man calling on councillors to step in.

Boxes at the top and bottom of Craignaig A Mhinister have been blocked off meaning elderly residents have to endure a long walk to the nearest box if they want to post a letter.

But a spokesman for Royal Mail told *The Oban Times*: 'There is a problem with the locks on these postboxes which makes them unable to use.'

'The fault has been reported to our maintenance people and the locks should be replaced in the next week or so.'

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**WIN TICKETS TO ROCKNESS**  
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 DEADMAU5, BIFFY CLYRO, ED SHEERAN, MUMFORD & SONS  
 Get set for the Highlands' premier music festival - RockNess. This year's dazzling line up of incredible acts includes headliners Biffy Clyro, Mumford & Sons, Deadmau5, Justice, Ed Sheeran and Friendly Fires, plus The View, Metronomy, Chic feat Nile Rodgers, Wretch 32, The Drums and Kassidy. The new Arcadia UFO stage is set to land with electronic dance parties from Soma Records, Sub Club Sound System and Mylo. A host of first class comedy acts have also been announced, headlined by international superstar Tim Minchin. Visit [www.rockness.co.uk](http://www.rockness.co.uk)  
 To celebrate the start of the festival season, The Oban Times has two pairs of weekend tickets with camping up for grabs.  
**Each ticket is worth £159.**  
 To enter, simply collect two tokens - here is token one. Token two will be printed next week, May 10. Full details on how to send in your tokens in next week's Oban Times.  
 Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. One entry per purchased copy. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. Closing date will be May 21, 2012.

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**Taynuilt Golf Club**

**GOLF**

Gents  
Team Trophy Qualifier and Medal April 29: 1 Fraser Inglis, 62 (6); 2 Kenny MacGregor, 64 (18); 3 Stuart Scott, 64 (13); 4 Hugh Nicolson, 65 (12).  
Ladies  
Captain's Prize and Medal on April 24: 1 Carol MacLarty, 62 (19); 2 Liz Mudie, 65 (34); 3 Sue Asher, 66 (36).

**Glencruitten**

Isis Cup: 1 James Muir, 64 - 4 = 60; 2 Kevin MacKie, 63 - 2 = 61.  
Captain of Dunstaffnage: Winner - James Scott, 70 - 12 = 58; Runner-up - Samuel Jackson 88 - 28 = 60.

**Tobermory**

THE NINE-hole Grandparents Trophy, in the men's section, was won by John Wilshire with 18 points. Runner up was Donald Brown snr 17 points and third Graham Davidson 17 points.  
The Jimmy Reid Memorial Trophy which is a Tombstone Format was won by Andrew MacAffie who holed out on the 18th green.

**Islay**

Higginbotham Trophy: 1 David Livingstone 39pts; 2 Charles Holyoake 37pts; 3 Lachlan Gairns 36pts. C.S. 71

Laphroaig Trophy: 1 Norman Macdonald 36pts; 2 Neil Johnston 33pts; 3 Lachlan Gairns 33pts. C.S. 74  
Hunter Trophy: 1 Norman Macdonald, 74 less 3 net 71; 2 Gordon Ross, 97 less 23 net 74; 3 Keith Macdonald, 80 less 6 net 74. C.S. 74

# Taynuilt win final league tie

Craig Campbell nets winner

TAYNUILT faced a much-improved Yoker side on Saturday at Glencruitten in their final league game of the season.

The previous league meeting saw Taynuilt win 6-0 at a hostile Blairdardie Parks. However, the Yoker team had been completely overhauled and replaced with tricky, hard working opponents.

Taynuilt had some new faces of their own, however, with Steven Fox, Dean Smith, Elliot Dougall and Dene Cassells coming in to bolster the squad ahead of a series of forthcoming cup games.

On a hard and uneven surface at Glencruitten, it was Taynuilt making best use of the ball in the opening 10 minutes. The first chance fell to Dean Smith after excellent work from Dene Cassells on the right hand side. His square ball left Smith with only the keeper to beat but he was denied by a remarkable save.

On 15 minutes Taynuilt were forced into making an early change when Elliot Dougall got a nasty gash above his left eye. Kris Gillies replaced him, partnering Dean Smith.

