

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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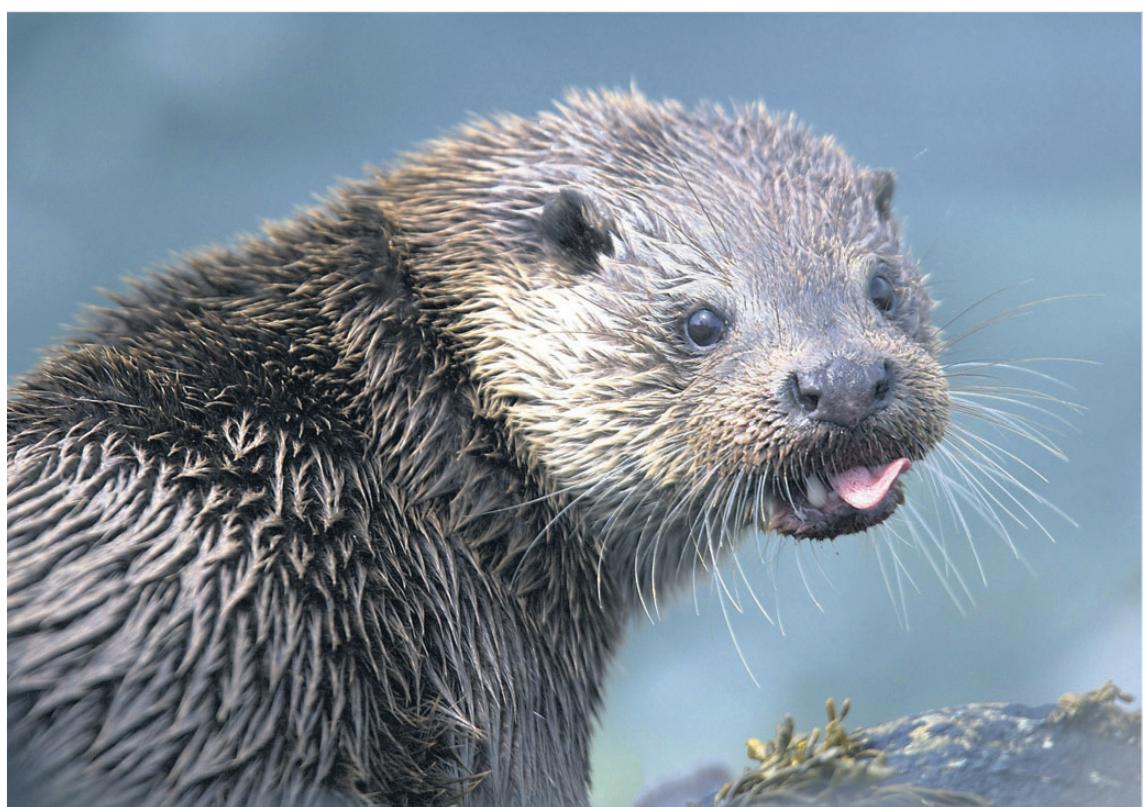
Search for missing fisherman



HIMDF to celebrate 30th in style

SPORTS NEWS

Full shinty round up



Warning signs are to be erected on the A828 between Benderloch and Appin later this year to warn drivers of the otters' presence.

New road signs in bid to save otters

OTTERS are back on the prowl in North Lorn, with the population thought to be increasing in numbers. The news also comes with a warning to motorists.

Appin-based biodiversity officer for Argyll and Bute Council, Marina Curran-Colhart, has watched the population of otters expand south towards Benderloch in recent months, with the creatures now in regular residence around Suth-

erland's Grove and Inverfolla.

Otters are known to travel long distances, particularly at night and use scent as their main means of communication.

Scientists believe that this scent can be made up of a complex mix of 432 chemicals and plays an important role in the social life of the animals.

One of Scottish Natural Heritage's 'Big Five' attractions for tourism, the growing numbers

of otters has been welcomed by the local tourist industry.

Sadly estimates on the numbers of otters resident in the North Lorn area are based on the volume on animals being killed when crossing the A828 Oban to Fort William road between Benderloch and Appin, with 13 road accident victims found in recent weeks.

As such, signs will go up on the A828 later this year to warn

motorists of the otters' presence - and hopefully save a few lives on the way.

Marina said: 'The otter population is increasing and we are working with Transport Scotland to warn drivers about their presence. We estimate that for every otter that is killed there's at least another three in the area. It's great that they're watching through and we're

watching with interest to see

how they're doing.'

Mike Story, the Connel-based executive director of Argyll and the Isles Tourism said: 'It's one of the big species being pushed by SNH and one of those iconic species people really travel for. They're right up there with sea eagles and dolphins as one of the area's top tourist attractions.'

It is believed that otters numbers may also be an indicator of good water quality.

ATLANTIS Leisure's voluntary board will discover next month if a new lease can be agreed with Argyll and Bute Council - as local GPs rally behind the facility.

At last week's meeting of the council, a proposal by the opposition's deputy leader, Ellen Morton, was passed.

This means council staff must progress discussions with the Oban facility's board 'as a matter of urgency', with the aim of recommending the level of support required from the council at next month's meeting.

It came after the SNP-led administration dropped a motion

to review the costs of all leisure facilities in the county with a view to taking a report back to the council at its June meeting.

The board's chairman, Neil Matheson, last week told *The Oban Times* a deal has to be agreed by June if the voluntary board is to stay.

Speaking during last week's meeting, Oban councillor Fred Hall - who resigned from the SNP over their handling of Atlantis - said: 'The deal originally presented to Atlantis was more akin to a deal on the back of a fag packet the like of which Del Boy from Only Fools and Horses

would propose. 'Let's give this board the support it deserves.'

Mr Hall had earlier revealed the council is due approximately £722,000 back from the former Strathclyde Police and a similar sum from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue in surplus left over from improvement payments.

Deficit

He also said Atlantis has been running at a £61,000 deficit in each of the past three years.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre added: 'The council has missed a trick here. Atlantis isn't something to be cut, it's something we should be proud of.'

In an open letter to Argyll and Bute Council, North Argyll GPs said the value of Atlantis 'should not be under-estimated'.

GPs from Lorn Medical Centre, Taynuilt Medical Practice, Easdale Surgery and Appin Surgery said: 'We should remember that Atlantis is a success story for Argyll and won Social Enterprise of the Year in 2012.'

'The healthy eating scheme is encouraging many who thought they were too unwell or unfit to get back into regular exercise.'

The wider benefits of a facility such as this helps attract professionals such as doctors, nurses, scientists and teachers to come work here.

'Recruitment is already difficult and we need to keep all the advantages we have.'



Argyll and Isles tourism message promoted in USA and Italy

ARGYLL and the Isles tourism sector received a major boost with confirmation the area will feature on travel wholesaler publications in the USA and Italy for the first time.

Fantastic news'

The news comes just weeks

Argyll and the Isles Tourism Ltd (AIT), established links

with 170 tour buyers during VisitScotland's Expo in Glasgow.

Confirmation of the listings by the wholesalers - covering two of the world's biggest international travel markets - has been warmly welcomed by AIT.

Executive director, Mike Sto-

ry, said: 'Travel wholesalers in Italy and the USA have already contacted us to say our area will be included in their 2014 trade publications for the first time. These publications are used by hundreds of overseas travel agents.

The value of these listings

should not be underestimated.

There is clear evidence that American and Italian visitors still prefer to book their overseas trips through travel agents rather than directly online, so getting Argyll and the Isles featured as a premium destination is fantastic news.'

AIT's acting chairwoman, councillor Louise Glen Lee, helped greet visitors to AIT's stand at the expo.

Privilege

She said: 'It was privilege to work with such a committed, enthusiastic and professional group of volunteers from every corner of Argyll and the Isles.'

'They are fantastic ambassadors for our area and the

friendly and informative welcome given to all the visitors to our stand matches the one they will receive when they come and stay with us.'

Funding support

Mr Story added: 'Our presence was only made possible with funding support from the Scottish Government and

the European Argyll and the Islands Leader programme as well as Visit Scotland Growth Fund, Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Island Enterprise and contributions from the local marketing groups and the exceptional amount of volunteer time provided by those who manned the stand with us.'

Eric Smith worldchoice

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Eric Smith World Travel

Isle of Mull Post Office embezzled for second time

AN ISLE OF MULL subpostmistress has admitted embezzling £27,500 during the course of her work on the island.

Kay MacDonald, 51, of 2 Kilmore Terrace, Dervaig, took the money over the space of less than one year when she ran Tobermory Post Office, on the town's Main Street.

MacDonald appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday and pled guilty to embezzling the cash from her employers between May 12, 2010 and April 12, 2011.

Sheriff John Herald deferred sentence on MacDonald until May 28 for the preparation of reports. She was released on bail.

This is not the first time money has been stolen from Tobermory Post Office.

Between November 2006 and March 2009 the then subpostmaster Peter Dugdale embezzled £81,494.98.

He claimed he took the money in a bid to meet mounting debts, including credit card payments, VAT and staff wages.

The court heard that Dugdale was turned down for a personal loan and had an application to re-mortgage his home refused by the bank before he maxed out credit cards.

This was all done in an attempt to sustain his failing business - which had suffered a downturn after the popular children's programme Balamory ended.

Police agreed with the organisers' assessment of the event as well behaved overall.

Sergeant Mark Stephen said: 'I was very busy and within Ledaig Car Park we had more than 50 vehicles and campervans for persons attending the event.'

He escaped a prison sentence and was ordered to carry out 300 hours of community service.

'Most people behaved in a good

Police praise for revellers at Mull Music Festival

THIS year's Mull Music Festival was a well behaved but busy affair according to the island's most senior police officer.

Four pubs in Tobermory took part in the festival - The Mishnish, Macgochan's, The Park Lodge and The MacDonald Arms.

Organisers said despite this being the busiest festival they had ever seen, revellers were 'fine spirits' and they saw no trouble.

Police agreed with the organisers' assessment of the event as well behaved overall.

Sergeant Mark Stephen said: 'I was very busy and within Ledaig Car Park we had more than 50 vehicles and campervans for persons attending the event.'

See page 14 for a full round up of the event including photos.

humoured fashion and there were no major incidents.

'We issued a number of fixed penalty tickets for minor offences such as urinating in a public place and breach of the peace.'

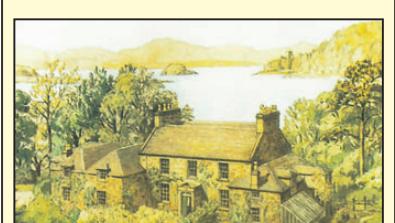
'One person has been reported for being drunk in charge of a vehicle and another has been reported for drink driving.'

'The inclement weather on the Saturday and Sunday evenings really assisted with the policing of the event.'

The festival, which ran over last weekend, saw bands including Skerryvore, Trail West and Chunks entertaining crowds who flocked to the island.

See page 14 for a full round up of the event including photos.

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Have your say on Port Ellen playpark plans

PLANS to rejuvenate Port Ellen Playing Fields on Islay could see a skatepark, crazy golf and an upgraded playpark included.

Plans for the project, made possible by funding from the Big Lottery's Community Spaces, are currently out for public consultation.

The consultation, which kicked off last Thursday in St Columba Hall, will last for three weeks.

A spokeswoman for South Islay Development (SID) said last week: 'These plans are now detailed enough to be presented to the general public, and we will be looking for as much feedback as possible before the final plans are confirmed and submitted for planning consent.'

'To this end there will be several opportunities for the plans to be viewed and commented on in the coming weeks.'

The plans will next be displayed during SID's afternoon tea on May 10 from 2pm – 4pm. The Port Ellen Post Office has agreed to host a copy of the plans and these will be available to view and post suggestions on.

Spring has sprung on Raasay

A FURTHER sign that spring has finally arrived on Raasay came last week when the first cuckoo was heard.

Andrew Gillies, who runs two crofts at Millpark and Balachurn, noted the distinctive call on Wednesday April 1.

Fort man back in court

A FORT William man who shouted and swore at his partner during an argument has been ordered to carry out 20 hours of unpaid work after failing to be of good behaviour.

Eriks Osipovs, of 7 Morvern Place, pled guilty in November to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by shouting and swearing and punching and throwing furniture around.

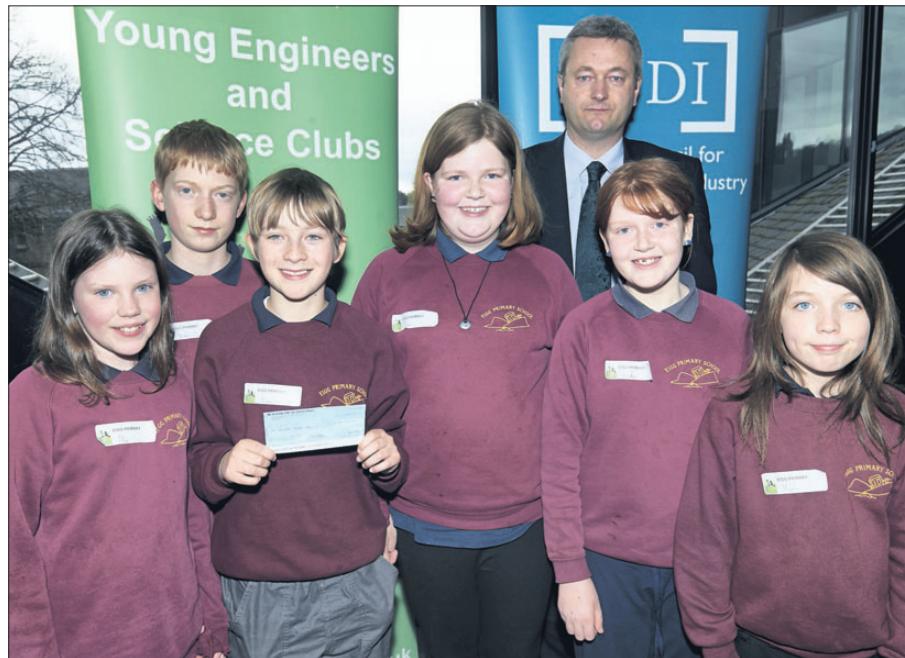
The incident occurred in his house on September 15.

Sentence was deferred in January but Fort William Sheriff Court heard the 32 year-old Latvian had twice appeared in court since then for shoplifting from Tesco in the town and making threats against the store manager.

Crown drops benefit fraud case

THE CASE against a Lochaber woman accused of fraudulently claiming more than £36,000 in benefits over six years has been dropped by the Crown.

Anne Mustarde, aged 50, of Tigh Linn, Kinlochelie, had denied pretending to have no savings to claim income support from the Department of Work and Pensions between July 2004 and August 2010.



Eigg Primary School pupils won £100 in the 'Alien Species' competition. Rob Threadgould of SNH presented the cheque.

Brilliant team work earns Eigg pupils £100

EIGG Primary P6-7 pupils won £100 for their school after coming second in a Highland-wide competition.

Six children made up the Isle of Eigg team in the 'Alien Species' event in Inverness – and impressed the judges with a three-minute presentation on Japanese knotweed

infestation on their island. The pupils illustrated their talk with photos and maps of sites where the nine-foot tall weed has been detected.

Eigg class teacher Sue Hollands said: 'The children did brilliantly.'

'One of the reasons they did so well was

because they had two and a half weeks to plan their briefing. They worked really well together as a team.'

The competition was run by the Scottish Council for Development and Industry's Young Engineers and Science Clubs in association with Scottish Natural Heritage.

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Specialist Mull contractor tackles tricky Glen Righ Forest clear-up

SPECIALIST contractors from Mull have been hired to fell and remove mature conifers from Glen Righ Forest above the A82 south of Fort William.

Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) has awarded Duffy Skymiling the long-term contract for the tricky task of harvesting timber on the steep hillside and elsewhere along the road to Inverness.

The company, which is run by Calum Duffy and operates across the Highlands, has been brought in for its expertise in using skyline systems – steel cableways where suspended logs are removed via moving cables powered by a mobile or stationary winch.

The equipment has a pulling capacity of seven tonnes and can pull trees over a kilometre uphill.

Alex MacLeod, FCS A82 felling programme project officer, said: 'Twenty years ago many people working in upland forests were familiar with skyline systems but increasing mechanisation and, at times, difficult timber markets meant foresters had to forego expensive felling operations and as a result the use of skyline winches began to diminish.'

'Felling and extraction by skyline is the only way we can carry out harvesting operations on the really steep ground above the A82.'

'The new winch will carry out future felling works at Glen Righ following successful completion of the first

phase of work there. The winch will also be deployed onto operations adjacent to the A82 at Loch Lochy and above the A887 at Invermoriston later in the year.'

Mr Duffy, who has 23 years' experience in timber harvesting, said: 'Harvesting in the Great Glen, particularly above the A82 at Loch Ness, is amongst the most difficult of operations but we have good equipment and a competent team.'

The skyline system in operation at Glen Righ last week. The log weighs over two tonnes.

where they enjoyed lunch followed by a tour of the brewery.

The next club meeting will be held at the Lochlinn Arms Hotel, North Connel, on Thursday May 23, at 7.30pm, anyone with an interest in classic vehicles is invited to attend.

Oban classic cars descend on Cairndow

CLASSIC cars descended on Cairndow recently during National Drive It Day.

Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club took to the road for a trip to the Fyne Ales Brewery, by Inveraray, in vehicles ranging from

a 1927 Model T Ford, through to some more modern classics from the 1950s and 1960s. After a short break at Inveraray, where they met up with members of Stirling and District Classic Car Club, the Oban club continued to the Fyne Ales

Inverness to finalise the proposals.

Lochaber councillor Allan Henderson questioned the money allocated to advertise the role.

He said: 'One thing that does give me a bit of concern is spending £10,000 on advertising. In this day and age there's got to be a cheaper way of doing it.'

Councillor Gray replied: 'We're obliged to advertise as wide as

Ardmaddy fish farm gets go-ahead

By FAITH ORR
faith@obantimes.co.uk

PLANS to construct a fish farm in Seil Sound were unanimously approved by Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee during a public hearing last week.

Richard Kerr, the council's principal planning officer had recommended the plans for approval after consents from bodies including SEPA put the acceptability of the pollution the site would cause 'beyond question'.

Angus Matheson spoke on behalf of applicants Meridian Salmon. He told the hearing the creation of the site would provide three new jobs - two full time and one part time - as well as safeguarding existing jobs.

He said: 'Salmon farming is a major economic success. Meridian would like to be part of the growth and this application will help us increase our production.'

Meridian contributes £4.1million to the economy of Argyll and Bute annually – fish farms contribute to livelihoods in coastal communities.'

DESPISE there being 816 letters of objection submitted to the Ardmaddy fish farm application, only three objectors spoke at the public hearing.

The Oban Times has previously reported on planning applications being inundated with objections from around the world.

Councillor Fred Hall expressed concern over the cost to the council of sending out letters to these objectors.

mostly retired, stay because it is unspoiled.' Councillor Mary-Jean Devon was the first to back the proposals. She told the hearing: 'We as a council encourage development while at the same time we have to protect our environment and the benefits it brings.'

'We have to look at Argyll and Bute's traditional industries and we have to admit they have all faced difficulties.'

'If we want our rural communities to prosper we have to accept and encourage new industries and because of this I am proposing we accept the planners' recommendations.'

Mr Matheson said after the hearing: 'We're very pleased about the result. We think it is a good decision. We want to be good neighbours and we take on board everything that has been said here today.'

The 12-cage salmon farm with feed barge will replace Meridian Salmon's existing site in the sound, which sits 900m north. Production will be increased to 2,500 tons of fish.

He said: 'Of the 816 objections received, a total of 229 were from Argyll and Bute and I take their concerns very seriously.'

'But 587 were external including USA, Netherlands and Germany and we as a committee have to make representations to the Scottish Government about this.'

The application also received 44 letters of support.

New website raises tourism profile of Outer Hebrides

A NEW website has been launched to raise the Outer Hebrides' world-wide profile under an ambitious tourism drive.

The site, visitouterhebrides.co.uk, went live as the Outer Hebrides Tourism Industry Association (OHTIA) welcomed European delegates to its annual conference in Benbecula and Stornoway last week.

Their itinerary included a beach landing on Barra and birdwatching at Harris' eagle observatory - part of the OHTIA nature tourism package.

OHTIA's Ian Fordham said: 'We are dedicated to raising the profile of the Outer Hebrides as a desirable destination for holidaymakers from across the world and we believe the key to this is to help more people discover the delights of our islands.'

Good behaviour sees man admonished

AN INVERGARRY man who drunkenly assaulted his partner during an argument in their house has been admonished after being of good behaviour.

Milos Goga, 38, of 19 Garry Crescent, admitted seizing the woman by the hand and pushing her on the body, causing her to fall into a chair on July 21.

Islay Letter

Monument refurbished

OVER the past three years, the Glasgow Islay Association has carried out an extensive refurbishment of the monument provided by the association in 1887 to commemorate the life and career of the Victorian polymath, scientist and distinguished folklorist John Francis Campbell, better known to Gaels everywhere as Iain Òg Ille.

The monument, standing proud on Cnoc na Dàla on the outskirts of Bridgend, was erected by the association two years after Iain Òg's death in 1885.