**FOOTBALL**

At the other end, Ben Pollock wasn't troubled and any attacks were thwarted by the makeshift centre defence pairing of Craig Campbell and Steven McLeod. Taynuilt took the game to Yoker in the 2nd half with Cassells and Scott Maitland making great driving runs. Maitland hit the upright on the 63rd minute from a powerful drive from outside the box but just 10 minutes later Taynuilt made the breakthrough. A free kick into the box fell to Craig Campbell, who smashed it into the bottom right hand corner for his 15th goal of the season.

Both teams looked to be suffering from heavy legs as this hard-fought game fizzled out in the remaining minutes.

Final score - Taynuilt 1 Yoker 0  
Next week Taynuilt are away to Knightswood in the quarter final of the C.D.L Cup. The team then has three important cup fixtures: Wilson Cup semi final versus Kirkmichael; the League Cup final; and the Unico Cup first round v Kirkmichael.



The Yoker defence clear their lines, as Taynuilt's Dene Cassells, Kris Gillies and Steven Fox prepare to pounce on any mistakes.

## Primary footballers snatch points before May break

**PRIMARY FOOTBALL**

THE OBAN Express Primary Football League convened once more on Sunday in glorious conditions at the high school pitch with the seniors utilising the 3G with their three 7 a-side pitches and the youngsters continuing on the grass in their fun fours.

The seniors opened their matches with a Lochgilphead Red Star win against Thistle with Jake Young and Joseph Harper netting without reply. In a good day for the Star they went on to record two further victories with Jake Young scoring the only goal against the All Stars and Ewan Litster producing the late winner past Lochnell's goalkeeper Gary McCuish to send the boys down the A816 with a 100 per cent record. Lochnell had earlier defeated the Lochgilphead Scorpions with a fine display of end-to-end football. Despite some great saves from Alastair Cupples trying to keep the waves of attacks from Lochnell at bay they had four individual scorers in Stewart MacAllister, Sandy Bavington, Scott Rowley and Finlay Bennett without reply.

In their next match Lochnell and Thistle cancelled one another out in the first half but Lochnell went two up with goals from Bennett and Rowley.

However the Thistle lads dug in and a double from Keir MacLean levelled for the draw which was a fair reflection on a really close game. Thistle had earlier recorded a win over Wasps with MacLean going one better than before and grabbing a hat trick, a Rory Dowd double and a good goal from Cameron Hill.

The Wasps had earlier matched up to Tralee and found themselves on the losing end to the odd goal in five as Tralee's Ryan Henriksen, Stuart Black and Dougie MacDonald ensured the win.

The youngest of the Saints teams, 03, started their day with a goalless draw against the Galaxy with both teams well matched as ever. The 03s then had Tralee pinned back for long spells before Adam Munro opened the scoring with a strike into the bottom corner. Tralee fought back and found an equaliser just before half time when Rowley fired home. Second half sub Garry Melvor made a big impact for the 03s and came up with the winner. The 03s then recorded the result of the day against the Jags.

## Saints youths - results and fixtures

**YOUTH FOOTBALL**

LAST weekend's results: Plate competition - Under 13s 4, Lenzie 2. Jay Cooper netted all four goals for Saints. League game - Under 13s 3, Lenzie 2. Saints scorers were Zander Kilmurray, Jay Cooper and Owen Neilson.

League Cup semi final - Clydebank 1, Under 14s 0. League game - Under 15s 0, Allander Colts 2.

League Cup semi final - Under 16s 2, Clydebank Phoenix 1. Ryan MacDougall scored both goals for Saints.

Next week's fixtures: Thursday: League game - Blair Thistle v Under 13s; Under 14s no game; Saturday - League Cup semi final Under 15s v Allander Colts; Sunday: League game - Under 16s v Lenzie Youth.

## 50th anniversary programme

**RUGBY**

THE PROGRAMME of events to celebrate Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club's 50th anniversary year is coming together.

There will be a veterans' match on the evening of Friday, August 31, followed by youth, ladies and senior rugby matches the next day.

The anniversary dinner will be held on Saturday, September 1 in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, where Bill Nolan (Scotland IRB representative and Oban Lorne honorary member) and John Beattie (former Scotland and British Lion player and BBC sport presenter) will be among the speakers.

## Double up for Trialists

**OVER 35s FOOTBALL**

TRIALISTS completed the double in this year's Oban Over-35s League competitions by beating Teachers in the final 7-4 in the league cup.