The unveiling ceremony was a major local event and attended by both local and visiting dignitaries.

The original memorial to the folklorist, a member and heir apparent to the Campbells of Shawfield who owned the island for close on 120 years, was severely damaged in a major storm in 1911 and the resultant repairs led to the erection of the now familiar obelisk which is more suitable to withstand the force of the prevailing winds.

The latest refurbishing process was begun during the



association presidency of Peter Campbell and was continued by his successor Malcolm Campbell.

Restoration work was carried out by MacIntyre Memorials, a company with strong family links to the island, and the surrounding railings were brought back to life by local painting and decorating contractor Sammy Graham. Although Iain Òg Ille did not inherit his heidom, he achieved international esteem through his efforts to collect and preserve the tales of the western Highlands and his efforts in this field have been widely recognised by ensuing folklorists and anthropologists.

His refurbished monument remains a fitting tribute to a Gaelic speaking aristocrat who has been described as 'a true Gael, a gifted scholar and a real gentleman'.

Handball champion

AN EAST Kilbride school girl, who has strong family links with the Rhins peninsula, has been selected by the UK under 19 handball team for its campaign against Russia, Slovakia and Romania.

Sarah Clelland, aged 15, a pupil at Calderglen High School, has shown special ability and talent in her chosen sport, left other players in her wake and forced many coaches to rip up their game plans. The schoolgirl has the full support of her PE teachers and has advanced through local, national and international matches thanks to her dedication and sheer hard work. She has also been fully supported by her family and friends and greatly encouraged by her parents Ann and John. Sarah, whose maternal grandparents Ann and the late Neil MacLean are of Portnahaven stock,

has displayed remarkable all-round abilities in her handball pursuits which augur well for her future in the game. Well done Sarah! You've got the whole world in your hands!

Community choir

PLANS are afoot to establish a community choir on the island and potential choristers are invited to show their interest.

The ability to read music is not essential but enthusiasm and open-mindedness are definite requisites. The proposed choir's repertoire will be diverse and potential members can glean more information on islaysingers@gmail.com. The community choir will be under the direction of Craig Weatherhogg, head of music at the island's high school at Bowmore.

'Shine on' Marion

MARION MacGregor, the long-standing staff member at Bowmore police station, has been presented with the 'Shine on Strathclyde' award which marks the discontinuation of Strathclyde Police and the authority's transfer to Police Scotland on April. Handing over the award was Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan, divisional commander for Argyll and West Dunbartonshire, during a recent visit to the island. Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Telephone 01496 810658.

Chief executive search could cost £12,000

THE SEARCH for a new chief executive for Highland Council has got underway – a process which could cost more than £12,000.

The post, which carries a salary of £140,112 a year, will be advertised in May, before applicants are interviewed by a cross party panel of councillors, led by convener Jimmy Gray.

During a 15-minute meeting in

Inverness to finalise the proposals, Lochaber

Development manager appointed to Oban CHORD project

A DEVELOPMENT manager who worked on one of the world's most remote islands has been appointed to oversee the Oban CHORD project.

Linda Houston will start work on the project on May 20 and will soon set about spending £6.9million to regenerate the

town centre and waterfront. A north pier quarter will be created, the area around the seafront will be revamped and there will be improvements of the transport interchange at Station Square.

Linda has worked for more than 30 years in area regenera-

tion and economic development. She comes to the role having recently completed a series of regeneration projects in St Helena, a tiny island in the South Atlantic. This followed a three year role with the Department for International Development as a director of the St Helena

Development Agency between 2007-10.

Prior to this Linda was an advisor to various government regeneration agencies. She managed the establishment of the London Bridge BID in 2006, the Cheapside Initiative in 2007 and directed the Pool

of London Partnership from London Bridge on the South Bank 1996 - 2007.

Linda said: 'I have a particular interest in waterfront initiatives and have spent more than 20 years sailing in and around the Hebrides.'

'I am looking forward to tak-

ing up my new role in Oban and to meeting the many private, public and voluntary sector players who have a vital role to play in delivering the plans for the regeneration of the town centre and waterfront and taking forward initiatives for the wider Oban area.'

Sea search continues for missing Luing fisherman

THE SEARCH for a missing fisherman and his boat off Easdale was being continued by Royal Navy divers as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Police Scotland have now been passed responsibility for the search which has officially been deemed a missing person's enquiry.

The fisherman, named locally as father of three Scott McAllister, went missing last Thursday, April 25.

'Going over'

He issued a mayday call around 1pm that afternoon which was picked up by Stormway Coastguard. It said his boat *Speedwell* was 'going over'. It was reported to be taking on water and in danger of capsizing.

It is believed Mr McAllister is 40 and the third generation from his family to work the sea around his home island of Luing.

Local boats rushed to the aid of the stricken boat when the coastguard relayed the mayday. More than 15 vessels have now been involved with the search including Caledonian MacBrayne ferry *MV Lord of the Isles*, Oban



More than 15 vessels have now been involved with the search. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

and Tobermory lifeboats and the cruise ship *Hebridean Princess*.

The Royal Navy search and rescue helicopter from Prestwick was also sent to the scene but this proved to be 'fruitless'.

Following their contribution to the initial search a spokeswoman for the Royal Navy

confirmed a team of divers were now involved.

She said on Tuesday: 'Northern Diving Group are based at Faslane but had routine dive training in the Oban area.

'Normally they wouldn't be involved, it would be police divers, but because they had the infrastructure there anyway

they were requested to assist and agreed. On Monday they were unable to dive, today they have been down a couple of times and have been doing their dive training within the rough area we believe the vessel is, but they haven't been diving to the depths which they believe the boat may be at.'

'Weather permitting they will continue to dive over the next couple of days in the area where the boat is likely to be.'

It had been reported that *Speedwell* had been found on the seabed last Friday but a spokeswoman for Police Scotland confirmed this was not the case. She said 'there was

no positive identifications of a wreck'.

Despite extensive searches of the sea and coastline no trace of Mr McAllister or his boat had been found as *The Oban Times* went to press. A meeting was due to be held on Wednesday morning to discuss future searches.

Pressure mounts for return of RET

PRESSURE is mounting on the Scottish Government to restore Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) to commercial vehicles serving the Western Isles, Coll and Tiree after a report showed its removal harmed the islands' economies.

The purpose of the study by MVA Consultancy - commissioned by the Scottish Government - was to consider the impact of the removal of the tariff from April last year.

Not only did the study prove the removal of RET had a negative impact on the economy, but it proved untrue claims made by the Scottish Government that hauliers did not pass on savings from RET on to consumers.

Calls have now been made for the Government to reinstate RET to the isles.

Angus Campbell, leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, said: 'The removal of RET for commercial vehicles has been damaging for the economies of the islands, particularly smaller islands such as Barra, Benbecula and the Uists, and has been detrimental for consumers.'

'I call on the Scottish Government, as a matter of urgency, to take the sensible course of action and reinstate RET in full, including for commercial vehicles.'

He has been backed by MSPs, MPs and local hauliers.

Jamie McGregor, Highlands and Islands MSP, said: 'SNP ministers should now apologise to hauliers, local businesses and residents in the Western Isles, Coll and Tiree for introducing a policy which has impacted negatively on already fragile island economies.'

SNP MP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Angus MacNeil, doesn't think RET should be brought back in straight away, however.

He said: 'I think it is now important that firstly, no further increases go on lorries and secondly, that when funds become available - in other words, when the Westminster government stops cutting Scotland's budget - that the Scottish Government lowers lorry fares.'

He added: 'Lorry fares are cheaper than they would have been had the RET trial not gone ahead.'

Gardeners get ready for Oban in Bloom 2013

THE 2013 Oban in Bloom gardening competition is about to get underway with private gardeners, businesses, hotels, guesthouses and even those with hanging baskets being encouraged to enter this year's competition.

There are several trophy categories to choose from, plus an overall champion's award.

Closing date for entries is May 24, and with no spring judging this year due to the unseasonably cold weather, the judging will take place in the week commencing July 22.

The range of categories include: commercial premises (Cakebread Cup); hotels, guesthouses and B&Bs (McTavish's Kitchen Cup); large garden (MacDougall Cup); medium garden (Poppies Cup); small garden (Thompson Quaich).

There will also be a special award for the best display of hanging baskets, plus the best privately-owned garden will be awarded the Kinlochlaich Trophy.

The entry judged as the overall champion will be presented with *The Oban Times* Quaich.

Entry forms can be obtained from Lorn House, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street; ACHA; Atlantis Leisure; Oban hospital and all local garden centres.

Young footballers to run for funds

A YOUTH football team from Oban hopes to raise £2,500 by asking local businesses to sponsor every squad member in this weekend's Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) 10k run.

The novel fundraising plan will raise enough money to cover travel costs and pitch hire for the team's involvement in the Dunbartonshire Football Development League, a competition they have a chance of winning this season, as well as a cup competition. If they achieve their targets, the Oban Saints Under-14s would become the club's first junior team to achieve a league and cup double.

Team coach Joseph MacIntyre said: 'Each year the players have to decide a way in which they can raise funds for the team's involvement in the ABCD 10k run this Sunday. We feel that this is a fantastic gesture from a brilliant bunch of boys. The other coaches and I have been so impressed by all of the players' development, attitude and commitment this season.'

Businesses are being invited to donate £100 to sponsor a player, who will wear the company's t-shirt/logo during the run. Any business interested in sponsoring a player can contact coaches Joseph on 07831 618 288, Donald MacLean on 07525 858 154 or Scott Cooper on 07411 766 497.

West coast basks in Scottish Hotel Awards glory

THE WEST coast firmly put itself at the forefront of the tourist sector after winning 15 major accolades at the Scottish Hotel Awards and even more regional prizes.

Argyll and the Isles, Skye, Lochaber and Arran all took centre stage one of the biggest awards ceremonies in Scotland's events calendar, held at Glasgow's Crowne Plaza on Sunday evening.

The success has been described as 'major recognition' for the west coast and a significant boost for the area ahead of this month's Scottish Thistle Awards.

Among the biggest winners were Calum and Rachel Ross of the Loch Melfort Hotel, who were named hoteliers of the year, while the Isle of Arran was named destination of the year.

Ardtorna, Barcaldine, won the Guest House of the Year award after winning the guest house innovation and eco award, while The Pierhouse Hotel won awards for best Small Country Hotel and retained the Best Seafood award for the second year. It was also the only hotel to win two major awards at the event.

Jo Currie, owner of Tobermory's Highland Cottage, was named a Tourism Dame alongside Arran's Helen Driver, manager of the Kilmichael Country House Hotel. Mull's Tiroran House was also named Country House Hotel of the Year.

Other major winners include Skye's Toravaig House Hotel as Island Hotel of the Year and Kinloch Lodge as Romantic Hotel

of the Year.

Arran's Auchrannie Resort won resort of the year and its neighbour, Glenisle Hotel, won Seaside Hotel of the Year.

The Inverlochy Hotel, Fort William, was luxury hotel of the year, Kilmichael House won the Beautiful Menu award, the Cameron House Hotel won the Concierge Team of the Year.

Calum Ross of the Loch Melfort Hotel said:

'We're delighted to win and overwhelmed so many of our guests voted for us.'

As a director of Argyll and the Isles Tourism, it's fantastic to see so many businesses from our region win awards. Without question, Argyll and the Isles is the place to holiday.'

Pierhouse owner Nick Hornsby said: 'We're the only hotel to win two major awards and I'm delighted. It's great for the area too because it attracts more people here because there's more places worth visiting.'

Heather Driver, who has managed the Kilmichael Country House Hotel for last 20 years, said: 'What a wonderful surprise - I never expected this.'

Isabella MacDonald, co-owner of the Kinloch Lodge Hotel, said: 'Skye is such a romantic destination and to be known as the most romantic hotel is a fabulous accolade for myself and the team.'

Katie Mackay, of Tiroran House, said:

'We're chuffed to pieces!'

See next week for roundup of pictures of the award winners.

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Community consultation underway on new school site

THE process to select a new site for Oban High School has begun, with a longlist of possible sites to be drawn up for community consultation.

Oban High School will lead 'as broad and deep' a community consultation as possible on a subsequent shortlist, which will eliminate sites deemed impractical or too expensive.

A longlist will be drawn up as early as May 10, with a shortlist produced by the end of the month. The public consultation should take place on September 23.

Catherine Carswell and Alice MacLeod were running the new shop on Saturday. 16.118friends01

A POP-UP shop organised by the Friends of Oban Hospice sprung up at the bottom of Albany Street this week.

The shop, which opened on Saturday, saw a range of clothing and accessories on sale to raise funds for the charity. Catherine Carswell, one of the volunteers at the shop, said: 'We take the opportunity of using up empty shops and it helps us raise funds.'

'All stock is donations from the community - in this instance it is clothing only but in other shops we have had bric-a-brac. The people are so, so generous in this area.'

The shop windows were specially decorated for the event by a volunteer and the charity's next fundraiser, a flower demonstration at Oban High School, is on May 9.

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Morvern Lines

THERE are two histories of every country and of the people who live there, the written history that tells what is considered prudent to tell and the unwritten history that tells all.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in Morvern - but unfortunately much of the traditional history of the parish now lies buried in the local graveyards, replaced by a new culture sweeping away all traces and memories of the past.

It is a fact that people cannot relate to the landscape or the country they live in without knowing something about how it came to be and what was the significance in it. Without this background we all become just goldfish in a bowl.

In the last century the late Sandy Cameron, Bunavullin; Donald Cameron, Ardtornish Bay; Donald Cameron Kiel; Donald Cameron Lawrie, Morvern's esteemed postmaster; Alastair Cameron, Bunaleathan - better known to readers of *The Oban Times* as 'North Argyll'; Donald Mackichan, Achranich, and many others kept the torch alight through conversations, interviews with The School of Scottish Studies and published and informal writings.

Morvern was also fortunate to have been the focus of attention by the pioneering folklorist Alexander Carmichael (1832-1912) from the neighbouring island of Lismore.

Carmichael's Collection, held in the Edinburgh University Library and the National Museums of Scotland, is a treasure-chest of artefacts, stories, songs, customs and beliefs and is one of the foremost of its kind in Europe.

One of Alexander Carmichael's Morvern informants was Duncan Cameron, a retired policeman from Tobermory living in Lochaline in 1886, whom he describes as a 'hugely intelligent lorist'. Perhaps one day some of the Carmichael Collection will be given permanent loan to the Lismore Historical Society and housed in the society's remarkable Heritage Centre on the island as a stimulant for further local study.

OF GREAT interest to many folklorists and tradition gatherers was the cuckoo, the date of its arrival and departure and what it meant.

Dr John MacLachlan of Rahoy's well known song 'Do'n Chuthag' - a welcome to the cuckoo - composed sometime in the 1860s, is heard wherever Gaelic is spoken.

Less familiar is the very old 'Ornam breug' - the song of lies. It concerns a man who was promised his life if he could compose a song in which there would not be a single truthful statement. He failed because he included the bird's call. The fatal line being, 'A chuthag is gug gug piceadh sun nan caorach' - the cuckoo saying 'cuckoo' picking the eyes out of the sheep. A translation of some other verses of this little known work is worthy of reading:

*I found the nest of the heather hen (grouse)
On the top of the stony waves;
While high in the skies rose the red-grey seal,
And a creel on her back so bare.*

*I saw the little kittiwakes
Our potatoes industriously till,
While the little brown wren with a pair of oars
'Gainst the wind did pull.*

*I also observed the young coalfish
Their distaffs busily ply,
While the elegant crane strode along with men
With a cask for those who were dry.*

*I saw each slippery little brown fish
With a burden of faggots of fir,
And on her clumsy shell the buckie (whelk) as well
Bore a load of mountain heather.*

*On the winnowing-floor the eels uprose
And danced on the tips of their tails,
While the crooked curlews with a staff and halo,
Drove the sheep to the fold without fail.*

Cuckoos and wheatears, it was believed by some of the older generation, hibernated underground instead of migrating.

The time of the cuckoo's arrival and being heard has been recorded on Rannoch Moor as early as February 10 and in Appin on the 11th of the same month.

The earliest record I have for Morvern is April 18 but as there are fewer stalkers and shepherds on the ground these days it is impossible to know. The first cuckoo was heard this year at Savary on the Sound of Mull about that date but as far as I am aware not since - probably on account of the cold weather.

Last week I wrote about the magnificent steam yacht 'Rannoch' belonging to the Seller's of Ardtornish and said her fate was unknown. Thanks to a reader who very kindly wrote to *The Oban Times*, I now know that the 'Rannoch' was sold by the Seller family in 1914 to King Vittorio Emmanuel III of Italy who renamed her *Jela*. Bought in 1939 by Mario Pesci Sporrono who re-registered her *Perimax*, the vessel was requisitioned by the Italian Navy the following year as an auxiliary fleet chaser and sunk by German aircraft on September 9 1943 near the Meloria Shoals while underway from La Spezia in the south.



Online catalogue launch: Back row from left, Edina software engineer Des Reid, West Highland Museum chairman of trustees John Hutchison, museum manager Collen Foggo, Dr William Stewart of Edinburgh University and Carmichael Watson Project senior researcher, Professor Hugh Cheape of Sabhal Mor Ostaig and Neil Mayo of Edina. Front, Guinevere Barlow of Edinburgh University and Carmichael Watson Project researcher, CWP archivist Kirsty Stewart and Sally Archibald, former WHM curator. 20_f18museum01

Lismore Gaelic folklorist Alexander Carmichael's collection goes live online

AN ONLINE database of items collected from across the Hebrides by pioneering Lismore Gaelic folklorist Alexander Carmichael went live at the West Highland Museum in Fort William on Friday evening.

The Carmichael Watson Project (CWP) object catalogue, based on Carmichael's collections at the museum and the National Museums of Scotland in Edinburgh, features more than 440 objects from the smallest coin to a large carved stone slab. Over the past year a team from Edinburgh University has been locating, researching, photographing and cataloguing all the objects for public view.

The university library is home to the Carmichael Watson



Alexander Carmichael.

papers, the foremost collection of its kind in the country and

a treasure-chest of stories, songs, customs and beliefs from the Gaelic-speaking areas of Scotland.

And Friday's well-attended launch featured the project's latest phase - the online object catalogue 'Carmichael in Context: The Material Worlds of a Celtic Collector', funded by The Leverhulme Trust.

Software engineers from Edinburgh company Edina gave a presentation on the newly digitised collection.

Carmichael (1832-1912), gathered his unique insight into the life, landscape, natural world and customs of Gaeldom over several decades.

His greatest work, *Carmichael Gadelica*, an anthology of

Hebridean charms, hymns, and songs, is a key text in the 'Celtic Twilight' movement.

Through cataloguing, indexing, transcribing, translating, digitisation, and conservation, the project aims to open up the collection to the academic and broader community.

Carmichael also collected objects and artefacts, documenting natural history and recording and sketching antiquities and natural landmarks. Portable curiosities

gathered by Carmichael for his personal collection are housed in the museum, while bulkier objects despatched to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland are preserved in the National Museums of Scotland.

Healthy lifestyle messages form part of new initiative

OBAN High School Parent Council will erect banners in the town displaying healthy lifestyle messages, as part of a new initiative.

The first banner, which reads 'sleep tonight, succeed tomorrow' will be placed in a prominent position near the Corran Halls this week.

The initiative aims to spread the importance of a healthy lifestyle to all Oban residents, following curriculum for excellence guidelines that students should develop their skills in areas of literacy, numeracy and health and well-being.

The parent council hopes the banner campaign will spread the

healthy living message across the whole community, encouraging people to think about their own health and well-being, as well as the lifestyle of their children.

Parent council member Gordon McNab said: 'The first banner will appear this week, reminding us all of the importance of a good night's sleep.'

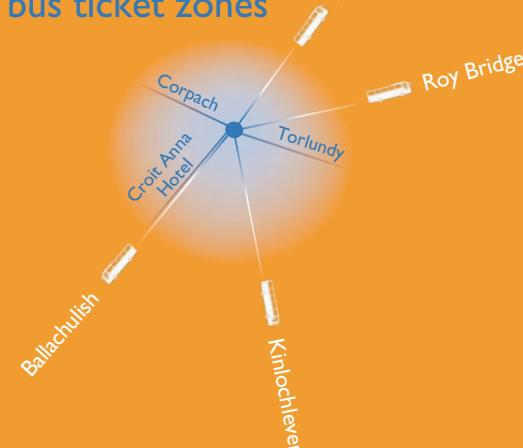
The benefits of a full eight hours have been well recorded and if pupils are staying up late then they won't be productive in their classes and other activities.'

The parent council meets every two months and is inviting new members to join at the next parent forum in November.



Pictured with the first of the Oban High School Parent Council banners are, from left: Gordon McNab and Neil Mitchell, parent council members; Gillian MacKenzie, Diarmid clan leader; Murray Hamilton, principal teacher of health and well-being; Rebecca MacKinnon and Joan Reynolds, parent council members; and Alastair Fothergill, Diarmid clan leader.

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Stagecoach in Lochaber

Lismore children enjoy 'busy bee week'

CHILDREN at Lismore Primary School enjoyed a 'busy bee week' recently which included a visit from a science festival.

The youngsters' week began with a visit from Generation Science which performed Little Giants, an interactive workshop where Buzzy, the giant honey bee and a bee keeper introduced the children to the amazing world of bees.

The children then visited a real bee keeper on the island as Jennifer Baker showed the youngsters her bee hive. In return, the children worked like busy bees helping out with jobs around Jennifer's market garden.

On World Malaria Day, April 25, the children continued their busy bee help, raising money to buy protective mosquito nets. They cleaned the church and raised more than £27 from the congregation.

The youngsters then took part in a cooking morning, making honey flapjacks and honey yoghurt, in keeping with the bee theme. Some of the snacks were distributed to members of the island community, including Bill Willis who showed the children the beehives he is building at the moment.



Shayne Stewart, Rachel McCormick, Donald McCormick and Lewis Walker show off their culinary creation.

International interest boosts HebCelt Fest ticket sales

TICKETS for this year's Hebridean Celtic Festival are selling at more than double the rate of last year, helped by demand from overseas.

So far more than 70 per cent of tickets sold are going to fans from the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and all around the UK.

And with three months still to go, organisers of the four-day Stornoway-based event say they are delighted with the early level of interest, particularly from international music fans.

Festival director Caroline MacLennan said: 'It is encouraging we are experiencing a higher than normal demand at

this time. I hope this is a trend we will continue to see over the coming months.'

The festival, from July 17 to 20, marks its 18th anniversary this year with headliners Van Morrison, Dougie MacLean, Capercaillie, The Battlefield Band and the Red Hot Chilli Pipers.

Last year HebCelt attracted an audience of more than 14,000, 46 per cent of whom were visitors to the area.

Martin Dorchester, managing director of Caledonian MacBrayne Ferries Ltd, said: 'We are pleased to be able to once again schedule an extra sailing for the morning of July 21 to help festival-goers get home safely.'

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Mull Lines

COMMUNITY groups in Tobermory must raise £100,000 to replace their hall which is in danger of collapsing.

The scout hall, built more than 30 years ago, is 'nearly falling down' according to Lynne MacLeod, a leader with Tobermory Guides.

She told *The Oban Times* plans had been drawn up for a new joint hall to be shared between the Scouting and Girlguiding associations.

The hall, to be named Lord and Lady Baden Powell Centenary Hall, will cost the groups an estimated £100,000 to build.

Lynne said: 'We really need a new hall. The roof is sagging and we haven't got any disabled access. It will only be standing for another couple of years.'

'The hall is really well used by keep fit classes, martial arts and theatre rehearsals as well as by scouting and guiding.'

A local builder quoted £100,000 for a new one. We have got some funds but not a lot. We got £2,000 towards a new kitchen from the Co-operative Communities Fund and we have raised another £5,000.

'Ideally we are looking for someone to search through what funding is available and help us apply for funds - we've not had much luck with grants in the past.'

The hall, at the bottom of Breadalbane Street, would remain on the same spot if a new one is built. 'The kids can walk there, it is central and an ideal location,' added Lynne.

If you want to help fund the new hall, which would provide a range of new opportunities for the community, buy a brick is available for £10. Lynne said: 'A new hall would open up a whole new thing for us. People could hire it out, it would be used for activities by community groups and it could provide accommodation for visiting groups - it would be nice to have other groups coming in.'

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Sarah McCoshim, John Archbold, Barbara Bettley and Colin Gruber test out the cooking bus.

PUPILS from Tobermory High School (THS) were cooking up a storm when a bus which encourages healthy eating paid a visit.

The Scottish Government's Healthy Eating Cooking Bus made its first visit to Mull recently and set up in Ledaig Car Park, Tobermory.

Staff and pupils from the high school were joined by carers from the island to learn new cooking skills and recipes.

The visit was jointly arranged by Graziella Gungui, THS' home economics teacher, and Mairi Fleck, outreach activities co-ordinator for Oban's North Argyll Carers Centre (NACC).

Mairi said: 'With only one cooking bus touring the whole of Scotland, we were extremely fortunate to secure a visit and staff on board the bus were blown away by the stunning location in Tobermory.'

The visit was made possible as staff at Taigh Solais in Tobermory provided 24 hour access to facilities for the bus driver, who lives onboard during visits.

The Young Carers Project, run by NACC, also received a £900 grant for a 'Cookit' which will allow the project to run healthy eating workshops and teach cooking skills to young carers throughout the year.

□□□



CHILDREN on the Isle of Mull raised more than £700 for their school funds by organising a sponsored walk.

Primary five, six and seven pupils from Bunessan School put on a Grand March on April 19. Before the walk they held a zumba warm up session.

Tea, coffee, juice and biscuits were awaiting all participants at the finish line, thanks to the school's PTA.

Head teacher Kate Petrie said: 'Many thanks to the coastguard and police for supporting us, to all who participated and to all who sponsored the children as so far we have raised more than £720 for the school and the money is still coming in.'

□□□

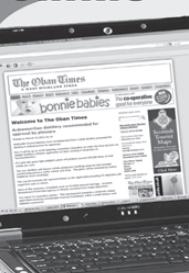
THE SUMMER producers' market held in Dervaig Village Hall kicked off its season last weekend.

The hall was quieter than usual but a range of jewellery, plants, chutneys and cakes were available for those who attended. Teas, coffees and home baking were also being served.

The market will now run twice monthly on Sundays from 2.30pm until 4pm until September 1 and stall holders expect the market to get busier, with a larger range of produce on offer, as the season progresses.

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Crianlarich footpath plan gains £200,000

CRIANLARICH into Action (CiA) has received a £200,000 grant to help pay for new footpaths around the village.

The award from the BIG Lottery Fund will enable the group to establish a series of easily accessible, signposted

walks around Crianlarich. Isla Craig, who has been working hard on the paths, said: 'We have worked with landscape architects to design a network of paths which will include an upgrade of the old railway behind the village hall to form

an attractive linear park suitable for all abilities, additional routes within the community woodland and an upgrade to the existing Bogle Glen path. Work will be starting over the summer and hopefully finished by the end of the year.'

CiA is working on a series of projects to help bring people to the village after the bypass is completed. The group has secured a 10-year lease on Lower Station Yard from Stirling Council and is applying for planning permission to

clean up the yard and open it up as a village centre, with a grassy area for picnics and a car park. Meanwhile the group has completed an extensive upgrade of the village's public toilets in conjunction with Stirling Council and the National Park.

Oban men await sentence on heroin possession charges

TWO OBAN men are awaiting sentencing for heroin offences after appearing at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Duncan McWhirter, 27, of 52C Soroba Road, appeared from custody on two drug charges, one of being in possession of heroin in Oban Police Office on May 4 last year.

He also appeared on a joint charge with David MacGillivray, 35, of Room 4, Solas, Oban, on which McWhirter had previously admitted letting his home be used for smoking heroin on August 21 last year. MacGillivray also admitted possession of heroin on the same charge. He further admitted possessing heroin while in Argyll Square on March 9.

Both will be sentenced on May 28 following the preparation of reports.

Man accused of throwing glass

A GLENFINNAN man is due to stand trial on June 4 after being accused of throwing a glass at a barman in a Fort William pub.

George Archibald, aged 49, of The Cottage, denies assaulting the man by throwing the glass and attempting to throw a bottle at the man on March 16.

Woman guilty of hot drink assault

A WOMAN threw a cup of hot chocolate at another woman after she and her boyfriend tried to force their way into an Oban flat when looking for a friend.

Lauren Dickison, 22, of 7 Glenfoot Terrace, was found guilty after trial at Oban Sheriff Court of throwing the hot drink at the woman before assaulting her in a dispute in Soroba Road on March 27. Dickison and partner Duncan McWhirter, 27, were also found guilty of trying to force their way into the flat.

McWhirter, 27, of Soroba Road, admitted conducting himself in a disorderly manner and causing fear and alarm. Sentence on Dickison was deferred until May 28. McWhirter, who has been in custody since March 28, was sentenced to 60 days in total, backdated to when he was first remanded.

Information

The next part of the improvement work is to set up interpretation boards giving information about the Falls of Lora and the bridge.

Falls of Lora viewpoint continues to improve

THE IMPROVEMENTS to the Falls of Lora viewpoint in Connel continued last week when new picnic tables were installed at the site.

The village's community council has overseen the gradual improvement of the site with help from businesses.

Forestry Commission Scotland donated the picnic tables and

George Leslie Ltd, which was working on water mains in the area on behalf of Scottish Water, dug half-a-metre through bedrock to install the picnic tables.

Granite

Glenands owner Aggregate Industries has also pledged a donation of 25 tonnes of red granite for the viewpoint.

Connel Community Council secretary Les Stewart invited the council's oldest member, 87-year-old Harry Powell, to cut the ribbon and declare the new picnic site open.

Mr Stewart said: 'We are gradually improving the site, which last year was overgrown with weeds. These were cut back by the community payback

team. The bench has also been returned after being cleaned and we are very grateful to the help from the Forestry Commission and George Leslie Ltd.

Information

The next part of the improvement work is to set up interpretation boards giving information about the Falls of Lora and the bridge.

Parents urged to vaccinate following measles outbreak

PARENTS are being reminded to ensure their children are fully vaccinated following the Welsh measles outbreak.

One person has so far died in Wales, with more than 600 cases confirmed across the country. Six cases of measles have been confirmed across Scotland - none in the NHS Highland area - but with travel it only needs one person to return home with measles for it to spread. Abhayadevi Tissington, NHS Highland nurse consultant in health protection, said: 'Measles can be prevented by immunisation. Uptake of the vaccine across NHS Highland is good, and more than 95 per cent of children have had at least one dose by the time they are five years old. However, we do know that uptake of the MMR vaccine was lower when those who are now teenagers were due to be immunised so this age group is at more risk of infection.'

NHS Highland has been working with Argyll and Bute Council to offer the MMR vaccination to school pupils in S3-6. Urging parents not to delay, Ms Tissington added: 'The MMR vaccine is the safest and most effective way to protect your child not only against measles but mumps and rubella too. We would encourage anyone who has not been vaccinated in the past to contact their local GP. It is never too late.'

Police security reminder

POLICE have reminded Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh residents to keep tools and marine equipment secured after a spate of thefts.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: 'Whilst we live in an area relatively free from crime, care should be taken to lock any valuable items up in a secure building. In each of the recent cases of theft the items stolen have been left insecure either within open out buildings, lean to sheds or within unlocked vehicles.'

The community safety officer at Fort William Police Station is available for anyone who needs security advice.

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LISMORE

IT WAS with great sadness islanders heard of the sudden death of Bob Brooks of Killeen.

Bob was a popular community member and islanders' sympathy and support go to his family.

It was the second bereavement in two weeks with David Ramsden of Argyll Cottage being buried the previous week. Because of his health issues David had been living off the island for some time but was also a much-loved community member.

AT A recent public meeting, attracting a good number of local producers, Lismore Community Trust's Energy Group decided to run an occasional Produce Market at Lismore Hall.

The intentions are to encourage local vegetable and fruit growers; to meet the demand for fresh produce and to reduce food miles.

The markets will be held when producers can anticipate having enough crops to sell in September and October and there will also be an opportunity to sell cakes and other bakery items.

Next year the initiative will be extended to include a seed sharing day in March and a small plant day in May to encourage and give better opportunities for local growers.



Charlie Drummond and Bob McCulloch judging the filled Victoria sponge competition.

Illustrated talk on Oban through the years

THE FINAL meeting of Kilmore and District SWRI, the group's AGM, will be held on May 8 in Kilmore Hall.

The penultimate meeting was held on April 10 when Bob McCulloch and Charlie Drummond presented an illustrated talk on Oban through the years.

A good turnout of regular members and guests were kept entertained by Mr McCulloch's amusing and informative slides and stories.

There was something for everyone. More recent residents were able to see the massive changes that have taken place in Oban and its surrounds in what seems just a few short years, whilst for those members who have lived in the area for a long time it gave the chance to relive some happy memories and pose that age

old question of 'How can time pass so quickly?'

One snippet of information which made everyone prick up their ears was that there was a school in Kilmore long before there was even talk of having a school in Oban, just re-affirming the important role Kilmore played in the history of Argyll.

Bob and Charlie then had the enviable, yet daunting, task of judging the two competitions for the evening, which were: A filled Victoria Sponge, won by Jane Darby with Ann Ferguson second, and a 'Photograph to Share', won by Anne Tully with Margaret Whitton second.

The AGM will begin at 7.30pm in Kilmore Hall.



Robot fun at Portree

Portree Primary School pupils got the chance to build their own robots when Ann Larkham of education project K'NEXT Generation visited the school. Six classes made a variety of models as part of their technology studies. Youngsters Archie Macdonald, Anna Taylor and Amy MacIver are pictured with their robot.



The Barcaldine Primary School pupils show off their new fourth green flag.

Barcaldine pupils celebrate fourth green flag

CHILDREN at Barcaldine Primary School celebrated gaining their fourth Eco Schools green flag by starting to plant in their new polytunnel.

The 'green-minded' pupils were commended for the steady progress they had made since their last award in 2011 and for having so many ideas for the future.

Families, local community,

local business and environmental organisations were involved in this journey.

The children were particularly commended for the progress that they made with their transport topic via events such as the Big Pedal and the assessors were delighted to hear of the wonderful use the children were making of their local cycle path.

Out of doors Eco-Schools were particularly impressed by the ongoing improvements in the playground and the great plans of involving the community in developing the new polytunnel.

The children were excited and eager to get started planting in their new polytunnel, which was funded by Scottish Sea Farms.

ARISAIG

ARISAIG and District Community Council held their April monthly meeting recently. As only three community councillors attended the meeting, no decisions were made.

Agenda items included:

□ The road to the school has been properly surfaced and it appears to be working satisfactorily.

□ Space is running out in Arisaig Cemetery and the Highland Council is looking, with some urgency, for suitable new ground. This will be discussed further at next meeting.

□ Miss McColl has been in touch with Highland Council and a request has been made to be considered for a new computer to be donated from the ReBOOT scheme.

□ Money was allocated for a play park in Canon Gillies Place, but was never used. It is hoped that this money could now be used for developing the playing field.

□ An improvement in the parking at the Land, Sea and Islands Centre is being looked into, which should help the number of spaces in the village.

□ Treasurer's report – the bank account now stands at £2,679.

The next meeting will be in the Astley Hall on Monday May 20. Everyone welcome.

GLENCOE

THE ANNUAL Macavalanche bike race has been postponed for three months - because there is too much snow at Glencoe Mountain Resort.

The challenge, which sees hundreds of cyclists race down the slopes of Meall a' Buiridh at the resort, was due to be held last weekend but has been pushed back to July 27 and 28.

Frazer Coupland of organisers No Fuss Events said: 'After discussion with the resort management it was agreed that as there is more snow forecast this weekend this is the most sensible option.'

'This has been a tough call but is in everyone's best interest that we make the call now.'

EASDALE

A RECORD number of Rigid Inflatable Boats (RIBs) have registered for this year's Easdale RIB Rendezvous.

More than 50 boats have so far signed up to the event which will include trips to Jura, Islay and Belnahua as well as socialising over good food.

ROY BRIDGE

RENOVATIONS to extend Roy Bridge Stores with a new cafe are well underway, with the new toilets

installed recently. The kitchen is currently being fitted in the store, with owners Lorna and Ray Weir planning a grand opening once work is completed.

APPLECROSS

GAEILIC singer and broadcaster Dr Anne Gillies is to be main speaker at the third Sgoil Bhàrdachd na Comraich, the annual bardic school at Applecross in Wester Ross.

The event from August 5 to 9 will also see the return of poets and writers Maolios Cairbeul, Rody Gorman and Ruairidh MacIleathain.

As 2013 is the Year of Natural Scotland, the country's natural heritage will be the general theme for this year. And Hartfield House in Coille-mhuiridh will form the centre of 'the sanctuary' for writers seeking inspiration in the tradition of Gaelic bards of old. Sgoil Bhàrdachd na Comraich is run by Bealach, the Applecross community Gaelic group, in conjunction with Applecross Landscape Partnership Scheme.

The Heritage Lottery Fund, Leader, Comunn Gàidhlig and Bòrd na Gàidhlig are also backing the initiative.

KILLIN

THE MILL re-opened again at the beginning of March.

The business plan has been accepted by Stirling Council and it is now hoped to employ architects, surveyors and electricians to draw up plans for the work needed for the mill.

A grant has been awarded from Historic Scotland for £38,703 for repairs. There

are a number of other bids awaiting results and it is hoped they will be successful. The project will continue as last year with a Tourist Information Service, Selling Thrift and Art and Craft Gallery. A number of classes are being arranged including spinning and upholstery.

It is hoped that when the wheel is repaired and working again it will generate electricity. More volunteers are needed.

KILCHOAN

FURTHER evidence that west Ardnamurchan was once home to far more people than present times emerged when Kilchoan man Jon Haylett discovered two ruined buildings next to the shore at Bourblaire.

Mr Haylett believes the dwellings were almost certainly fishing bothies used by the people of the deserted Bourblaire township, which lies nearby.

That the land was previously in good heart and well cultivated is evidenced by bracken – always a sign of good soil – and extensive 'run-rigs' where oats and potatoes would have been grown. Mr Haylett noted:

'Looking back, with a pale winter sun occasionally lighting the peaks of Stellach Dubha and Sron Mhor, we realised what a beautiful place the people of Bourblaire inhabited, and could well sympathise with their distress when, after generations of occupying the site, they were told to move. Some went to Kilmory and Samna - many left Ardnamurchan for other parts of Scotland and many families went abroad.'



'Shona the Squirrel' delights visitors to Glen Nevis project

Alan and Nina Cameron enjoyed an exciting day in Glen Nevis when they met 'Shona the Squirrel' at Nevis Landscape Partnership's red squirrel project launch. The children, from Gairloch in Wester Ross, were visiting their grandma Ewen, who lives in the glen. At the launch, Juliet Robinson from Red Squirrels of the Highlands gave a talk about the furry rodents before local children watched a film showing TV forager Ray Mears and Juliet in the Cairngorms on a squirrel quest. A series of Glen Nevis squirrel-themed events are planned for the summer.

CONNEL

YOUTH groups in Connel will reap the rewards of a clean-up in the village after they joined a litter-busting group of 60 residents.

The clean-up, organised by Connell Community Council last week, covered a large part of the village and involved children from the Brownies and Rainbows groups. The annual event usually raises around £300 for youth organisations in the village that take part in the clean-up.

Community councillor Harry Powell, who arranged for skip to be placed at the village hall for collection by Argyll and Bute Council, thanked Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute (GRAB) Trust for its assistance.

Down Your Way

Benderloch, Barcaldine, North Connel

ALTHOUGH not complete, the cycle route between North Connel and Barcaldine seems to be proving a hit with locals and tourists.

Built by transport charity SusTrans, the path is regularly used by both walkers and casual cyclists and the path's website is regularly getting hits from holidaymakers keen to visit the area.

John Lauder, national director of SusTrans, says the section enjoys some of the most spectacular views seen across the UK, adding that it was already generating more interest than last year.

Mr Lauder said: 'I can honestly say that section is one of the most pretty locations on the national cycle network.'

'People would be amazed by the amount of traffic we get on our website from people looking to find out when the path is completed. Right now they will see it's partially completed but when it is completed there will be loads of people coming along. I was in the area

□□□

THE geologist who found a fossil that showed Benderloch could hold the key to life as we know it is to return to the area.

Two years ago, Martin Litherland confirmed that the fossil found in Benderloch in 1967 was at least 650 million years old thanks to modern carbon dating techniques.

Found under the former railway bridge to Port Selma, the Dalriadian rock contained the fossil of what could be the world's first ever animal.

Scepticism from the scientific community meant Mr Litherland's paper 'Is the Earliest Animal Scottish?' has not seen the light of day he expected.

Worse, the original fossil has been thrown out by Liverpool University so Martin is keen to retrace his steps and rediscover proof of earth's earliest life - and he's enlisting children from Lochneil Primary School to help with the search, thanks to a touch of persistence from teacher Joy Cameron.

Martin said: 'Joy got in touch and I was sent some photographs of the site showing the old railway cutting had been cleaned up to expose the rocks once again. Joy's enthusiasm and that of her schoolchildren have encouraged me to go up to try to find some more samples.'

Martin called the fossil *Beregonia* in his PhD thesis in 1970 after the local vitrified hill fort.

'Even if we find no samples, or if the samples are not as good as those of 1967, the children will have had a memorable day,' he added.

For Joy, tracking Martin down and persuading him to come was something of a mammoth effort.

She said: 'After much persuasion, Martin agreed to come out of retirement to make a trip north to see if we can find more fossils of global interest.'

Martin is due to visit on May 13.

□□□



Firefighters tackle a mock blaze during the training exercise at Oban Airport on Saturday. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.

POLICE, fire and ambulance crews were rushed to Oban Airport on Saturday - to test the response of emergency services.

Arranged as part of a biennial training exercise, the mock air crash at the North Connel airfield tested the limits of support agencies and volunteer groups in case of a real accident.

Residents saw blue lights and heard the sirens as the services worked to rescue volunteers and dummies putting out fires and resuscitating stricken mannequins.