Trialists, who recently secured the league title, had beaten Taynuilt 6-1 in the semi-final, while Teachers had beaten West Coast Massive 7-4.

Next season is scheduled to start up again in September.

## Season gets underway at Seil

**GOLF**

THE ISLE of Seil Golf Club teed off the season with a three club competition a fortnight ago. Brian Dickey was the winner with a net 71.

The club hut which blew away during the end of year gales is in the process of reconstruction.

## Prizes given out at Easdale

**CARPET BOWLS**

EASDALE carpet bowls club brought its season to a close with its annual prize giving and social last Friday. Ian MacColl and Colin Campbell won the doubles, Graham Campbell won the singles and Brian Dickey won the Hughie Brown handicap competition.

## Six away points out of six as Saints hit the road

Thursday  
Scottish Amateur League  
Premier Division  
**St Joseph's FP 0  
Oban Saints 3**

THE local side played the first of two games in three days when they travelled to take on St Joseph's FP at William Street Park in Duntocher last Thursday evening and it was a very happy squad that arrived back home at 11pm with a well deserved 3-0 win under the belts.

The visitors started off well and passed up a couple of good chances before Donald Campbell got on the end of a Willie Gemmell pass to dink the ball over St Joes keeper Stephen Harkness in the 25th minute.

Both teams then contrived to miss good scoring opportunities, Willie Gemmell being the culprit for Saints and Kevin

Seagrave for the home side.

Saints got off to a great start in the second half with a goal in the third minute when Donald Campbell crossed for his strike partner Craig MacEwan who scored with a well placed header.

Saints killed the game off as a contest in the 63rd minute when Myles McAuley fired in a great right foot shot which was saved by the keeper, but the ball fell kindly for Asen Gaydradzhiev and the Bulgarian striker buried it past the helpless keeper to make the score 3-0.

The home side pushed forward to try and get back into the game and put the visitors under pressure but the Saints rearguard were in great form and they held out reasonably comfortably for a hard-fought and impressive away victory.

Saturday  
Scottish Amateur Division  
Premier League  
**Inverclyde 3  
Oban Saints 4**

SAINTS played their second game in three days when they travelled to Parklea to take on Inverclyde and what should have been a comfortable victory turned into a rather nervy final five minutes as the Oban side let a 4-1 lead slip to 4-3.

Saints opened the scoring the first minute when Willie Gemmell fired a tremendous 35 yard free kick into the net, just the start the Oban lads were looking for.

The visitors were playing some great football but scorned a number of good chances to increase their lead.

However, on the 18 minute mark they netted again when

Donnald Campbell made a great run up the right flank before crossing for Asen who scored with a well placed header.

The Oban side were in complete control at this stage but again they failed to convert a couple of excellent chances.

Craig MacEwan hit the bar and Donnald Campbell hit the post.

Inverclyde pulled a goal back with a great strike from Steven Morris just after half time.

Saints then restored their two goal advantage when Donnald Campbell netted from the penalty spot then Lewis Cameron scored to make it 4-1.

It should have been game over, but Inverclyde scored two late goals through Gary Baird to make it a nervous few minutes at the end.

However Saints managed to hold out for another very

important away win.

This Saturday the Oban side take on Postal United. The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.



Willie Gemmell

## Glencoe regatta set June date with passage race from Oban

**SAILING**

GLENCOE Boat Club will hold their annual regatta on Saturday, June 16 as the showpiece for its 40th anniversary celebrations.

The club is planning various events throughout the year, culminating with a club dinner in October.

The club was formed in 1972 to encourage boating and other aquatic sports in the Loch Leven area. The regatta, the central event in the calendar, attracts competitive yachtsmen and women from around the west coast.

The event features yacht and

dinghy racing and culminates with the annual dinner and prize giving.

The build up to the big day will begin on Friday, June 15 with the passage race from Oban Bay to Ballachulish.

Always a popular event, the 30 mile race usually involves a colourful spinnaker run up the coast to a finish on the Onich side of the Ballachulish Bridge allowing boats to motor against the tidal race under the bridge the last mile or two to the clubhouse.

The regatta will see two classes of keel boats and the dinghy class assemble their crews and receive the final race instruction briefing.

The three racing groups have a morning race, which can last a couple of hours depending on conditions.

The fleet will sail down towards Kinlochleven and back up to towards the Ballachulish Bridge, rounding the famous Glencoe burial islands in the process.

More information on www.glencoeboatclub.org

## World Eightball Pool place up for grabs

**POOL**

ONE POOL player from the region that covers Argyll and the islands will be given a place at this year's World Eightball Pool Championship in Blackpool next month.

The representative from region five (West Coast and Islands) will be chosen at a tournament to be held in Oban's Balmoral Hotel today (Thursday) and contested by 20 invited players.

The winner of the tournament, which starts at 3pm, will be granted a place at the event in Blackpool's Imperial Hotel on June 24 and 25.

Oban's Laura Ann Sneddon, who is organising the event, said: 'Due to the hard work from both organisers and players, the newly formed Scottish Eightball

Pool Federation region five, will have a qualifier's place 2012 World Eightball Pool Championships.

'This is a fantastic opportunity for the 10 locals to battle it out for the coveted spot and we would welcome supporters for the event at the Balmoral Hotel.'

The region five qualifier will not take part in the team event but they will gain a world singles place.

They will be given their hotel accommodation in Blackpool and entry fees as part of winning the local tournament next week.

The world championships will be aired on Sky Sports.

## Islay hosts rugby event

MORE THAN 60 young rugby players from Oban, Kintyre and Islay gathered at the playing fields in Bownmore on Saturday for the first rugby event on the Island for some time, the Islay Rugby Gathering.

The event, hosted by Islay High School, aimed to encourage playing numbers in Argyll and help develop partnership working between the rugby clubs.

The players were split into their two age sections: under-14, who played Kintyre/Islay v Oban, and under-16, who played in a round robin format with Oban, Kintyre and Islay.

Oban comfortably beat Kintyre/ Islay in the under-14 game while Kintyre eased past Islay in the first under-16 game.

Islay fought hard in their second game to run Oban very close, while the final game ended in a 17-17 draw between Oban and Kintyre.

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Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

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**Lochaber host annual 7s tournament**

**RUGBY**  
LOCHABER Rugby Club host their annual Seven-a-Side Tournament this Saturday at Banavie, with eight teams competing for the Quaich.

The teams competing this year are Lochaber 1st XV, Lochaber Golden Oldies, Mull, Oban, Highland, Northern Constabulary and The Fire Brigade and Aberdeen-shire. Last year's winners The Black Watch are unable to attend as they are on annual leave after recently returning from Iraq.

Club captain Kenny Turnbull is looking forward to a good day to finish off what has been a very difficult season for the team with the pitch drainage problems, but he hopes that all being well this will not be an issue on Saturday and the rain will stay away.

Hot and cold refreshments are available all day with live music and entertainment later in the evening. Everyone is welcome to come along and play kicks off at 12noon.

**Fort William reserves win over Ross County**

**CRICKET**

WITH Fort William Crickeet Club's senior game called off due to rain in Huntly, the reserve side took centre stage and took a 58-run victory over Ross County at the BA Club.

Fort battled first and got off to a shaky start at 11-2 after seven overs, but Davy Duncan and Ronnie Maclean teamed up and they had added a reserve team record of 85 for the third wicket.

Maclean completed a fine 53 before a clatter of wickets saw Ross fight their way back. Peter Brown's home debut was marked by confident batting (32), and well supported by Scott Calam, he saw Fort to the close on 166-9. New captain Col Lavin opened the bowling and clean bowled Ross Rae, but James Blake (18) and Howard Tolliday (15) began to look dangerous. They were both soon bowled and Fort seemingly in control at 60-5. Roy Fraser scored 24 for County but his side were bowled out for 108. Peter Shepherd took two wickets in two balls and Tom Findlay took his first two wickets for the club.

Lavin said: 'This was a great team effort and a good start to the season. The bowling and fielding was excellent but the real difference was the wonderful stand between Ronnie Maclean and Davy Duncan.'

## Makeshift line-up go down to Deveronvale

'To have only 14 players available for a home game is very disappointing' - Manager Danny Conlon

**FOOTBALL**

FORT William's threadbare squad was stretched to the limit last weekend with just 14 players available on the match day for manager Danny Conlon to choose from.

The Lochaber side suffered a heavy defeat, going down 6-0 to Deveronvale at Claggan. Manager Danny Conlon was forced to field a makeshift line up with senior players such as Sean Grant, Lewis Campbell, Chris Macleod and captain Andy Martin all missing.