The event has to be held every two years to meet the requirements of the Civil Aviation Authority and the Civil Contingencies Act.

CONNEL

organisations in the village that take part in the clean-up.

Community councillor Harry Powell, who arranged for skip to be placed at the village hall for collection by Argyll and Bute Council, thanked Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute (GRAB) Trust for its assistance.

The annual event usually raises around £300 for youth

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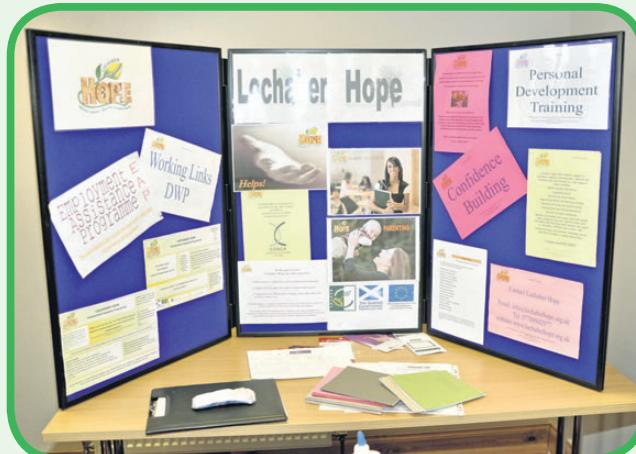
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A recent 'women at work' workshop saw locals try their hand at painting and creative writing. 20_f18hope01



20_f18hope02

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FORT William charity Lochaber Hope offers a vital emotional crutch for Lochaber people with a wide range of sensitive and personal issues.

The Life Skills and Personal Development Service currently provides services to over 300 people and have supported over 500 people in confidence over the last seven years.

LH is based above the Hub cafe on Fassifern Road open to the whole community. Spending time with people who are experiencing vulnerable or crisis periods in their lives, poor mental health, addiction, unemployment and depression are just some of the issues they deal with.

They have just helped eight new mentors complete their SCQF level 6, bringing their total of accredited mentors to 12.

LH was also recently honoured with a Scottish Mentoring Network award for the widest impact.

The success of LH in recent years has meant they have outgrown their current premises and are in the process of securing a deal for a new location, which they hope will offer a daily drop in, IT and training room, meeting rooms and offices.

A number of locals have been inspired to arise money for Lochaber Hope. West Highland College childcare students have held a series of events, including bake sales and bag packing at local shops, and they plan to hold a sponsored walk to Kinlochleven on Tuesday.

Alan Lamont is running the Ben Nevis Race later this year, and Rachel Maguire recently held a car boot sale and managed to raise over £300. LH are currently working closely with Lochaber High School to provide accessible and confidential counselling and mentoring to young people.

Also available are a wide variety of training courses, from money management and parenting skills, to interview techniques and personal development, as well as helping unemployed people back into work.

You can self refer to LH, by coming in, phoning in or by email or come along to the 'drop in'.

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Fort FC manager in running for sports award

FORT William FC manager Danny Conlon has been nominated for a prestigious national award in recognition of his work with local youth sides.

He is up for the volunteer of the year in youth football at the Scottish Football Association Grassroots Awards.

As well as managing the senior team, Conlon has been heavily involved with the U14 and U17 sides for a number of years, and helps run the popular midnight football league each summer. The winners will be announced at a ceremony at Hampden Park in September, with Scotland legend Kenny Dalglish handing out the trophies.

Lewis wind farm plans lodged

PLANS for £70 million 14-turbine wind farm on Lewis were lodged with Western Isles Council on Tuesday.

Greenock-based 2020 Renewables wants to build the 42MW development over a square mile of land on North Tolsta common grazings, 10 miles northeast of Stornoway.

The firm says 70 jobs would be created during the construction phase along with several maintenance jobs when turbines are operational.

Portree primary quiz champions celebrate



Portree Primary School is celebrating after winning the Primary Rotary Quiz Trophy Highland final in Dingwall on Saturday. Proud pupils Jonathan Smith, Dougal McKiggan, Emily Macdonald and Iona Macaskill, front, show off their trophies after beating runners-up Avoch by four points. Both teams now go forward to the district final in Perth in June where the top six schools from 420 original entrants will compete for the first prize of £500.



They're off: The Lochaber Together 5k run gets underway. 20_f18run03

Cancer battle strongman fun run guest of honour

A LOCHABER strongman attended a cancer charity fun run and family day in Fort William on Saturday two days after finishing a punishing course of chemotherapy.

Mark Haldenby watched his training partners perform near-impossible feats of strength at Lochaber Together in aid of Cancer Research.

Now the father-of-three from Caoil is determined to win his own battle against the blood cancer Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Mr Haldenby, who received his last bout of chemo at Fort William's Belford Hospital last Thursday, paid tribute

to everyone who has supported him throughout his illness. The former Scottish champion powerlifter, guest of honour on the day, told The Oban Times: 'I have been very fortunate to have the Macmillan nurses administer the chemotherapy, they have just been fantastic to me and my family.'

'They have been there every time I have needed them. It's been scary but great at the same time. I don't know if I could have got through it as easily without the nurses, my family and my friends. Things look okay - it looks like a good result.'

The 39-year-old was overwhelmed by

well-wishers - but could only look on as his strongmen friends from Fort William, Peterhead and Fraserburgh thrilled the crowd. Mr Haldenby said: 'I just wish I could have competed. I was tempted, I just wanted to get in there. Now it will have to be next year.'

He added: 'It was a great day and I was really proud to be part of it. I'm really grateful for all the support I received from Cancer Research and all the people who turned out.'

The main 5km fun run was won by Craig MacLean with Innes Orr - aged just eight - second, Stewart MacLean third

and Red Cross volunteer Robbie MacKay fourth.

Other crowd pleasers at the BA Club included Upper Achintore children's cheerleading group the Ben Nevis All Stars.

Event manager Adam Ramsey said on Tuesday £8,590 had been raised so far with a further £5,000 to come from Cancer Research UK charity shop sales from 176 bags of recycled goods collected by the Rotary Club of Lochaber.

He said: 'I would like to thank all the sponsors, volunteers, competitors and all those who came along to support us.'

Sports centre back on track

THE BID to create a £1 million indoor sports centre in Fort William looks to be back on track after crunch talks between the group behind the plan and Highland Council officials in Inverness.

Jane Blanchard and Leen Volkwer of Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) met with Highland Council leader Drew Hendry, council officials and Graham Finnie, sportscotland last Thursday, who pledged their support.

It was agreed to move the plan onto the next stage, which involves hiring a consultant to develop a business model.

Mrs Blanchard, chairwoman of LSA, said: 'The meeting was extremely positive and there was a very clear will from all present to ensure that the projects should succeed, without delay or hindrance.'

Support

Mrs Blanchard has previously said she feared the project was dead in the water due to a lack of financial support from the council.

LSA say the sports centre, planned to be based next to Lochaber High School, would allow local clubs to train and play year round, no matter the weather.

Life-saving project launched

A LIFE-SAVING initiative providing immediate emergency treatment for cardiac arrest victims was launched in Fort William yesterday (Wednesday).

The Lochaber Defibrillator Project will see heart-start machines housed in 10 town Pubwatch premises and the Free Church in Caoil, An Drochaid in Claggan, the Spean Bridge Hotel and at Strontian and Glenfinnan. Councillor Thomas MacLennan, a former Pubwatch chairman, said: 'When the doctors' practice moved out to the Blair Mhor on the High Street was not as safe as it had been. So I thought

pubs, because they are open longer, would be ideal places for the defibrillators - and we now have four or five people trained in each premises to operate them.'

Alan Knox, SAS area service manager for Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh also attended the launch. He said: 'It is not just for pub-goers - it is for people nearby as well.'

Project backers include the Scottish Ambulance Service, the Rotary Club of Lochaber and the British Heart Foundation. Lochaber Care and Repair installed the defibrillator cabinets at no cost.

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THE ABUNDANCE of winners from the west coast of Scotland in this week's Scottish Hotel Awards once again shows the country that west really is best.

At the glitzy ceremony in Glasgow's Crowne Plaza, owners of guest houses, bed and breakfasts and hotels from across the region came out on top with 15 major accolades as well as many more regional prizes.

This domination by those in our hospitality sector comes from sheer hard work as well as the natural friendliness in this part of the world, where a warm welcome is guaranteed.

The amount of fresh and delicious local produce available in these parts also helps give guests a true taste of the west coast and in turn boosts their rating of our fine establishments.

It is real people who work in our hotels, and the friendly, informal yet top class service visitors receive keeps many coming back year after year for more imitable west coast hospitality.

What makes this part of the country so special is that it doesn't matter what budget guests have - if they want to dine on lobster in sumptuous surroundings they can but equally if they prefer some tasty pub grub and a pint the best of that is on offer here too.

But hoteliers should never rest on their laurels. Arran may have been named destination of the year this time around but the cities and those on the east coast of the country are constantly clamoring for success as well.

GLASGOW LETTER

Glasgow Local Mod

THE GLASGOW Local Mod will take place in Sgoil Ghàidhlige Glaschu on Friday June 14 - music and drama - and Saturday June 15 - all other competitions.

The syllabus is now available and the last date for entries is June 1. Entries should be sent to Glasgow Mod, c/o 54 Kingfisher Drive, Glasgow, G13 4QA. For enquiries email glasgowmod@live.co.uk.

Ceol's Craic

STUDENTS of the BA Course in Gaelic and Traditional Music at the Gaelic College in Skye, Sabhal Mor Ostaig, continued the celebrations of the 40 years since the opening of the college with a performance at the April event of Ceol's Craic held at the usual venue of the Gaelic club, the CCA, in Sauchiehall Street. As part of their tour they had already performed as far afield as Ulleapool, Skye and Barra and with a variety of traditional instruments - fiddle, cello, accordion, pipes, whistle, guitar and bodhran - as well as Gaelic song, they enthralled their Glasgow audience.

The students came from various areas of the Gaeltacht including Tiree from where Eilidh MacFadyen showcased that not only the boys from her home island are excellent exponents of accordion music. This was a performance which highlighted the high standards being achieved at Sabhal Mor as they look forward to the next 40 years when they hope to build on the success which few would have envisaged back in 1973.

Continuing the connection with the college, the remainder of the evening's entertainment was in the capable hands of piper Allan MacDonald and singer Christine Primrose. Allan played the Highland bagpipe in his first set and then with the small pipes he also sang while Christine took the audience on tour of Lewis villages singing some favourite traditional songs as well as joining Allan for a couple of numbers.

The musical performance is only part of Ceol's Craic

which starts earlier in the day with Gaelic workshops and other related topics.

Next month's meeting of Ceol's Craic will be on Saturday May 25 when a sell-out audience is expected. It will be a night of ballads, love and murder with Rab Noakes, Kathleen MacInnes, Alasdair Whyte and Mischa MacPherson on the bill. Early application for tickets is advised. Telephone 0141 352 4900.

Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain

WHEN Aly Bain invited Phil Cunningham in 1986 to join him in his BBC Series, Aly and Friends, he could never have imagined they would still be performing together in 2013 as an extremely successful and popular duo and that they will be taking part in a tour which takes them from Shetland to Spain in the coming months.

On Wednesday May 8 they will be performing at Oran Mor, at the top of Byres Road, a great venue for Phil and Aly to showcase their musical expertise and stagecraft. Doors open for this seated concert at 7pm and tickets can be bought from behind the bar or from TicketWeb.co.uk or 08444 771000

Diary dates

Tuesday May 7: Gaelic Quiz, Park Bar, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72 Waterloo Street, 8pm, Colum Sands.

Wednesday May 8: Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Oran Mor - see above.

Friday May 10: Tolbooth, Stirling, Chris Stout and Catriona MacKay, 8pm.

Saturday May 11: Paisley and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh Dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be provided by Scott Harvey on Saturday, Dodgy Ground on Sunday and Deoch 'n Dorus on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Crooked Reel on Friday and Penny Dogs on Saturday.

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

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed.

Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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

Is press regulation getting out of control?

VIEWPOINT

SHOULD an independent weekly newspaper serving the West Highlands be concerned about press regulation - or should *The Oban Times* just dismiss the matter as of no consequence? Perhaps we should look at the events that have unfolded.

At the start there was justifiable outrage at the illegal and unethical behaviour undertaken by some members of the national press which caused unimaginable distress to the victims of Milly Dowler and Madeleine McCann, and others, for which there is no conceivable excuse. The law says such behaviour is illegal and it should be punished. Since then however things have moved on a great deal and now we have the 2,000 page Leveson Report which, in the end, proposes changes that could result in restrictions on the free press.

In Scotland Lord McCluskey went further causing respected commentator Magnus Linklater to write 'At a stroke Lord McCluskey's expert group proposes changes that would sweep away centuries of robust press freedom' and urging Mr Salmon to 'consign this wretched report to the dustbin where it belongs'.

The UK press is not the only party to condemn these reports. Press commentators in the USA, where press freedom is guaranteed through the First Amendment of the US Constitution 15th December 1791, Canada, Australia, Germany, France, Iran and Russia, yes that's right Iran and Russia, and others have criticised this 'sad event in the history of the press in the UK' as 'Great Britain was the first country to introduce freedom of the press which is now to be put at risk'.

which starts earlier in the day with Gaelic workshops and other related topics.

Next month's meeting of Ceol's Craic will be on Saturday May 25 when a sell-out audience is expected.

It will be a night of ballads, love and murder with Rab Noakes, Kathleen MacInnes, Alasdair Whyte and Mischa MacPherson on the bill. Early application for tickets is advised. Telephone 0141 352 4900.

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Shock at scale of cuts to Atlantis funding

Sir,

It is with incredulity that we learn of the scale of cuts being imposed on Atlantis Leisure by some Argyll and Bute councillors.

The health benefits of exercise are well recognised and Atlantis Leisure has established a close working relationship with local health services.

The Healthy Options scheme is encouraging many who thought they were too unwell or unfit to get back to regular exercise. Many of our elderly patients attend the classes designed especially for them. Access to the pool is important for those with joint and muscle problems.

The co-ordination between Oban hospital, Lorn Medical Centre and Atlantis has been superb; the proposed cutbacks will detrimentally affect the Oban community, probably affecting the most vulnerable.

Fortunately the council should look at increasing funding for Atlantis to deliver more of its services with a voluntary board and community involvement.

The wider benefits of a facility such as this helps attract professionals such as doctors, nurses, scientists and teachers to come to work here. Recruitment is already difficult and we need to keep all the advantages we have.

All of this would not have happened without the dedication of the staff, the management team and particularly the volunteer directors who give their free time to the running and development of the facility. To expect them to manage the decline of the services that would be required by the removal of the RPI increase in funding shows the 'could not care less attitude' of the council.

One of the main running costs of the centre must be the heating costs of the pool and halls. As the council's budget papers plan for a 30 per cent increase in fuel and electricity costs for their own services over the next two years, it makes us wonder how deep the cuts at Atlantis will have to be to survive on a 0 per cent uplift. However the council does seem to value the benefits of investment in leisure facilities as shown by £600,000 extra for Dunoon's council-run centre.

Murdoch Gatward, Ganavan Road, Oban.

Excellent air service

Sir,

I am writing in support of the comments made by Lavinia MacLean-Bristol in a recent letter.

As the parent of a scholar and owner of a business here on the Isle of Coll, I can only praise the service given to us by Oban Airport and Hebridean Airways.

Over the time this service has been available, it has steadily increased in popularity with people in many areas. Parents can now see their children every weekend and can easily attend events at Oban High School such as parent evenings and school productions.

Surely this can only be seen as a positive?

It's now easier to attend medical appointments, easier for tradesmen to come in, another option for visitors to travel to our island and an alternative to ferry sailings.

It also provides much needed employment in all the communities it serves.

I've noticed for quite sometime that *The Oban Times* seems to prefer negative stories surrounding this service.

Maybe for once you should do some research into the social and economic benefits this service brings to ours and other communities.

Alastair MacGregor, Chief Executive, Argyll Community Housing Association.

We in this country have accepted as our democratic right the automatic assumption of a free press for 300 years when newspapers were no longer subject to government licensing. Are we now to see that right casually swept away after a deal cobbled together at two o'clock in the morning by cross party politicians in the presence of four members of 'Hacked Off', described as a 'celebrity heavy victims group'. We now learn that the same organisation is very reluctant to reveal its financial backers causing the Chairman of the Commons Culture and Media and Sport Committee to observe: 'They are a lobbying organisation and they are pressing for transparency about meetings between politicians and the press and I think it perfectly fair to expect them to be transparent too.'

To illustrate the immense complexities opened up by the desire to control the press, we only have to look at the proposal to force newspapers who don't sign up to this restraint to pay all the costs of a legal battle - even if they win - an absolute 'no-brainer go-ahead' for anyone feeling peevish with the press and wanting free publicity into the bargain. Celebs will have a field day as we may assume they will push hard for publicity when it suits them.

The Oban Times is hardly in the big league of newspapers but it has been around for 150 of those 300 years of press freedom, serving its readers who automatically

assume it is written and published free of any outside national political or local government interference. Should it in future publish something of which the regulator disapproves it could be subject to a fine - possibly substantial enough to put the paper and the jobs of its staff at risk. Is that press freedom or is it political control which can so easily move between national and local government?

An example of what may lie around the corner comes in a letter to a national newspaper in support of the Leveson report from Christopher Morcom QC which concluded: 'But whatever happens following Leveson, Parliament will remain supreme. The press should be wary of finding something worse.' May we reasonably assume this means the press should accept the proposed regulation or be subject to something more severe? If so it confirms precisely why we should maintain a free press. It is our right as free citizens.

On 13th April 1939 Winston Churchill addressing the House of Commons said: 'We send the Press, but they give an extremely true picture of a great deal that is going on, a very much fuller and more detailed picture than we are able to receive from ministers of the Crown.'

We all know Churchill's legacy to our nation but what, Mr Cameron, will be yours? As the Prime Minister who oversaw the destruction of press freedom in the UK?

If so Prime Minister, whatever else you might achieve, this will be your legacy to history. We urge you to step forward firmly to preserve, above all, the integrity of press freedom.

Alan Cochrane



THE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S SCOTTISH EDITOR

WHAT are the words in the English language that you most dread hearing on the telephone? I suspect that everyone has their own least favourite. I'm not talking here about the growing nuisance of unsolicited or 'cold' calls that often begin with the promise of untold riches with that current horror: 'You may be eligible for a refund on Payment Protection Insurance.'

Or even that one from your bank; nowadays that often means some anonymous twenty-something in a call centre who would rather die than meet you face-to-face but whose opening gambit may well be: 'Good morning, I'd like to discuss your overdraft.'

No, what I mean are the phrases that trip gaily off the tongue of the people we're increasingly forced to deal with if we want anything done, whether it's the aforesaid bank, the garage, the insurance company, the retail giant, the train company or any number of other concerns.

My own particular nightmare usually begins, often in as sweet a voice as it's possible to imagine, thus: 'I'm just going to pop you on hold for a second.'

What invariably happens then is a great round zero - nothing at all.

Having been 'popped' on hold, I hang on and on and on.

On several occasions recently I've been 'held' for so long that the battery on my cordless phone has run out, making it necessary for me to call the miscreants back.

This means going through the whole rigmarole again, all the while swearing and bellowing and hoping against hope that someone really is taping the call, as they say in deeply hurt tones: 'I won't be spoken to like that.' Oh dear!

And then when I'm finally re-connected I'm in such a foul mood that the other end often hangs up saying that they refuse to deal with me because, as they say in deeply hurt tones: 'I won't be spoken to like that.'

Being 'popped on hold' is an intensely frustrating experience because there really is nothing you can do except

I often have dreadful trouble making myself understood. I cannot understand why.

After all, I don't have an accent of any kind. Do I?

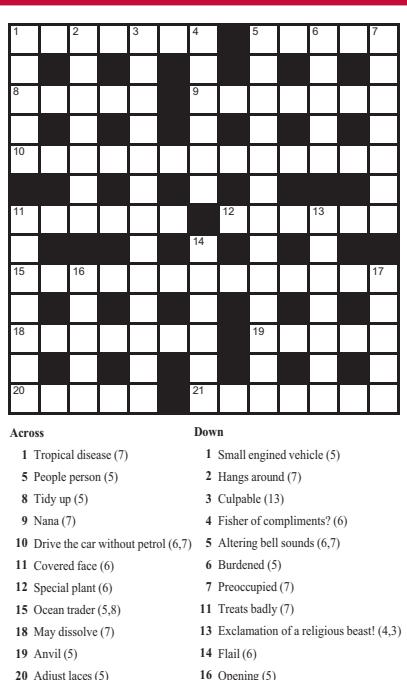
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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



Police files

EQUIPMENT including an outboard engine and a two-foot galvanised anchor were stolen from a yacht moored at Ardoe Bay, Acharacle, sometime between late January and Saturday April 27.

A two metre stainless steel anchor chain and a number of other parts were also stolen.

□ □ □

A CAR parked on Columba Court, Lochcylive, was damaged sometime between 6pm on Saturday and 9.30am on Sunday.

□ □ □

FUEL was stolen from an HGV lorry parked in the Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William, sometime between 5.45pm on Thursday April 25 and 5.15am on Friday April 26.