Inverurie Loco Works will provide another tough challenge when they visit Claggan Park, and Conlon will be hoping to have some of those first team regulars back as they strive to pick up points before the season's end.

Conlon told The Oban Times his makeshift side had not performed well enough against Deveronvale.

He said: 'We were just never at the races, we never competed with them. We spoke before the game about their set pieces, and not giving space to the boy who comes up from the back for them, but we just didn't do it and he had a free header which led to the penalty.'

'We were really disappointing on the day. I didn't think Deveronvale were a particularly great side, they are pretty strong in most areas, but we hardly had any players with pass marks.'

Fort conceded a penalty in the

**REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK**  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

opening minutes when Mark Gillespie handballed, but almost made it to half time at 1-0 but 'Vale scored again five minutes before the break.

The one-way pressure continued and despite efforts from Iain Maclellan and a powerful strike from Darren Quigg, Fort could not prevent Deveronvale increasing their lead.

Fort will play their penultimate game of the season when

Formartine United come to Lochaber for an afternoon kick off on Monday.

Conlon continued: 'At the moment we seem to put in one good performance and the next week we're pretty poor, so who knows? If we can get a stronger squad available for the last three games hopefully we can get something from them.'

'I was really disappointed with the lack of commitment from some players. Its bad enough for an away game but for a home game to only have 14 players available is very disappointing.'



Tom MacMahon came fifth in his first race at Innerleithen



Fort midfielder Michael Gillespie rises above Craig Cowie to win the header 20. f18f00t01

## Outdoor Capital Team bike competes at Innerleithen

Ballachulish rider fifth in first competitive event

A NORTH Ballachulish rider is celebrating after coming fifth in the juvenile category in his first ever downhill mountain bike race.

Tom MacMahon was competing in the newly formed 'Outdoor Capital of the UK Lochaber' team at the Scottish Downhill Association event at Innerleithen.

Other riders in the new team also did Lochaber proud.

**MOUNTAIN BIKING**

Alastair MacLellan, 13, came fourth in the juveniles, Keir Copeland, 15, was 22nd in the youth category, while 16 year-olds Lachlan Blair and Sean Pettig 16, came third and 21st, respectively, in the junior section. Tom's mum Mairi told The Oban Times said further local

business support would be greatly appreciated.

She said: 'Nevis Cycles, No Fuss Events and Outdoor Capital UK sponsor team already, but the team are in real need of any further sponsors willing to help the local boys become a force to be reckoned with.'

The next SDA race is at Glencoe on Sunday, May 20. Any potential sponsors can contact Mairi on 01855 821 498.

**MacGillivray wins at Fort William Golf Club**

**GOLF**

FORT William Golf Club's Captain's Prize competition on Saturday saw David MacGillivray take a three shot win.

MacGillivray's net round of 74 was enough to see off the challenge of Alex McSorely, who set a 77. James Duncan also went round in 77 to finish third.

**McCombie takes 10-stroke win at Dragon's Tooth**

DRAGON'S Tooth Golf Club's April medal competition saw Scott McCombie pick up a comfortable 10-stroke victory.

McCombie's net round of 58 was more than enough to give him victory ahead of Graham Lobb. The ladies stableford competition at the Ballachulish club was won by Sue Watson by five points.

**Results**  
April medal:  
1, Scott McCombie 83-25=58;  
2, Graham Lobb 82-14=68;  
3, John Buchan 79-10=69.  
Ladies -  
1, Sue Watson 17 pts;  
2, Marilyn MacDonald 12 pts;  
3, Kate Ward 8 pts

**Glencoe Boat Club off to racing start**

**SAILING**

IT WAS a blustery start to the racing season at the Glencoe Boat Club on Wednesday evening when four boats took to the water to kick off the 21-race keelboat point series.

Stuart Robertson on 'Aperitif' was first across the start line and held his lead for most of the race.

Despite a knock down with winds gusting over 30 knots, he was in front at the finish to take line honours with David Cooper's Trapper 28 'Redwing' close behind.

On adjusted time, the Trapper won, with Bob and Jean Aitken's 'Didima 4' coming second and 'Aperitif' third.

Details of Club activities including the Regatta in June can be found on the web site www.glencoeboatclub.org.

**Early lead in 10-pin bowling league**

**10-PIN BOWLING**

AFTER two weeks of play in the Lochaber ten-pin bowling single leagues at the Nevis Centre Tony Whitelocke leads Pam Weller by two points in the scratch division.