□ □ □

NUMBER plates were removed from a car in the Fort William area sometime between 8pm on April 20 and 5.30pm on April 22.

Anyone with any knowledge of the above incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police on 101, the confidential line on 01397 702000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Moving on: Lochaber High sixth years line up before the graduation ceremony in the school last Friday. 20_f18grad01

Sixth years bid fond farewell to Lochaber High School



Left to right, Lochaber High School S1 pupils Carlie MacKinnon and Heather Millar from Spean Bridge, Lauren Battersby from Kinlochleven and West Highland College UHI cookery student Esther Nassaris competed in the 'Canna Cook', Winna Cook' junior chef competition with chefs Michael Campbell and Brian Gunn. 20_f18cook01

Young cooks in the mix at food festival

MORE than 800 people visited Fort William Food and Drink Festival in Caol Community Centre last weekend to sample all that is best in Lochaber produce.

The two-day event, run by community station Nevis Radio, featured master classes from 'Great British Bake-off' star Brendan Lynch.

A 'Canna Cook Winna Cook' session with top local chefs Brian Gunn and Michael Campbell and teams of Lochaber High School pupils also proved

a big draw, while 16 local traders had their wares on display in the main hall on Saturday.

Festival committee chairman and Nevis Radio station manager David Ogg said: 'It has been very hard work over a long period of time to bring this together, but very worthwhile.'

'We are delighted with the support shown by local businesses and the people who came and I would like to thank them for all their support. Hopefully this will be the first of many.'

Man drowns after kayak capsizes on Loch Morar

A MAN drowned and a second man was taken to hospital suffering from hypothermia after their kayak capsized on Loch Morar on Sunday night.

The two men, not thought to be local, got into trouble after their boat flipped over, plunging them into the cold water of the remote loch.

The surviving kayaker managed to swim to safety on a nearby island where he spent the night, before making his way back to shore in the morning.

After reaching the Oban bothy by the loch he found a group of walkers who called emergency services just before 10am.

Youngsters take on Witch's Trails

NEVIS Range is hosting round two of the Scottish Power Youth Mini Downhill Series on Saturday.

Youngsters will race on the Witch's Trails in Leanachan Forest with categories including under 10s, under 12s, under 14s and under 16s.

Meanwhile at Glencoe Mountain, the unseasonably cold spell and excellent spring snow conditions means the centre will open for skiing this weekend, weather permitting.

Road to the Isles half marathons

FINAL plans are in place for Saturday's annual Road to the Isles Half Marathon and Relay Team Half Marathon on aid of Mallaig and District Swimming Pool.

Both events start at 11am from Beasdale Station off the A830 and take the scenic route through Arisaig and Morar before finishing at the pool. The relay is for teams of up to three people. A third event, walking half marathon 'Walk on the Wildside', starts at 10.30am from the same location.

Entry fee pre-event is £13 and £15 on the day. Competitors will receive a t-shirt on completion and medals will be issued to the fastest participants. Home baking, soup and sandwiches will be laid on at the pool.

Gaelic culture of Lochaber talk

PROFESSORS Hugh Cheape and Donald Meek will discuss the Gaelic culture of Lochaber, its poets and storytellers in Strontian next Tuesday evening.

The Free Royal Society of Edinburgh event, entitled 'Gaelic Culture of Lochaber: Lifting the Night - A' fuaidach na h-oidhche' begins in the Sunart Centre at 7pm. The evening will finish in time to catch the Corran Ferry back over Loch Linnhe.

New fishing allocation welcomed

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson has welcomed Marine Scotland's announcement of a new days at sea allocation for west coast prawn vessels.

The allocation - equivalent to 95 per cent of the fishing effort between 2009 and 2011 - makes a repeat of last year's controversy, when east coast prawn fishermen descended on the west coast in search of prawns, less likely.

The MSP was 'pleased' a deal had been reached.

Raasay crofters fear shooting rights consultation will split community

RAASAY crofters say a Scottish government consultation on shooting rights risks splitting the community down the middle.

The mostly state-owned island hit the headlines earlier this year after civil servants leased the sporting rights to an outside firm following a competitive tendering process.

South Ayrshire Stalking outfit previous holders Raasay Crofters Association (RCA) but the decision prompted a furious outcry amid claims community enterprise was being sacrificed for profit.

Environment minister Paul Wheelhouse, who was unaware of the development, scrapped the deal after meeting crofters on Raasay on March 1.

SAS received £9,000 compensation and RCA was granted a lease extension until March 1 2014 pending a community consultation.

That consultation - seven

MSP urges islanders to have their say

ASSERTIONS that there is little appetite for community ownership of Raasay appear to be contradicted by an informal consultation carried out by Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson.

Mr Thompson sent questionnaires to 129 residents in March asking their views on a possible community buy-out and received a 'very creditable' 61 responses - a 47 per cent return rate.

Of those, 27 - 54 per cent of respondents backed community ownership of Raasay while 23, or 46 per cent, were opposed. The remaining 11 said they needed more information before making a decision.

Mr Thompson said: 'They were high quality returns, with a lot of helpful comment and this has all made a valuable contribution to the debate. Of the 61 responses received, the overwhelming majority of respondents indicated that, given Forestry Commission Scotland are intent on selling their Raasay forestry, they were in favour of community ownership of this forestry land.'

He added: 'These results have been sent to the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Paul Wheelhouse, to aid the government consultation on the future of Raasay.'

'I urge everyone on Raasay to respond to the formal government consultation which is now about to start.'

and Ruairidh Shaw. A short résumé on each pupil was read out before they crossed the red carpet on stage to receive their graduation certificate from head teacher Jim Sutherland.

A group of sixth years performed 'Skyfall' as a musical interlude before Deborah Degelaen brought proceedings

to a close, eloquently thanking all members of staff for the experiences and opportunities she and her classmates had benefited from during their time at school.

On behalf of the staff, Mr Sutherland wished the group well before they were piped out. He said: 'We've had an

excellent group of sixth years who have achieved good results, worked hard on their personal development, taken on responsibilities, contributed positively to the life of the school and helped other people. I wish them all the very best as they move on to the next stage of their lives.'

issue is the possible conflict out on the hill.'

Mr Wheelhouse urged all islanders to have their say so that community backing for an option could be demonstrated.

He said: 'Based upon a constructive public meeting during my earlier visit to Raasay, I understand fully that the sporting rights on Raasay are very important to the islanders, which is why we have committed to consulting fully with the community before deciding how the sporting rights should be managed in future.'

'We want to ensure that we put in place a system which meets Raasay's needs and allows the community to reap the maximum economic and conservation benefits from the valuable sporting assets and this will inform our policy in respect of any similar scenarios which present to us elsewhere in Scotland in the future.'



Anne Gillies.

'This is really divisive in a small community. What annoys me most is that [Mr Wheelhouse] is creating division between crofters and the wider community because he is effectively advocating competing for control.'

'When the crofters controlled the sporting rights it did away with any disputes. But if a

different group took over on the same ground the crofters run their sheep there could be conflict. The reason the association was set up in the first place was to avoid conflict between stalkers and crofters working the sheep. All he has done is make an issue of this when there was none to be made.'

She added: 'They have not listened to us. I imagined that he realised from the meeting that we were not interested in a community buy-out.'

'He said we had done an excellent job but still did not give us a 10-year lease and insisted he was legally bound to consult the community. I can't see another group taking over. Nobody has shown any interest in it before and nobody has the obvious skills to do it.'

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Tony wishes all competitors good luck

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Best wishes for a successful 30th festival from everyone at



20 Argyll Square, Oban tel: 01631 566304
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Festival to celebrate 30th in style

OBAN will this weekend host the 30th annual Highlands and Islands Dance Music and Dance Festival - and the event has certainly come of age.

Under the guidance of chairman Donald MacLean, the event is gearing up for what could be its most spectacular year yet, with more than 1,100 participants set to compete in 125 different competition classes.

It is estimated that the event generates a £1million for the local economy over the course of the event's three days - and it certainly brings a touch of colour to the streets as competitors and spectators from the locality and across Scotland make their way to the venues around the town.

Starting on Friday, the event starts with aplomb, hosting competitions across the musical disciplines.

Saturday promises to be as lively as ever, with the accordion, clarsach, fiddle, piano, piping, signing woodwind and brass competitions sure to delight the audiophiles in attendance. The dancing competitions also get underway in style with the Highland Dancing and Scottish Choreography Challenge getting underway.

The day is rounded off with the Concert of Champions, followed by the Festival Fling at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Sunday will see the conclusion of the Scottish Choreography Challenge, before the event hosts its first ever Argyll Pipe Band march - a massed pipe band including pipes and drums from Oban, Mid Argyll, Inveraray and Helensburgh - from Station Square to the Corran Halls from 5.30pm.

For more information see obanfestival.org. Tickets are available by phoning 07510 841 198.

The 30th Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival
www.obanfestival.org
3 May - 5 May

The Festival Showcase CONCERT OF CHAMPIONS
See and hear the best of the Festival talent Corran Halls, Saturday 4 May, 7pm

'FESTIVAL FLING' - FAMILY DANCE
Sileas Sinclair Band Argyllshire Gathering Hall Saturday 4 May, 8.30pm

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

The festival gratefully acknowledges the support of



This year, like previous years, *The Oban Times* will be on hand to provide excellent coverage of the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival. Here is a small selection of photographs taken at last year's event.



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Wishing all the competitors at the
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**FESTIVAL
DIARY**

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of this spectacular event,
which brings so much talent
and enjoyment to the town.

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Action Songs, Choirs, Groups, Ensembles,
Recorder, Singing
Corran Halls

Accordion & Fiddle Masters
St. John's Cathedral

Scottish Area Finals
Followed by Solo/Duet Choreography
SOLD OUT
Corran Halls

Saturday 4 May
Accordion
Scout Hall
Clarsach
Congregational Church

Fiddle
Regent Hotel
Highland Dancing
Atlantis Leisure

MORNING SOLD OUT

Piano
St. John's Cathedral

Piping
Oban High School

Saturday 4 May (cont)
Scottish Choreography Challenge
Corran Halls

Singing
Glencruitten Church Centre
and **Glencruitten Church**

Woodwind & Brass
Corran Esplanade
Church

CONCERT OF CHAMPIONS Corran Halls

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Corran Halls

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Malt of the Month

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SAMPLING the delights of malt whisky can often be a case of revisiting a taste that you have savoured in the past or venturing down a path recommended by others.

However, this month there came a new island-based malt to the market that gave us the opportunity to try something very new.

Diageo have released from their famous Skye Talisker stable a bottling of Talisker Storm.

The new malt has a rich, full gold appearance and while it brings all the vibrant distillery character that one would expect from a Talisker creation, there is a sweetness and smoothness that may have been crafted from the use of both rejuvenated and refill casks.

As the dram comes under the nose there is a hint of spent matches, a definite waft of warm spice which filters out to an oily pepper before drifting towards a sweeter malty finale.

This sweetness is highlighted in the first sip but is quickly replaced as the spice starts to kick in and brings with it a warm, nutty flavour, some rich red berry, all shrouded in a slight smoky backdrop.

I added a drop of water before the second sip and the introduction produced an intensity of both the sweet and the smoke, plus, as you would expect from a Talisker, there was more than a fair helping of sea salt to create a balance.

The name Storm may put off some drinkers with its suggestion of rough and rugged rocks pounded by dramatic salt-filled waves - a bracing encounter with more than a hint of danger - but the reality of Talisker Storm is of a rather more mellow character which brings out a very pleasant medium length warm aftertaste to leave a mental image of soft peat embers just glowing gentle in the grate.

It may take a little while for supplies of Talisker Storm to find their way onto the shelves of the larger retail outlets but there are plenty of good retailers and specialist outlets that will embrace the opportunity to offer something new.

I'll raise a glass to them.

Talisker Storm
Age not stated
Single malt

Alcohol Units 28
ABV 45.8%
Pack Quantity 70cl
Price range Around £40

Alexander MacPhail

what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY - May 2

Free Juke Box Thursday, Markie Dan's, Oban.

10am, Ramblers Scotland, Meall Ghuibhas walk, Glen Etive.

10.30am, Creation Station, Church Hall, Connell.

6pm - 8pm, Possession exhibition by Sam Jones opening night, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.

6pm - 8pm, Fred Schley exhibition opening night, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.

7.30pm, What on Earth?, Mull Theatre, Mull.

FRIDAY - May 3

All day, Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, Oban.

10.30am, Coffee morning, Kilmelford Village Hall.

7pm, Accordion and Fiddle Masters, St. John's Cathedral, Oban.

7pm, Bingo night, Ulva Primary School, Mull.

9.30pm, Trail West, Markie Dan's, Oban.

SATURDAY - May 4

9.10am, Ramblers Scotland, Ben Inverveigh walk, Bridge of Orchy.

10am, Waverley Paddle Steamer Excursions, North Pier, Oban.

12pm - 5pm, Open day, Maolachy's Garden, Lochavich, by Taynuilt.

12pm - 5pm, Open day, Kama Bay Garden, Kilmelford.

7pm, Concert of Champions, Corran Halls, Oban.

8.30pm, Festival Fling ceiliadh, Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban.

8.30pm, Scottish Show, The Royal Hotel, Oban.

9.30pm, Signal Fires, The Mishnish, Tobermory, Mull.

9.30pm, Kenny Pearson, Markie Dan's, Oban.

9.30pm, Garry Innes, Manran and Friends, Coasters, Oban.

SUNDAY - May 5

Isle of Mull Lions sponsored cycle ride.

9.30am, Oban Walkers Knapdale walk, meet in Lochavulin Car Park, Oban.

12pm - 5pm, Open day, Maolachy's Garden, Lochavich, by Taynuilt.

12pm - 5pm, Open day, Kama Bay Garden, Kilmelford.

1pm, Waverley Paddle Steamer Excursions, North Pier, Oban.

1pm, Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease 10K Race, L&DH, Oban.

2.15pm - 4pm, Roller Disco, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.

6.30pm, Waverley Paddle Steamer Evening Cruise, North Pier, Oban.

9.30pm, Pub quiz, Markie Dan's, Oban.

MONDAY - May 6

Torsay Isle of Mull Gardening Club annual flower show, Craignure Hall, Mull.

11.30am, Waverley Paddle Steamer Excursions, North Pier, Oban.

6.30pm, Zumba Fitness, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.

7.30pm, Zumba Toning, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.

TUESDAY - May 7

9am, Waverley Paddle Steamer Excursions, North Pier, Oban.

10am, Creation Station, Guide Hall, Oban.

10.30am, Oban U3A, Regent Hotel, Oban.

12pm, Friendship lunch, Craignish Village Hall.

Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club musical evening, Railway Club, Inverlochy.

8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.

WEDNESDAY - May 8

5.45pm, Oban Community Bike Park meeting, Community Fire Station, Oban.

6pm, Zumba Fitness, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.

7pm, Bokwa Fitness, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.

7.30pm, Melfort Ukeles, Kilmelford Village Hall.

8.30pm, Basil Forgrave, Royal Hotel, Oban.

Mull
Music
Festival

Alan and Mary Hedley made the trip to the festival from Cumbria - they've been coming to Mull for 18 years. 16_t18mullfest09



Nicky McMichan, John Burns, Gemma Donald and Lindsay Weir put on an impromptu set in the MacDonald Arms. 16_t18mullfest07

THIS year's Mull Music Festival was one of the busiest weekends the island has ever seen, according to organisers.

The festival, which ran from Friday to Sunday last week, saw bands including The Raggae, Skerryvore and Gunna Sound entertaining crowds who flocked to the island.

VisitScotland confirmed there was a waiting list of people looking for accommodation, with enquiries still coming in during the weekend. The lack of available accommodation meant camper vans and tents also descended on the island.

The festival covered four Tobermory watering holes - Macgchan's, The Park Lodge, The Mishnish and The MacDonald Arms.

A J Macleod, manager of the Mishnish, said: 'It went really well for us, I think it was one of the busiest ones we've had - certainly a big success.'

'We had no trouble, it was mostly regulars that come year after year and everyone was in fine spirits.'

'The Raggae headlined as usual and we had traditional music in the lounge bar as well. Robert Macleod was playing with lots of itinerant musicians popping in for a wee tune. I can't wait for next year - it is going to be even better.'



Moray McNiven and Duncan Aitken enjoyed Saturday night's festivities. 16_t18mullfest05



Flo McBurnie, Margaret Maxwell, Marie Neilson and Lizzie MacLean made the trip from Oban for the festival. 16_t18mullfest03



James McNicol, Agnes Kay and Kenny Taylor made the most of Saturday night in the Mishnish. 16_t18mullfest10



Park Lodge's resident band of Iain MacFadyen, Duncan Black and Dennis Morrison kept crowds entertained. 16_t18mullfest01



Crossing the water from North Uist and Lewis to come to the festival were Eilidh Johnson, Janet MacCuish, Christine Macauley, Mairi MacCuish and Catriona Cameron, pictured with Kyle MacIntyre. 16_t18mullfest06



The Calum Iain MacCorquodale Ceiliadh Band kept revellers in Macgochian's entertained. 16_t18mullfest04



Mel and Kev Robertson came from Kinghorn to soak up the atmosphere in the Mish. 16_t18mullfest11



With his fingers flying across the keyboard in the MacDonald Arms is Colin Garvin. 16_t18mullfest08

Macgochian's Neil Morrison added: 'The festival was really good and certainly a lot busier than previous years. But we didn't see any trouble, there was a fantastic atmosphere all weekend long.'

'Skerryvore got an excellent reception on Sunday night and when Chunks came on after them everyone got going and we saw the festival out in style.'

'It was absolutely brilliant to see everyone having such a good time and I'm looking forward to next year already.'

The Park Lodge held competitions for adults and children to help carry on the spirit of the festival into the next generation.

Owner Rebecca Gallagher told *The Oban Times*: 'The competitions are open to kids to encourage them to keep the festival going as it is the young ones that will keep it going.'



Stars of the future took to the Corran Halls stage in Oban as Argyll Youth Theatre performed of *Fiddler on the Roof*. The performance had been postponed for two weeks, but that didn't stop a healthy crowd turn up to support the young actors. 07_117youth1

Winners go backstage with Singing Kettle crew



Singing Kettle cast members Gary Coupland, Anya Scott-Rodgers and Kevin Macleod meet competition winners, from left: Lochgilphead's Sandra Small, twin sister Julieann and brother Gavin and Oban brother and sister Andrew and Isla Russell. 15_118kettle01



Wonderland - Steve Brown and Claire Innes - with their award after the ceremony in Glasgow

Lochaber band win entertainment award

LOCHABER band Wonderland have picked up another award, winning the best wedding entertainment of the year north west category at the inaugural Scottish Wedding Awards.

Band founder Steve Brown and singer Claire Innes of Fort William travelled to a glittering ceremony at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Glasgow to pick up the gong, which was voted for by brides and grooms across Scotland.

Mr Brown said: 'We are incredibly humbled to be given this great award. The ceremony itself was a fantastic night, with

amazing dancers and a great Bubble tribute. We ended up rounding the night off ourselves singing around the white grand piano in the hotel bar.'

Ms Innes added: 'It's so lovely to be given this award – we travel a lot and put in a lot of hours behind the scenes. This award makes it all the more worthwhile. Thanks to everyone for their support.'

Wonderland won the VOWS Award for Music and Entertainment two years ago. The band is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year with a party in Inverness in November.

Great Days Out This Weekend!

Step aboard WAVERLEY – the last seagoing paddle steamer in the world! Magnificently restored with towering funnels, timber decks, gleaming varnish and brass – see and hear the mighty engines turn the ship's famous paddles! Dine, relax and have a drink in one of the restored period lounges, or simply watch the world slip by as you enjoy breathtaking views. See the Isle of Skye! Cruise on Loch Nevis to Inverie. Enjoy a sunrise or evening cruise on Loch Linne. Take an afternoon cruise of four lochs: Shuna, Melfort, Craignish & Crinan and cruise to the spectacular Corryvreckan Whirlpool. Visit the sacred Isle of Iona or cruise round the famous Mull of Kintyre! There are special fares for Senior Citizens. Children travel at half fare and under 5's travel free, so bring friends and family – young and old – for a trip to remember! Book Now for your Great Day Out!

Discover the mystical Western Isles aboard Paddle Steamer Waverley!

A WINCHMAN on a Royal Navy search and rescue helicopter from Stornoway is to publish his autobiography. Chris Murray spent 22 years flying to the rescue of people in distress from the seas and mountains around the north of Scotland and further afield. And now in 'Winchman', Mr Murray details his exploits from his early days as a Royal Navy diver in the elite Faslane diving team disabling explosive devices, to a civilian diver working offshore for various companies and finally as the winchman on a Sikorsky S61. On countless occasions Mr Murray hung from a wire in stormy seas and snowstorms, risking his life to aid fishing vessels in distress. And on one memorable occasion he received the Queen's Gallantry medal for the rescue of crewmen from the fishing vessel The Hansa in a violent Atlantic storm west of Benbecula in 2001.

Chris Murray lives in Stornoway with his teenage daughter and now works offshore. His book, published by Fledgling Press, will officially be launched at An Lanntair in Stornoway on May 31.

Chris Murray spent 22 years flying to the rescue of people in distress from the seas and mountains



Chris Murray spent 22 years flying to the rescue of people in distress from the seas and mountains

Sailing from OBAN North Pier

Isle of Skye Inverie Loch Linne	SATURDAY May 4 Leave 10am back 9.30pm
<small>*10pm return by coach from Fort William</small>	<small>Fares: Isle of Skye £37 SC £33 Visit Inverie £39 SC £35</small>
4 Lochs & A Whirlpool	SUNDAY May 5 Leave 1pm back 6.30pm
Iona & Iona Abbey	MONDAY May 6 Leave 11.30am back 7.30pm
Mull of Kintyre	TUESDAY May 7 Leave 9am back 7.30pm
<small>Cruise return from Campbeltown</small>	<small>Fare: Mull of Kintyre via Corryvreckan £29 SC £27</small>
<small>Gift Aid It!</small>	<small>Fare: Isle of Iona £41 SC £37</small>
<small>If you are a UK taxpayer then the Charity can claim an extra 25% from the Taxman.</small>	<small>Fares include a voluntary 10% donation.</small>
To book Call 0845 130 4647 Book at Oban Information Centre or Book Online at waverleyexcursions.co.uk	



Musician, writer and composer Mary Ann Kennedy

Mary Ann Kennedy gains commission for Commonwealth Games in 2014

ONE OF the country's best known radio broadcasters, Mary Ann Kennedy, is to be at the heart of a major new commission for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

The well-respected musician, writer and composer is to team up with Canadian composer Scott Macmillan to produce 'Aiseag' ('The Ferryboat').

The project will also involve Mary Ann's partner, audio designer Nick Turner, and include lyrics from poet Aonghas MacNeacail from Carlops, near Edinburgh.

The team will work on a composition for classical and traditional musicians that will be given four scheduled UK performances.

Watercolour Music, the Ardour-based operation which Mary Ann runs with Mr Turner, will be the commissioning body for 'Aiseag'.

The piece will involve musicians and singers from the Highlands, Glasgow and Nova Scotia, electronica and background sounds gathered from locations on both sides of the Atlantic.

The work will celebrate the importance of ferries in two regions bound together by the clearances - the Highlands and Islands and Nova Scotia.

The new commission was announced at the PRS Foundation's New Music Biennial commissions for the 2014 Commonwealth Games at the Southbank Centre in London on Friday.

Speaking afterwards, Mary Ann, who is currently musician in residence at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college on Skye, said she was 'thrilled' to have won the opportunity to create new music for the event.

'My journey started today aboard our local Corran Ferry in Ardour and I look forward to our final destination at the Games in my hometown, Glasgow,' she said.

Oban Charities Day sets date for June 8

THOUSANDS of pounds will one again be raised for local causes at the annual Oban Charities Day.

This year's event will be held on Saturday, June 8 at Station Square.

Oban Charities Day is organised every year by Oban and Lorn Lions Club, which said it wanted to see as many stallholders as possible in fancy dress to support the carnival atmosphere.

One of the organisers, Alex Milligan, said: 'This is a fun day when community and voluntary groups in the area can get dressed up, set up their fundraising stalls, sell their wares and raise awareness of what they do.'

There is no set theme for the parade but we would like to give the parade a bit of a carnival feeling, with participants getting into the holiday mood and dressing up to add some fun to the day.'

Organisations who have not booked a stall, but wish to do so, can contact John Lloyd on 01631 562 762 or email Oban3108@aol.com.

Any group wishing to participate in the parade, whether they are walking, dancing, cycling, playing musical instruments or riding on a float must contact Jim Edge at Pink Elephant Office Supplies in Combie Street, or Alex Milligan on 07796 891 676.

Athletes will undertake a 1.9km loch swim in of Loch Linnhe, a 90km bike ride and, finally, a 21km ascent and descent of Ben Nevis.

Teko, supported by Scottish-based footwear company Anatom, will provide prizes for participants and have a promotional display area at the event.

For those who prefer to mountain bike, the Half Ben Nevis Triathlon the same day still retains the mountain bike leg.

Oban hosts celebration for World Book Night

A CELEBRATION of books took place in Oban Library recently with talks, readings, activities and a buffet.

World Book Night was held April 23 with Argyll and Bute Council's adult literacy and numeracy (ALN) service in Oban handing out copies of Treasure Island by R.L. Stevenson.

Highlights of the evening, which was organised by Brian Marden, included local author Marian Pallister talking about 'The Danger of the Single Story' and a slide show on 'Old Oban' by Bob McCulloch and Charlie Drummond.

Oban Phoenix Cinema

Iron Man 3	Tuhs 2nd May 17:45 (2D) 20:45 (3D)
Fri 3rd May	17:45 (2D) 20:45 (3D)
Sat 4th May	12:00 (3D), 15:00 (2D), 18:00 (3D), 21:00 (2D)
Sun 5th May	12:00 (3D), 15:00 (2D), 18:00 (3D), 21:00 (2D)
Mon 6th May	17:45 (3D), 20:45 (2D)
Tue 7th May	17:45 (2D), 20:45 (3D)
Wed 8th May	17:45 (3D), 20:45 (2D)
Thurs 9th May	17:45 (2D), 20:45 (3D)



Tel: 01631 56905 Mob: 08719 025752

Oban Phoenix Cinema is very pleased to announce that our brand new digital format is here! We re-opened to a sell-out show of our very first 3D film and have continued to be just as busy with every show since! With sharper images, enhanced Dolby 7.1 sound system and both 3D and live satellite streaming capabilities we look forward to welcoming you back to YOUR new and improved community cinema soon.

Iron Man 3 (12A) hands, he embarks on a instinct to protect those harrowing quest to find closest to him. As those responsible. This fights his way back, Stark journey, at every turn, discovers the answer to what test his mettle. With the question that has his back against the wall, secretly haunted him: Stark is left to survive by does the man make his own devices, relying on his ingenuity and make the man?

The team will work on a composition for classical and traditional musicians that will be given four scheduled UK performances.

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Friday 3rd May > TRAIL WEST starts 9.30pm

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Saturday 4th May > KENNY PEARSON starts 9.30pm

Markie Dans

Saturday 4th May > SIGNAL FIRES

Mishnish, Tobermory

Saturday 4th May > GARRY INNES

Coasters

Sunday 5th May > Manran and friends, 9.30pm til late

Markie Dans

QUIZ starts 9.30pm

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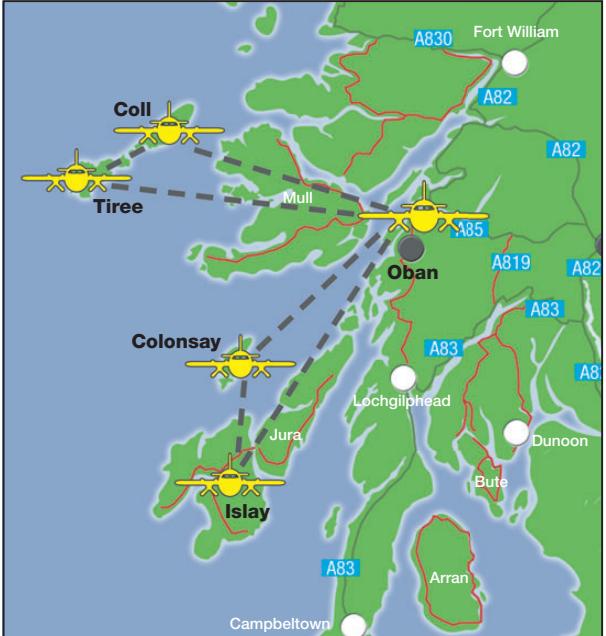
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FARMING

Walkers and pet owners urged not to take dogs into fields

DOGS found worrying sheep throughout the west will be shot, farmers have told walkers.

The warning comes as the lambing season gets into full swing on the back of one of the most challenging starts to spring local farmers have faced in years.

In North Argyll and the islands, an extended period without rain meant few pickings for expectant ewes and new lambs, while in Kintyre, heavy snow last month buried several sheep and their lambs. Both circumstances have left farmers counting the cost of stock losses.

Now, with the weather warming up, walkers are being urged not to take their dogs into fields

unless they are under complete control.

Oban's Chief Inspector, Alastair Davidson, said: "The financial loss to farmers from sheep worrying can be quite significant and farmers are able to shoot dogs that are out of control around their animals."

"They are perfectly within their rights to take whatever steps are necessary to protect their livestock so I implore dog walkers to have their pets under control at all times when walking in the countryside."

"It's particularly important dog owners keep their dogs in control given the challenging conditions farmers have faced in recent weeks."

Sheep worrying was a big

problem across Argyll last year, with farmers in Mid Argyll in particular suffering badly from attacks.

Barfad Farm and Stonefield Farm, both near Tarbert, lost more than a dozen sheep in just two incidences of sheep worrying.

Explaining he would shoot a dog found worrying his livestock, Neil Duncan of Stonefield Farm, said: "We have to take that view - it is the only recourse we have. Thankfully it doesn't happen that often but sheep worrying is a recurring problem. It is a horrible thing to find a sheep that has been ripped to bits just for the sport of the dog."

The warnings from local

farmers come in the same week as NFU Mutual. The British Horse Society and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) joined forces to raise awareness of the problem.

Tim Price, of NFU Mutual, said farmers, who face significant financial problems because of the recent weather, now are trying to fend off another threat to their livestock.

He said: "In 2011 there were almost 700 cases of sheep worrying in the UK and NFU Mutual estimates the cost to be in the region of £1million."

Sheep worrying is a criminal offence and the owner of a dog found worrying sheep could face a £1,000 fine and be held liable for any damage caused.



Market reports

STIRLING

Caledonian Marts

Hoggs with Single Lambs at Foot:

Mule - £160 Scart:

Ewes with Twin Lambs at Foot:

Texel - £144 Shutterflat;

Cheviot - £154 Walton;

Cross - £150 Kinnighallen;

Mule - £150 Mid Forrest;

Continental - £148 Mid Forrest;

Blackface - £96 Walton;

Ewes with Single Lambs at Foot:

Texel - £143 Mid Forrest;

Texel x - £122 Stepends;

Continental - £134 Kinnighallen;

Cheviot - £112 Walton;

Blackface - £62 Walton:

Store Hoggets:

Blackface - £52 Borland;

Blackface x - £46 Gelnturret;

Texel - £48 Upper Unst;

Cheviot - £47 Borland;

Sheep:

Blackface - £48 Glenturret;

Blackface x - £46 Kirkton

DINGWALL

Dingwall and

Highland Marts

Lambs:

Cheviot: 283 Torboll, Dornoch, £61;

BeltexX: Caberfeidh, Glenurquhart, £60;

TexelX: Milton of Culloden, Inverness, £60;

Cross: Cluny Estate, Newtonmore, £59;

Blackface: Fersit, Roy Bridge, £49.

Ewes:

SuffolkX: Lairgandour, £80;

TexelX: Inshes Farm, Inverness, £80;

Mule: Lairgandour, £75;

BeltexX: Caberfeidh, £50.

In-lamb ewes and hoggs:

Cheviot: Cuilaneilan, £73

Texel hoggs - Cuilaneilan £65.

LOCHMADDY

Dingwall and

Highland Marts

Bullocks:

201-250kg - 20 Rusharry, Berney, £360, 6 Borce, Berney, 204.4p;

251-300kg - Hasting, £700,

Dunskeir, Sollas, 253.3p;

301-350kg - Dunskeir, £810, 1

Ahmore, Lochmaddy, 243.8p;

351-400kg - Dunskeir, £950,

250.0p;

401-450kg - No 1 Clachan Farm, Lochmaddy, £160, 263.6p;

451-500kg - 8 Balranald, Tigharry, £1020, 3 Hosta,

Tigharry, 222.0p;

Breeding cattle:

in-calf heifer - 3 Fanks, £900.

OTM cattle:

21 Borve, Skeabost, (LuiX), £1,050; 1 Glen Bernisdale, Skeabost, £780; 3 Fanks, (LimX), £760.

Per kg:

21 Borve, Skeabost, (LuiX), £150p; 3 Fanks, (LimX), 131p; 5 Feorlig, (SimX), 128.9p.

Stirling

Caledonian Marts

Bullocks

600kgs - £1390 Addiewell

555kgs - £1350 Greencraig

490kgs - £1250 Strath

575kgs - £1220 Greencairn

510kgs - £1200 Benclloch

535kgs - £1190 Loanrigg

555kgs - £1180 Benclloch

575kgs - £1170 Mamore

445kgs - £1080 Strath

Per kilo

380kgs - 271p Allanfauld

295kgs - 264p Cairnbrog

320kgs - 260p Knockdaw

490kgs - 255p Strath

345kgs - 253p Cairnbrog and

Knockdaw

365kgs - 247p Camreggan

555kgs - 243p Greencraig

445kgs - 243p Strath

330kgs - 242p Binnichill

330kgs - 238p Rievach & Woodneuk

325kgs - 237p Westtown

510kgs - 236p Benclloch

Heifers

470kgs - £1210 Lower Greenyards

520kgs - £1200 Benclloch

510kgs - £1190 Benclloch

500kgs - £1170 Lower Greenyards

525kgs - £1150 Blairhall

565kgs - £1130 Addiewell

480kgs - £1120 Greencraig

490kgs - £1090 Blairhall

465kgs - £1070 Lower Greenyards

465kgs - £1050 Greencraig

465kgs - £1040 Bowridge and

Inchgall

420kgs - £1000 Keirsbeath

Per kilo

330kgs - 273p Allanfauld

470kgs - 257p Lower Greenyards

345kgs - 250p Keirsbeath

330kgs - 249p Craigievern

325kgs - 243p Allanfauld

420kgs - 238p Keirsbeath

345kgs - 236p Cairnbrog

500kgs - 234p Lower Greenyards

480kgs - 233p Greencraig

300kgs - 231p Balachie

520kgs - 231p Benclloch

310kgs - 231p Rievach

had been sold through

Argyll Hill Lamb Group

£5.20 per kg deadweight, netting

after slaughter charges, a total

of £3,252 (per head, a total

of £18,130). A further 20 lambs were due to finish within the next few weeks.

One of the cast ewes had died.

At the end of January, Mr

MacKay had told the community group that to date, 40 lambs

averaging 19kgs and

carrying good cover.

In mid-December, 75 "tail end"

lambs were turned on with an

average weight of 25kgs. They

came off mid-January, having

gained an average of 3kgs per

head in 35 days. 58 were sold

store, averaging £22.50, with the

remainder housed for finishing.

In late October, 20 lean cast

ewes were also run on the six

acres and came off in early Jan-

uary carrying good cover.

In mid-December, 75 "tail end" lambs were turned on with an average weight of 25kgs. They came off mid-January, having gained an average of 3kgs per head in 35 days. 58 were sold store, averaging £22.50, with the remainder housed for finishing.

One of the

Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

NACH E AN SAOGHAL a tha sior fhás beag! Chuala mi dà airthis bho chionn beagan làithean a thug an smuan sin nam chumhine.

Bha seugachd beatha Chatriona NicLéid à Ràns, air Réidio nan Gàidheal, stèidhichte air dà thaobh a' Chuaian an Iar. Bha Catriona den beachd gun tug a pártan mu chola-deug air a' Mhetagama eadar Stòrnabhagh agus Canada ann an 1923. Chunna mi an uairsin seann laoch à Nirribhidh, aig aois 93 bliadhna, a' cuimheachadh air an sgòba a stiùr e gu ruige Telemark ann an 1944 gus ionad Gearmailteach a sgrios. Chan e-a-mhainn gun d' rinn iad sin ach chaidh acair faostainn as sàbhaitic, a' stiubhal 500 cilemetraid gu ruige an t-Stòran.

Bha dà rud sonraichte a bhual orm. Anns a' chìad àite, an t-eadar-dheachadh a' thairg aig an goireasan-sùbhail agus innleachdan conaltraidh am feadh beatha nam daoin sin agus san dàrna h-àite, ceist a thaobh an rheum a thà mac an duine air a dhéanamh leis na leasachaidhean sin. An-drugh e comasach sùbhail ann an cofhurtachd timcheall an tsaothail ann am beagan làithean agus nithear cuairt that a' Chuan Shiar ann am beagan uaircean a thíde. Gu dearbh, cha'n fhor nach eile e a-nise cho furasta dha cailleachan, neo boadaich, falbh air spòrsach dha bùthidh Lunainn! Agus nach math sin! Cha mhòr gum bheil e gu diotra cátte am bheil duine air aghaidh na cruinne, tha innleachdan ann a cheanglas ri saidealan agus a leigeas leis còmhrahdh ri daoine eile an ire mhathead an àite sam bith.

Nam b' ean-drugh an-dè agus gun robh na h-inneachdan sin air a bhith ann aig am dàrna cogaidh mar eisimpleir, saoil dè am feum neo am mi-thueam a bhathas air a dhéanamh leotha? Tha e furasta smaoineachadh gun robh an cogadh a bhith nuàg bhi ghittoir, ach cuideachadh 's docha gun robh an sgorias air a bhith fùi 's nas mothana bha e! Tha na th' air tacairt bho dhereadh an Darna Cogaidh air deurbhadh, a' haindeoin 's mar a tha goireasan a' ciallachadh gu bheil an saighal a sior fhàs beag, nach eil conaltraidh eadar luchd-riaghlaigh dhùthchannan chà' eifeachdach a' dhl'iarraimad. Cha do dh'ionsaich an saighal bho eacraichdhu fluiteach chogaidhean, neo 's dòcha direach gum bheileas a dh'aon ghnothach a cur eolas an dàrna taobh air sgàth sannt neo adhbarhan creideimh is polaitis.

WATCHING ON TELEVISION as the 93 year-old leader of the famous World War 2 Telemark raid remembered his comrades I was struck by the enormous changes that have evolved in that man's lifetime.

How might things have been if even today's travel and communications technology had been available in 1943? While that may have shortened the War the evidence of international diplomacy since then suggests that resources would have been used to inflict even greater destruction.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us at www.aryll-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.aryll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00598/PP	Erection of agricultural shed (part retrospective).	Barranroch Farmhouse Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4OB	Oban Area Office
13/00677/PP	Erection of two detached dwellinghouses with integral garages including formation of vehicular access and installation of wastewater treatment systems	Land South East of Old Schoolhouse Clachd Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dunbeg
13/00717/PP	Installation of modular galvanised steel access ramp	Flat A 39 Glencruitten Drive Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4EJ	Oban Area Office
13/00734/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Croft 4 Brolas Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1JW	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
13/00790/PP	Installation of external steplift and ramp	7 Glenview Dalmally Argyll and Bute PA33 1BE	Sub Post Office Dalmally
13/00834/PP	Erection of new home shopping extension and replacement click and collect canopy (home shopping) in existing car park.	Tesco Stores Ltd Lochgilphead Drive Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4BW	Oban Area Office
13/00853/PPP	Site for the erection of 2 dwelling houses and formation of new access (renewal of planning permission 10/00489/PPP)	Land Southwest of Ulva Cottage Salen Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Arro
13/00869/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse	6 Fearnach Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1JB	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
13/00879/PP	Erection of extensions to existing agricultural shed	Tiree Rural Centre Crossapol Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Tiree Area Office

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00766/LB	Alterations and change of use to form sit in area associated with existing hot food takeaway premises.	13 - 15 George Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5RU	Oban Area Office
13/00862/PP	Change of use of land from roadway to allow parking of trike	Land Adjacent to Piazza North Pier Oban Argyll and Bute	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 Ardriishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.aryll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00812/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and installation of air source heat pump	9 Broom Hill Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7HX	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00843/PP	Alterations and erection of new shop entrance and rear extension to the existing store.	Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura Argyll and Bute PA60 7KS	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura
13/00844/LB	Internal and external alterations, erection of new shop entrance and rear extension to the existing store.	Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura Argyll and Bute PA60 7KS	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: [https://planning.scotland.gov.uk](http://planning.scotland.gov.uk).
The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.
A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

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

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984 ADOPTION OF ROADS

In terms of Section 14(1) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, Argyll and Bute Council propose to add to their List of Public Roads, the following section of road:

Craig Road, Extension Dalmally No.32 - From its former termination, at the gate across the road immediately east of Craig House, extending in an easterly direction to the entrance of Craig Lodge, including the passing places and a 2-metre wide verge or to the nearest boundary fence/wall, whichever comes first, a distance of 460 metres or thereby. The draft adoption certificate together with a plan is available for public inspection during normal office hours inclusive at the offices of:

1. Dalmally Post Office, Main Road, Dalmally;

2. Roads and Amenity Services, Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban.

Any person wishing to object to the proposal should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Roads & Amenity Services, Argyll and Bute Council, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RD, F.A.O Aileen Simpson, by Friday 31st May 2013.

Sandy MacTaggart, Executive Director, Development & Infrastructure Services



Winners at the South West Ross Piping Competition with their trophies

Roy Bridge and Kyle pipers to the fore at annual South West Ross Piping Competition

ROY BRIDGE and Kyle pipers topped the standings at the 47th South West Ross Piping Competition on Saturday.

And the event in Plockton High School Hostel on Saturday provided a very high standard of piping, although entries were slightly down on last year.