Tim Attack sits two points further back in third place on 21 points.

Rossamy Wareing, Sandy McIntosh and Tim Attack are locked on 20 points at the top of the handicap competition.

The top scratch game was a 189 from Tim Attack. Tim also had the highest two game scratch series with 324, and also rolled the top handicap two game series of 436.

Total scratch pinfall so far is led by Tony Whitelocke with 626 followed by Pam Weller with 611 and Tim Attack in third with 569.

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## Phoenix Boxing Club's Scott Lawrie stuns Kilmarnock crowd with 30 second knockout

**BOXING**

NOVICE Lochaber middleweight boxer Scott Lawrie lit up a boxing show in Kilmarnock by knocking out his opponent within 30 seconds on Friday night.

Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club took three novice fighters and 14-year-old

James Aitchison to Ayrshire for Northwest ABC's show.

Lawrie rocked Scott Dickson in the opening exchange, with the 22-year-old showing good finishing instincts and leaving the referee with no alternative but to stop the contest. Dickson

showed tremendous bravery but was no match for the power and aggression of Lawrie.

Aitchison featured in the penultimate bout of the night against Northwest's Kieron MacMaster, and neither boxer disappointed, keeping the crowds were on their feet for the duration.

Home favourite MacMaster came out throwing bombs at an incredible rate, but Aitchison refused to concede ground, holding the centre of the ring and working at the same high rate.

Aitchison produced an incredible onslaught in the last round to have MacMaster hanging on for the

bell, but the decision of the local judges went to MacMaster by a single point.

Club spokesman Steve Docherty said: 'This is the second week in a row that James has lost by a single point but while last week it was understandable as the bout was so close, this decision was very unfair on a young boxer who showed bravery, commitment, fitness and desire in abundance. Next season we truly believe James will get the just rewards for all his hard work.'

Robbie Hall took on Harry Lowe and continued to show great potential. The 12-year-old only took part in his first bout around a

month ago but is already showing a rare maturity. He was always a step ahead of Lowe and controlled the action with a sharp jab ensuring he had the last word in every exchange.

Igor Sliwinski faced British champion Connor Greenan and ran him desperately close. Greenan found himself backpedalling often as the 15-year-old Sliwinski boxed superbly. After three close rounds the decision narrowly went to the Irvine boxer but the Fort William boxer will have learned an enormous amount from this bout and appears to have a huge future ahead of him.

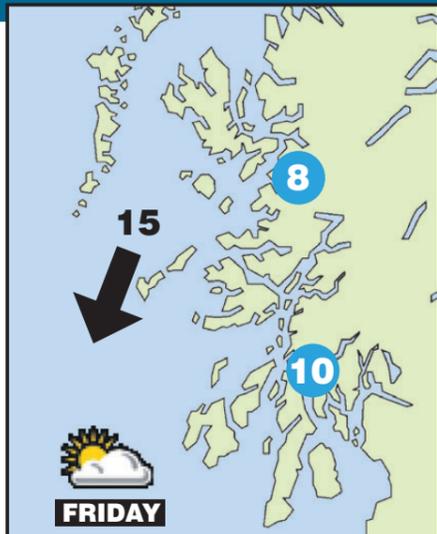
## Weather

**Thursday** Sunny  
Winds light north-westerly  
Temperatures 8°C to 14°C

**Friday** Sunny  
Winds moderate north north-easterly  
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

**Weekend** Cloudy, followed by sunny intervals  
**Outlook** Winds light northerly  
Temperatures 2°C to 9°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Calm  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Calm  
Kennacraig to Islay Calm



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, May 3, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 03.11	3.5 09.42	1.1 15.50 3.5 21.37 0.8
Fri 03.58	3.8 10.26 0.8 16.27 3.7 22.29 0.6	
Sat 04.41	4.0 11.08 0.6 17.06 3.9 23.18 0.4	
Sun 05.24	4.1 11.50 0.4 17.47 4.0 *** **	
Mon 00.06	0.3 06.05 4.0 12.33 0.4 18.29 4.1	
Tues 00.55	0.3 06.49 3.9 13.17 0.4 19.12 4.0	
Wed 01.44	0.4 07.38 3.7 14.03 0.6 19.58 3.8	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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