Best pipers on the day were Sandy Cameron from Roy

Bridge, who was overall winner in the under-18 section and Connor Kellett from Kyle, who was judged best under-15 competitor.

Sandy was a clear winner after taking first prizes in all three disciplines, the march, strathspey and reel, jig and piobaireachd, but the under-15 was closely contested with Connor,

Frieda McKiggan from Portree and Finlay Cameron from Roy Bridge all winning first prizes.

Connor and Cameron Sharp from Plockton had the same number of points at the end but Connor was given the overall on account of him winning the piobaireachd.

Connor's younger brother, Ciaran, a pupil at Kyle Primary,

won the beginners chanter and Archie MacLean from Edinbane won the advanced chanter.

The novice piping was won by Ryan McAskill from Portree.

The events were judged by Dr. Angus MacDonald from Portree, Karen MacLean from Inverinate and Archie MacLean from Inverness. See full results in next week's Oban Times.

North Lorn cycle path proves popular

ALTHOUGH not complete, the cycle route between North Connel and Barcaldine seems to be proving a hit with locals and tourists alike.

Built by transport charity SusTrans, the path is regularly used by both walkers and casual cyclists alike - and the path's website is regularly getting hits from holidaymakers keen to visit the area.

John Lauder, national director of SusTrans, says the section enjoys some of the most spectacular views seen across the UK, adding that it was already generating more interest than last year.

Mr Lauder said: 'I can honestly say that section is one of the most pretty locations on the national cycle network. People would be amazed by the amount of traffic we get on our website from people looking to find out when the path is completed. Right now they will see it's partially completed but when it is completed there will be loads of people coming along.'

Car dealership delighted with move to Dacia

A MID ARGYLL car dealership has been inundated with interested buyers after introducing its new line of Dacia vehicles.

The budget brand was bought over by Renault last year and has since done well after being introduced to the UK market.

With the cheapest model coming in at under £6,000, several have already been sold since the brand was brought into WD Semple's last month.

A spokesperson said: 'There's been a lot of interest and the cars are really good value. We've sold a couple already and I think they'll do quite well here.'

The AGM of the North Argyll Eventide Association
will be held in North Argyll House, Bealach-an-Righ, Oban at 7pm on Tuesday, 28 May 2013.
All welcome.

OBAN LIFESAVING CLUB AGM
Monday 20th May 2013
6.30pm - 8.30pm
Atlantis Leisure Function Room
ALL WELCOME!

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Alzheimer Scotland Action on Dementia
Oban & Lorn Branch AGM
21st May 2013, 7:15pm in the Carers Centre, Albany Street.

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
Highland Council, Education, Culture & Sport Service are conducting a pre-application consultation on the following development proposal:
Construction of New Primary School with community and sports facilities on land including, and adjacent to, 28 Upper Achintore, on Lundavra Road, Fort William, PH33 6LA.

www.highland.gov.uk

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

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>.

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number Development Address Proposal Description

13/01402/FUL Land to South of Arkraig Cottage, Achintore Road, Fort William Erection of house

13/01486/FUL Cleadele, Campbell Road Banavie, Fort William Erection of double garage

Time period for comments is 14 days.

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX

Email: epanning@highland.gov.uk

69%
of the business community
read the regional press

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press closer to home



Recording for the Jura Lives archive at the old lighthouse station

Island's history project creates work experience on Jura

YOUNGSTERS are being given the opportunity to gain valuable work experience on Jura through the island's history project.

Jura Lives is looking for local children over the age of 12 to take on work experience in an office or recording studio environment, while working towards a Saltire Award. Islay CVS will oversee the programme.

The young people will also receive acknowledgement on the CD that's produced, to coincide with the launch of the island's digital archive of first-hand memories and stories in October.

Through the Centre for Scottish Public Policy's 'Adopt an Intern' scheme, the

project can also offer paid work experience to a recent graduate or current undergraduate student, for up to 3 months.

Jane Carswell, project officer, said: 'The archive will just be like an audio library managed by a database.'

'While all today's students are used to handling fair quantities of digital information, those studying history or records management or music technology should find working with us on the archive particularly interesting.'

Applications are by CV and covering letter through the Adopt an Intern website.

RECRUITMENT

HIGHLAND · F · U · E · L · S · TANKER DRIVER Campbeltown Depot

Highland Fuels Ltd is seeking to recruit a tanker driver operating from our Campbeltown depot.

The successful applicant must hold a minimum LGV category C licence (Class 2). A valid ADR certificate would be beneficial but not essential as Highland Fuels has a full tanker training package available.

We welcome applicants from general haulage wishing to specialise in the transportation of dangerous goods. This role comes with excellent rates of pay and very good working conditions.

The position is full-time working dayshift Monday – Friday, with occasional Saturdays and call outs.

Please e-mail your current CV to

ops@highlandfuels.co.uk or contact our operations department on (01463 245805) for an application form.

Please note that interviews can be held out with work hours if required.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 17th May 2013.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Argyll Resources Group

Gas Depot Clerk/Delivery Driver

This position is both challenging and varied; the ideal candidate must hold a full driving license Heavy lifting of gas bottles involved. You must have good customer care skills, pleasant telephone manner and be computer literate. You should be well organized and able to work on your own initiative. Candidates must have: Driving Licence, ADR Preferable although training can be given Forklift experience preferable although training can be given All interested parties please phone 01631 566370 ask for Graham Greenlees or alternatively e-mail: info@argyllresources.co.uk for an application.

Argyll HomeCare

Argyll HomeCare provides a professional, flexible, reliable and high quality service for those individuals requiring additional support or care at home.

Mid Argyll: Home Care Workers

Full, part time & weekend – (£7.56 per hour plus mileage)

Care experience is desirable but not essential as comprehensive training is provided. Ability to work occasional evenings and weekends is essential. A full driving licence and access to a vehicle is desirable.

For further information and an application pack please email: info@argyllhomecare.co.uk or telephone: 01546 600333

All staff are subject to PVG checks (enhanced disclosure)

Argyll Voluntary Action

Reshaping Care for Older People Programme
Community Resilience; Building capacity in communities and supporting older people through volunteering, time banking and co-production.

This is an opportunity to make a significant impact under the Scottish Government agenda to shift the balance of care for older people.

Argyll Voluntary Action is seeking a committed, dynamic and motivated individual with knowledge of voluntary sector activities to work as part of the Community Resilience programme

supporting older people to engage with their communities, to become involved in their local time bank and through a range of supports to be better enabled to live independently in the homes of their choosing. The post is broad and encompasses a range of initiatives including time banking and volunteer support.

We are currently seeking a Co-ordinator to work flexibly (some weekend and evening working will be involved) and creatively to deliver against agreed targets.

This post will be full time based at our Campbeltown office and covering the Kintyre peninsula.

Closing date 17th May, 2013

For details, outline job description and application form email kathleen@argyrvoluntaryaction.org.uk or telephone 01631 564839 and speak to Kathleen (10am – 1pm, Mon, Tue, Thurs., Friday).

GARDENER, CLEANER, HANDYMAN

Wanted for house in Machrihanish Tel: 01586 810525 or 07774 923181

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times

Operations & Marketing Assistant -

Full time/Permanent

Salaried position, reporting to DGM. Part of Operations Team, supporting Operational and Marketing functions. You will be extremely organised, and experienced in use of Spreadsheets, Powerpoint and Word. Experience in use and management of Social Media would be of benefit. Clean driving licence and ability to travel will be necessary.

Contact: John Forteith or Gabriella MacKenzie for further information and an application form.

Backshift Store Person - Seasonal

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following: be Presentable, Reliable, Hardworking, Conscientious and work as part of a Team. Immediate Start Available (May till Sept)

Contact : Ernie McInnes or Derek McInnes for further information and an application form.

Forteith Foodservice
Glengallain Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG
Tel- (01631) 569 100 www.forteith.co.uk
email: enquiry@forteith.lis.com

Find all these jobs online at our new website

West Coast Jobs



Farm Manager

Loch Hourn

Basic Remuneration Package £35k - £40k

We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Farm Manager at the Company's Seawater site at Loch Hourn.

The successful candidate will be expected to help drive and implement best practice and operational excellence to satisfy the high quality product and environmental standards demanded by our customers. Principle responsibilities will include feed & stock management, harvest & grading planning, asset management, people resource and performance & HSEQ management.

Potential candidates should have experience of three full production cycles in fish farming and have held a supervisory position for at least three years. Initiative, the ability to motivate others, good organisation skills, computer literacy, a strong desire and proven ability to achieve results without close supervision are some of the necessary skills required for this post.

Loch Hourn has a consent of 3300 tonnes and has twelve 120 metre plastic circular pens. Experience of working with this type of pen would be advantageous.

If you feel you have the necessary skills to rise to this challenge, please apply in writing no later than 17th May to: Vicki Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blair Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT.

COOK/ DECKHAND

Kylebhan Charters

Required for a charter vessel.

Catering for small groups.

Operational area from Oban

Please apply in writing to PO Box 89, Oban Times, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

Stockman



Our client is looking for a responsible stockman for their farming and sporting estate near Dalmally in Argyll.

Duties to include:

- Care of 25 Highland Cow fold and 300 Black Face Sheep flock.
- General estate work& maintenance and assistance with sporting activities.

House with 3 Bedrooms. Experience with livestock and farm machinery is essential.

For information/application pack call Donald MacKinnon on 01631 563093 or send your CV to SAC Consulting, Glencruitten Rd, Oban, PA34 4DW or email your details to donald.mackinnon@sac.co.uk

Closing date for applications 17 May 2013

MACLEOD

MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

REQUIRE

MATERIAL PROCUREMENT CO-ORDINATOR

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT WILL BE REQUIRED TO NEGOTIATE WITH SUPPLIERS AND LIAISE WITH SITE STAFF; ENSURE DELIVERY TARGETS ARE MET; MAINTAIN AN EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATIVE AND FILING SYSTEM

APPLICATIONS IN WRITING AND/OR CV TO MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LTD KILMORY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LOCHGILPHEAD, PA31 8RR. OR e-mail – lil@mkmacleod.co.uk

ASSISTANT CASHIER - LEGAL

Part-time position (17.5 hours per week, flexible), within Campbeltown Office, suited to bright, trustworthy person.

The ideal applicant will have significant book-keeping experience, not necessarily in legal office context, and will be willing to work longer hours occasionally as cover for Cashier.

Applications in writing, by Tuesday 14 May 2013, to Iain Ferguson, Staff Partner.

STEWART BALFOUR & SUTHERLAND,
Solicitors, 2 Castlehill, Campbeltown, PA28 6AW
01586 552871.

Temporary Seasonal Guides - £8.01

Oban Distillery Visitor Centre, a five star Scottish Tourist Board attraction and the home of Oban Single Malt Whisky, are looking to recruit Temporary Seasonal Guides to carry out tours of the Distillery for visitors.

We are looking to recruit confident individuals who should possess a high standard of communication and customer service skills with the ability to work within a team. You will need to have a flexible approach to hours of work over a seven day working week and some evening work is also integral to this role.

Interested candidates should call 0141 272 8104 and ask for Andrea Verrall of Brightwork Ltd. Interviews will be held locally.

Brightwork Ltd offers the services of an employment agency for permanent work and an employment business for temporary work.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Advertising Sales Executive

BASED IN OBAN

**£ Excellent Basic + £ Bonus + Private Health Care
+ Pension + Good Holidays**

Based in our Oban office the successful applicant will be part of a small team selling advertising and features for our well established, award winning publications.

You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships. The successful applicant will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort.

Please apply by email with full C.V and covering letter to:
ali@obantimes.co.uk

Trainee Housing Officer (Temporary)

Post Graduate Study Opportunity

£19,271 - £20,457

Lorn House, Oban Ref: CMC00521

SEN Assistant (Temporary, part time)

£15,639 - £17,099

Rockfield Primary School Ref: CME02041

27.5 hours per week

Clerical Assistant (Temporary)

£14,307 - £15,165

Campbeltown Ref: CTC00069

Janitor/Cleaner (Temporary, part time)

£13,427 - £14,662

Kilchattan Primary Ref: CME35266

9 hours per week

Catering Assistant (Temporary, part time)

£13,427 - £14,662

Oban Joint Campus Ref: CTF00919

10 hours per week

01546 604334



Closing date: 17 May 2013.

To apply visit our website

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

EDITOR

Fish Farmer Magazine & Websites

Fish Farmer

Competitive Salary + Subsidised Pension
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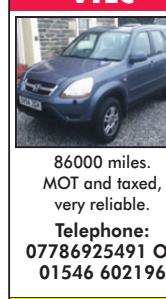
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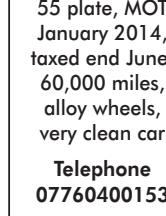
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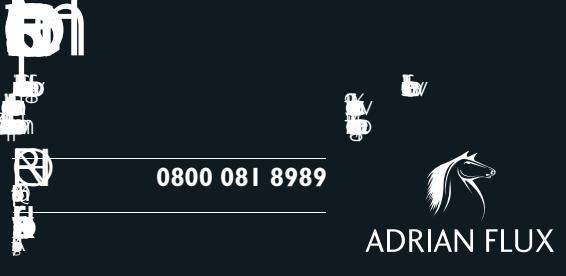


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PERSONALS

I would like to thank my family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for the visits, cards and gifts during my recent illness. Thanks also to all staff in the Lomond Islands Oban and the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow. A huge thank you to our special friends for their fantastic support over the past 6 months to me, Morvern, Emma and David. Moran Taing Dhuibh Uile. Murdo MacLeod

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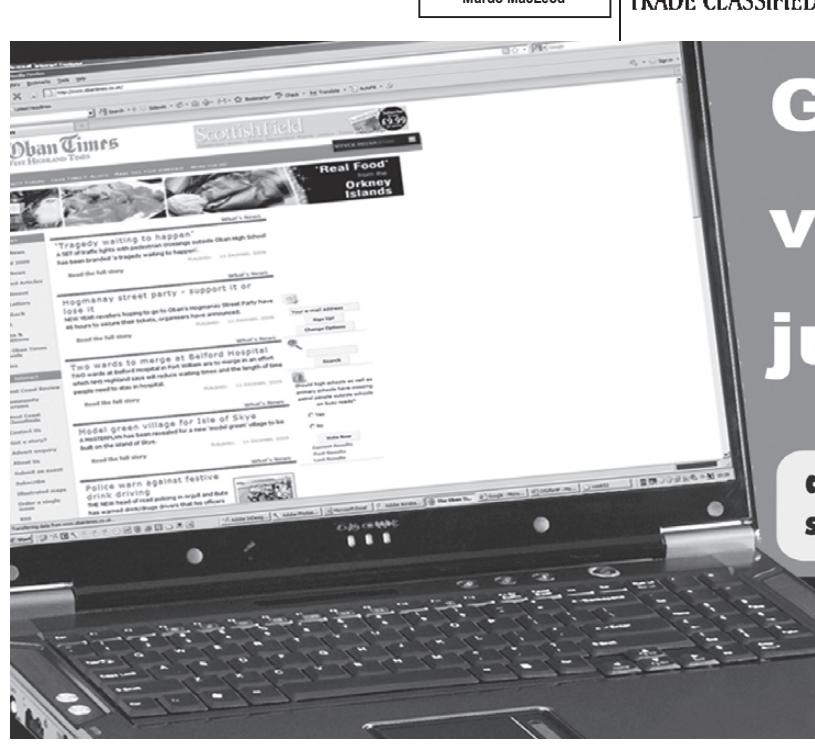
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BIRTHS

CARSON - MACKAY - Steven and Donna are delighted to announce the birth of Ìñnes James John Carson on April 23, 2013. Twelfth grandchild for Elizabeth Carson and the late Jim Carson and first grandchild for John and Irene MacKay. Thanks to all maternity staff at Oban and Paisley.

MARRIAGES

YOUNG - HAUGHTON - At St Mary's Church, Glencoe on April 20, 2013, Mhairi, only daughter of Donald and Jane, Glencoe, to Ewan, only son of Ken and Margaret, Clackmannan. A wonderful day was had by all.

DEATHS

KELLY - Catherine Margaret (Cathy), née MacColl, died peacefully at her home in South Achinduin, Lismore, on the April 26, 2013, aged 79 years. Wife of the late Bill Kelly, loving mother and grandmother. Will be sadly missed.

KING - Peacefully at home, with his family at his side, Hugh, aged 77 years, beloved husband of the late Andrea (Cameron), much loved and loving father and father-in-law and doting Papa to his ten grandchildren. Funeral service to be held at Duror Church, on Friday, May 3, at 1.00 p.m., thereafter at Duror Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retrial collection for Cancer Research UK.

MACKENZIE - Peacefully in her 99th year, at the Mackintosh Centre, Mallig, on April 26, 2013, Johanna (Joey) MacKenzie, of Kilmory, Ardnamurchan, a much loved aunt, great-aunt and great-great-aunt, she will be missed by many. Funeral service on Thursday, May 2, at 2pm in Ardnamurchan Parish Church, Kilchoan, to which all are invited.

MCLENNAN - Peacefully, with his family around him, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on April 24, 2013, in his 83rd year, Donnie, much loved husband of Margaret, a devoted dad, granda and great granda. The family would like to thank Dr Fattah and all the staff of ward B for their kind care and attention.

ROXBOROUGH - Mary Cormick (née MacNeill), of Adderbury, Oxfordshire. Suddenly at home on April 22, 2013 aged 87 years. Beloved wife of the late Jim, dearly loved mother to Iain, Tinka, Jan and Innes and a much loved grandmother. All enquiries c/o: D L Hancock Funeral Directors Ltd, Bicester Tel (01869) 244200.

MEMORIAMS

GALBRAITH - James (Jim), May 6, 2011. Deep in our hearts you will always stay Loved and remembered in everyway No tears no verse can ever say How much we miss you everyday.

We never ask for miracles But today just one would do To see the front door open and See our Dad walk through. All our love always.

- Sue, Heidi, Calum and family.

MACKECHNIE - In loving memory of our dear parents Catherine MacCallum, who died on March 6, 1953 at Ardsignish and John, died April 29, 1972 at Kilmalieu, Ardgour.

Tenderly we treasure the past With memories that forever last.

- Shared by the family.

MACKENZIE - Joan. Treasured wife and loving mother. Remembered every day.

- Norman, Doreen and Annette.

MACKINNON - In loving memory of my dear husband, father and grandfather Neil, who passed away on April 30, 1991.

Always remembered - Jessie, David, Eileen, Lisa, Helen and John and great grandson James.

MACKINNON - In loving memory of my dear granny Dolina Marnoch, died May 4, 2006.

The years we spent together Those happy days we knew Are lived again so often In my memories of you Loved and missed.

- From the Boy.

MACLEOD - In ever loving memory of my son Donald M. MacLeod, who passed away on May 9, 2012 aged 48 years.

Those we love remain with us For love itself lives on. Cherished memories never fade Because a loved one's gone Those we love can never be More than a thought apart For as long as there is memory They'll live on in our heart.

- Loved always mum Peigi, Cairin and Martin.

MACLEOD - In memory of our darling nephew and cousin Donald, died May 9, 2012. When someone you love, becomes a memory The memory becomes a treasure.

- Auntie Cathy Ann, Uncle Ray, Isla, Craig and families.

McAFFER - In loving memory of a dear uncle and great-uncle John, who passed away May 4, 2009. Also a dear mother and

granny Annie who passed away May 15, 1990. No longer in our lives to share. Loved and remembered every day.

- Dugie, Teen and Angela.

RUSSELL - Treasured loving memories of Martin Donald. We miss your quirky smile and humour.

Your gentle quiet unassuming ways.

The eloquent voice we loved to hear, now it is tears.

In our thoughts all of our days.

- Mum and Dad, Rachael, William and the boys.

RUSSELL - In loving memory of our dear brother Martin who passed away May 1, 2012.

I miss you so very much.

And my tears I cannot hide,

Life and time we cannot share but in my heart you always there.

- Love Rachael and Alex.

RUSSELL - Dear God please look after Uncle Martin in heaven.

- Love from, William, Duncan, Alexander, Hayley and Billy.

TAYLOR - Cherished memories of a loving dad and grandpa, William, who passed away on May 5, 1992.

A beautiful memory

Dearer than gold

Of a dad whose worth can be never told

There's a place in our hearts

No one can fill

We miss you dad and always will.

- Shona, Eilidh, Ryan and Zoe, Steven, Christina, Lauren and Danielle, Tony, Janice and William.

TAYLOR - Remembering always with love my darling husband William, who passed away May 5, 1992.

Every day in some small way

Memories of you come my way

Though absent you are always near

Loved and remembered every day.

- Violet.

CHURCH NOTICES**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**

Sunday 5 May 2013

Rogation Sunday

St John's Cathedral, Oban

Holy Communion.....08:00

Combined Mattins and Eucharist.....10:15

Children's Corner

Loop System

Large Print Hymn Books

All Welcome

Nicki McNeilly, Provost.

(01631) 562323

Kilbrandon Kirk

Holy Eucharist.....15:15

St James, Ardbrecknish,

Cladieh

Mattins followed by Holy

Eucharist.....11:00

Holy Cross, Portnacross,

Appin

Evensong.....18:00

A cordial welcome to people

from any church or none

St Columba, Grulin, Mull

Holy Communion.....11:00

St Columba,

Bishop's House, Iona

Holy Eucharist.....08:00

Evensong.....20:15

Holy Eucharist

.....Wed 8 May 14:30

Thursday 9 May 2013

Ascension Day

St John's Cathedral, Oban

Sung Eucharist.....19:30

Oban Bach Choir & Orchestra:

Mozart's Coronation Mass

.....Tuesdays followed by

Holy Communion.....10:15

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Oban Bach Choir & Orchestra:

Young players show their skills at rugby festival

JUNIOR players served up some fantastic rugby at Lochaber RFC's Mini Dalriada Festival as 120 children from P3 to P7 enjoyed a great day of sport at Banavie on Sunday.

Cheered on by mums, dads and supporters on the sidelines, teams from Etive Vikings in Taynuilt, Helensburgh Comets and the home club battled it out for honours in P4/5 and P6/7 tournaments.

And Lochaber had plenty to

celebrate as they defeated Etive Vikings by three tries to nil in an exciting P4/5 final.

Helensburgh Comets, meanwhile, ensured their long trip from the Clyde was more than worthwhile when they edged out Etive Vikings by three tries to two in another pulsating encounter.

Coaching

During the tournament, P3s from all the clubs came together for a fun training session and a

game in the corner next to the clubhouse, together with expert coaching to improve their game.

Memorable

In a packed clubhouse after the event, Finlay Clark of Bidwell's presented the winners with medals while Lochaber RFC youth convenor Gary Hendrie - one of the referees on the day - thanked all involved for making the occasion so memorable.

Main event organiser, Lochaber community coach Laura Davies,

YOUTH RUGBY

told *The Oban Times*: 'There was no shortage of skill today. Our Lochaber P6/7s showed continued skill improvement all the way through the tournament and the P4/5 team remained unbeaten to make it all the way through to the final - and won the game.'

She added: 'The club would like to thank everyone who made the festival a success.'



Taynuilt Etive Vikings' Finn Charlton breaks through the Helensburgh defence. 20_f18rugby03



Above: Champs! It's joy for Lochaber Rugby Club P4/5 team after defeating Etive Vikings by three tries to nil. 20_f18rugby02



Lochaber's Jack Hamilton claims the ball in a hard-fought encounter with Etive Vikings in the P6/7 tournament. 20_f18rugby09

Right: Lochaber's Cameron Davis eludes the tackle from Euan Shearer of Etive Vikings. 20_f18rugby08



Etive Vikings' Louis MacFarlane sidesteps his Helensburgh opposite number. 20_f18rugby06



Etive Vikings' Blair MacFarlane gets down low to halt Lochaber's Cameron Davis. 20_f18rugby07



Lochaber P4/5s, front, and Helensburgh P6/7s celebrate after winning their respective tournaments. 20_f18rugby05



Etive Vikings' Fergus Taylor, left, from Appin, caught the eye with his strong running. 20_f18rugby10



Lochaber's Dylan Monk, who impressed throughout the tournament, gets his pass away against Helensburgh. 20_f18rugby04



Etive Vikings' Blair MacFarlane moves in to tackle Lochaber's Alan Hamilton. 20_f18rugby11

Lochaber's Ronnie Fulford offloads a pass despite being tackled by Helensburgh defenders. 20_f18rugby05

Oban High School pupils do well in World Orienteering Championships

FIVE Oban High School pupils returned home last week from the World Schools Orienteering Championships near Faro, Portugal, having done their school and Scotland proud with world-beating performances.

Emma Baird and Roanne Lilley's solid runs over the week were boosted by some even more impressive performances from their team mates to earn the team silver position overall. The Scottish girls dominated this class but faced stiff competition from the Austrians who bettered their combined time by only eight minutes over the two qualifying races. However, Scotland were 12 minutes up on Spain and England who fought a closely contested third and fourth place respectively.

Meanwhile, Callum Hunter clocked the best position of all five Oban athletes with an impressive 10th place in the younger boys' middle distance race early in the week. Then it was his, and fellow team mates Jamie Peden and Tom Lines, top 30 places in the long distance race that earned Scotland, and Oban High School, a creditable 7th place overall in this category. They were up against some home advantage for Portugal who took gold in their

ORIENTEERING

class followed by New Zealand and China boys teams in silver and bronze positions. The five had little time to acclimatise to the 30+°C heat and sandy conditions underfoot. Roanne commented: 'I found myself running under any shade I could find to keep myself cool. Finishing on the sandy beach was strength sapping but at least it allowed a refreshing dip in the sea at the end of the race!'

The organisers kept the athletes fully entertained whilst they were not competing with a spectacular Olympics-style opening ceremony and a cultural exchange day.

The Scottish team donned their kilts and danced to the pipes as their cultural offering and then enjoyed meeting and swapping national mementos with other national teams. The Chinese, in particular, were really keen to meet the Scots and try out their English language skills!

They all returned to Scotland very tired but excited after their trip; accomplished athletes as well as excellent ambassadors for their school, country and sport.



Oban High School members of the Scottish Schools Orienteering Squad show off their medals from the World Schools Championships in Portugal. Left to right: Boys: Jamie Peden, Callum Hunter, Tom Lines. Girls: Emma Baird and Roanne Lilley.

Young Mull driver takes on the Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge

TOBERMORY'S young rally ace took on the second round of the 2013 Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge at the DCC Ingliston Stages last weekend.

Alasdair Currie, 15, was alongside long-term co-driver Mark Runciman, who said: 'Alasdair drove exceptionally well today. We had a few big sideways moments but the Muileach responded quickly enough which resulted in some competitive stage times.'

The teen was backed by John Macdonald Transport, Western Isles Hotel, Howford Hydraulics, Forge Construction and Badraich Self Catering.

Alasdair took on the race in a 54bhp Citroen AX. He said: 'The old AX handles very well which allowed me to be neat and quick through the challenging Ingliston stages to hold off the Micras, however, when we were onto the straights we were lacking power.'

Mark and Alasdair are seventh overall in the provisional results, with the final results yet to be published.

Next up for the Tobermory teen is the GMSC Crail summer stages on June 15 which is a very quick rally.

'We may have to take into



Alasdair Currie at the Ingliston Stages. Picture by webspics.co.uk.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL COMPETITION



WIN £550

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

I Wilson, Aonachan Grdns, Spean Bridge
M Kennedy, Lanark Place, Fort William

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavallin, 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 decline the competition null and void at any time subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the value of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please tape your £1 coin here

Name
Address
..... Tel No.



LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



Camanachd Cup first round ties this weekend

'It will take more than a bloody nose to stop me from playing.' - Kevin Toye

NEWTONMORE have moved ominously back to the top of the league and will look to increase their advantage this Saturday by defeating a Fort William still reeling from last weekend's heavy loss to Lovat.

Unbeaten 'More are back at the summit of the Orion Group Premiership and have a game in hand on their three nearest rivals.

But manager PJ MacKintosh told *The Oban Times* he would not underestimate Fort, despite their recent poor form.

He said: 'We always struggle against Fort William. They are a physical side, they're quick and they won't lie down for anyone.'

Chris Sellar played for 20 minutes against Inveraray but is likely to miss out this weekend, as will Michael Ritchie. Paul MacArthur is expected to make an appearance for the second team as he makes his way back to full fitness.

MacKintosh's side proved too strong for the early season pacers Inveraray at the Winterton last Saturday.

Michael Russell opened the scoring, before two second half goals from Danny MacRae and one from Chris Sellar secured an impressive victory.

MacKintosh said: 'It was really good. We are coping well with all the injuries.'

FORT WILLIAM are licking their wounds after last weekend's 6-0 home thumping by Lovat - and now face a daunting away fixture at Orion Group Premiership leaders Newtonmore.

The An Aird men were desperately unlucky not to prevail on their last visit to The Eilan, but ever since that fiery MacTavish Cup encounter Fort have struggled for consistency.

They had first half chances with wind advantage against Lovat but failed to take any - and Lovat made them pay as Greg Matheson scored four and Lorne MacKay and Kevin Bartlett one each.

Now coaches Adi Robertson and Victor Smith must pick the team up for the clash with 'More as picking up points to stave off relegation fears becomes ever more important.

GLENURQUHART will face off against Kingussie at Blairbeg Park this Saturday, with both sides looking for a win to close the gap on the top teams.

The Drumadrochit side sit two points behind Kings, but have found some form in recent weeks.

Manager Fraser Mackenzie told *The Oban Times* he anticipated a difficult encounter.

He said: 'Kingussie have got good guys in charge. They've got a young team with pace so it'll be a tough game. Hopefully if we play as well as we can we can get a result.'

'Newtonmore are looking like they might run away with it at the top, but below that anyone can beat anyone, especially in the middle of the league.'

Glen downed Oban 2-0 last weekend, with Neale Reid and David Smart getting the goals.

MacKenzie said: 'We were the better team I think, but both sides had opportunities to score but we took ours and they didn't. We were happy to get the two points down there away from home.'

'That's two weeks in a row we could have played better but we got the win, so you've got to be happy with that.'

KINGUSSIE will be looking to carry on from their comeback win against Kyles Athletic last weekend when they visit Glenurquhart on Saturday.

Russell Jones' men made it four wins from six games with a Fraser Munro strike and a Rory Borthwick brace giving them a win after falling 2-0 behind after just 15 minutes.

Jones told *The Oban Times*: 'We started off really poorly, we seemed to be lacking confidence

in the first 30 minutes. But after we got the goal just before half time it seemed to spark us and give us a boost and we were first to every ball.'

'The defence has been playing well. It was unlike us to lose two early goals like that.'

'Glenurquhart are always tricky, they are a good, good team. In the last couple of years all our matches against them have been tough games.'

Lee Bain, Ryan Borthwick and Rory MacKeagan all missed the game, but Jones said both sides were missing important players.

He said: 'To be fair Kyles were in the same boat, like everyone seems to be. I don't know if anyone is playing with their full squad just now.'

OBAN CAMANACHD coach Gussie Campbell is to attempt to bring Fraser Inglis back from retirement for this weekend's game against Lochaber after yet another fruitless display from his forwards on Saturday.

Oban suffered a 2-0 defeat at the hands of the visiting Glenurquhart, making it the third league game in succession their team has failed to score.

Describing this weekend's game against fellow strugglers Lochaber as 'must win' Campbell admitted he was getting frustrated.

He joked: 'I'll tell the boys I'll take them down to Newcastle for a weekend of drink all expenses paid if we win!'

'It's getting frustrating though. In fairness to the boys they were good but you need to take your chances at this level.'

'Fraser has been coaching with us but I'm going to try and persuade him to come back. I'm not saying he'll guarantee us goals but he'll enhance our chances.'

'Lochaber aren't coming here to be bystanders. They're in the same boat as us so it's a must-win for us.'

LOCHABER and Oban Camanachd will go head-to-head in a game which could have a huge impact on the relegation battle.

The sides occupy the bottom two slots in the Orion Group Premiership, having only picked up two points each so far.

Lochaber interim manager Callum Cameron told *The Oban Times* he was expecting an entertaining match.

He said: 'I think it'll be a cracker of a match. It'll probably be end to end stuff, that's how both teams like to play. If we can win, it would be a huge two points for us.'

'We're definitely looking to go down there and get a result. It would get us away from the bottom and pull other teams into the relegation area.'

Lochaber have struggled for goals on their return to the top flight, but managed three against Lovat two weeks ago in the MacTavish Cup quarter final.

Cameron said: 'When you're not scoring it can get into your head, but we managed to get three against Lovat next Saturday, who currently sit third in the league on ten points.'

SHINTY

KINLOCHSHIEL take on Orion Group Premiership joint leaders Inveraray with their squad in much better shape after last weekend's break, which gave key players a much-needed opportunity to recover from injury.

Johnston Gill's men are a match for most when all their top men are available and fit but can dip in form without them - so the respite came just in time.

'Things are looking better for us on the injury front,' Gill told *The Oban Times*. 'We have more guys available to us now and we'll be able to put them in the right places on the pitch to get a result against Inveraray.'

'Hopefully I will have the chance to move the squad about a wee bit because in the last few weeks I've had to play some of the guys out of their preferred positions.'

Inveraray are joint top of the league and we need every player to Tighnabruich on Saturday knowing a win over Kyles would make them real contenders for the Orion Group Premiership title.

The Kiltartan men have been the division's draw specialists so far - but Saturday's 6-0 hammering of Fort William at An Aird left observers in no doubt of their championship potential.

Coach Allan MacRae told *The Oban Times*: 'Kyles will be another hard game - it's always difficult down there. They will be disappointed with their result last Saturday so I'm sure they will come out with all guns blazing.'

MacRae, however, has his feet planted firmly on the ground as Lovat had momentum.

He said: 'We are just delighted to be up there in the top half of the league. We are not thinking about the title just now - Newtonmore are the hot favourites.'

Midfielder Craig Mainland should be recovered from a leg knock sustained against the Fort but Duncan Davidson remains sidelined with a niggling back problem.

The league leaders of North Division 1 and South Division 1 meet in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup first round at Canal Park on Saturday.

Hosts **KILMALLIE** welcome Glasgow Mid Argyll and are likely to have Kevin Toye in goal once again, despite the talismanic keeper taking a shinty ball full on the nose in last weekend's 5-3 win over Caberfeidh.

'It's been a good season. We've got a bit of breathing space early doors and we're still in the race.

'Against Newtonmore I think we were beaten before we got on the park, we didn't believe in ourselves. After that second half performance, they should start believing.'

Coach Duncan Kelly said: 'It was a great stop but we were the better side after that,' said Garry, who believes his side can still make a march towards the title, starting with this weekend's visit to Kinlochshiel.

'It's been a good season. We've got a bit of breathing space early doors and we're still in the race.

'Against Newtonmore I think we were beaten before we got on the park, we didn't believe in ourselves. After that second half performance, they should start believing.'

'Kinlochshiel is a wee, tight park and it might suit them. They've had some good results and some bad results. It's a big test but I'd like to take something from that game.'

KYLES will be hoping for a reversal in fortunes after defeat against Kingussie left them three points adrift of top spot in the Premiership, with Newtonmore still having a game in hand.

Roberto Zavarino put the visitors two nil up against Kingussie, but a second half collapse gave the hosts all the points and sees them move onto the same points total as Kyles at Portree in the Balfiemoor.

If Kyles are to get their championship race back on track they'll have to defeat Caberfeidh - it boosts your confidence. Our club captain John Stewart came on



Inveraray's Douglas Dando and Newtonmore's Chris Sellar in a tussle for the ball during last Saturday's Orion Premiership match held at the Winterton, Inveraray. Photograph by Stephen Lawson.



Results

Saturday 27 April

Aberdein Considine
Sutherland Cup 2nd Round
Newtonmore 10 - 2 Kyles Ath
Fort William 3 - 1 Glenurquhar
Kingussie 1 - 3 Ballachulish
Beauly 1 - 5 Lovat
Glengarry P - P Ardnamurchan
Ardnamurchan unable to field a team walkover to Glengarry
Inveraray 3 - 4 Lochcarron
Kilmallie 1 - 6 Lochaber
Col Glen 0 - 5 Lochside Rovers

Orion Group Premiership

Fort William 0 - 6 Lovat
Inveraray 1 - 4 Newtonmore
Kingussie 3 - 2 Kyles Athletic
Oban Caman 0 - 2 Glenurquhart

Marine Harvest

North Division 1
Inverness 1 - 9 Beauly
Kilmallie 5 - 3 Caberfeidh
Skye 4 - 3 Strathglass

Marine Harvest

South Division 1
Aberdour 2 - 0 Oban Celtic
Bute 5 - 0 Taynuilt
Glasgow MA 3 - 0 Glenorchy
Kilmory 1 - 3 Strachur

Marine Harvest

North Division 2
A'dean Uni 2 - 2 Kinlochshiel

Marine Harvest

South Division 2
Aberdour 1 - 2 Tayforth

Bute 3 - 1 Glasgow Mid Argyll

Marine Harvest

North Division 3
Caberfeidh 3 - 1 Inverness
Strathspey 2 - 6 Lochbroom

Camanachd Association

Youth Results
Marine Harvest Under 17 League

- London Shield
Fort William 15 - 0 G'ow MA
Lovat 1 - 6 Lochcarron
Lochaber 4 - 1 Skye
Beauly 0 - 3 Glenurquhart
Newtonmore 5 - 0 Kilmallie

Marine Harvest

Under 14 League
Newtonmore P - P Caberfeidh
Unplayable Field
Fort William 2 - 4 Glenurquhart
Skye B 0 - 1 Kinlochshiel
Beauly 10 - 0 Strathglass

Marine Harvest

9-a-side League
Milngavie 2 - 3 Inveraray
Oban Caman 10 - 0 Oban Celtic
Ballachulish P - P Kyles
Unplayable Field

Fixtures

Saturday 4 May

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup
1st Round

Beauly v Strathglass

Ewan Macrae - 3pm
Caberfeidh v Oban Celtic

Graham Cameron

Inverness v Glenorchy
Neil Ferguson - 3pm
Kilmallie v Glasgow MA

Billy Wotherspoon - 3pm
Kilmory v Strachur

Dougie Cameron

Taynuilt v Skye

Dunkie Kerr

Orion Group Premiership

Glenurquhart v Kingussie
Innes Wood

Kinlochshiel v Inveraray
Deek Cameron

Kyles Athletic v Lovat

Daniel MacRae - 3pm
Newtonmore v Fort William

Colin MacDonald

Oban Camanachd v Lochaber

David Mitchell

Marine Harvest

North Division 1
Lochside Rovers v Aberdour

Ronnie Campbell

Marine Harvest

North Division 2
Beauly v Kinlochshiel

John Angus Gillies - 12 pm
Fort William v Newtonmore

Lachie Wood

Kingussie v Glenurquhart
Euan Pearson

Lovat v Glengarry

Calum Girvan

Skye v Aberdeen University

John Matheson

Marine Harvest

South Division 2
Boleskine 6 - 6 0 0 27 0 12

Ballachulish

7 5 0 1 23 15 9

Inveraray

5 3 0 2 15 14 6

Saints pay the penalty in Centenary Cup final

Wednesday April 24

Centenary Cup Final

Oba Saints 0

Alba Thistle 0

(Alba win 5-4 on penalties)
MILLBURN Park, Alexandria, home of Vale of Leven Junior FC, was the venue for the Centenary Cup final between Oban Saints and Alba Thistle played last Wednesday evening.

Saints started the better of the two teams and put pressure on the Alba defence right from the first whistle. A good move set up by Marc MacCallum sent Myles McAuley clear on the right and his cross was met by Dene Cassells, but his header sailed over the bar.

The Oban side set up another chance in the 25th minute when Willie Gemmell and Dene Cassells combined to set up Myles McAuley but he blasted his shot over the bar when it looked easier to score. Thankfully for Myles his blushes were spared as the linesman had his flag up for offside.

Both teams never really got into their stride during the game as they cancelled each other out and as a result the cup final was rather disappointing with few goalmouth incidents.

Saints had a claim for a penalty in the 31st minute for a hand ball in the Alba box, but referee Gordon Hay wasn't interested.

Donald Campbell had a shot which wasn't all that far away in the 44th minute, but the half time whistle arrived with the scoreline blank.

Alba started off the second half in the ascendancy and had Saints pinned back and the Oban side have Myles McAuley to thank for heading a net-bound shot off the line.

The Paisley side were much the better team as the half wore on as Saints just couldn't get to grips with the game and the Jags were unlucky with an effort that went narrowly past the post.

Saints were very unlucky not to take the lead in the 76th minute when Ross Maitland dinked the ball over the Alba central defenders for Donald Campbell, standing unmarked in the box, but Donald's shot hit the bar with the goalkeeper rooted to the spot - what a let off for the Paisley side.

Referee Gordon Hay blew for full time a few minutes later and as the Centenary Cup rules don't allow for extra time it was down to the dreaded penalty shoot-out.

Saints won the toss and elected to take the first spot kick - Asen Gaydardzhiev scored; Daniel Cassells saves first Alba penalty; Willie Gemmell's spot kick-saved; Daniel Cassells saves second Alba penalty; Donald Campbell scores for Saints; Alba score; Mattie Rippin scores; Alba score; If Eddie Swift scores Saints will win the Centenary Cup. Unfortunately for Eddie his kick is saved; Alba score. It's now sudden death - Dene Cassells scores; Alba score; Myles McAuley's spot-kick hits the post; Alba score - it's all over

for Saints. Manager Iain Jackson was bitterly disappointed. He said: We just didn't turn up tonight, I was very disappointed in the way we played, we just never got going. In saying that, Alba are an excellent young side and will be a good addition to the SAFL Premier Division next season.'

Saturday April 27
Scottish Amateur League
Premier Division

Rolls Royce EK 2
Oban Saints 2

SAINTS travelled to The Murray in East Kilbride to take on Rolls Royce in a Premier Division league match and how the Oban side contrived to throw away a 2-0 half time lead only the players can answer as they turned in a very poor second half performance.

Saints took the lead in the 17th minute when Marc MacCallum broke from the defence and his forward was missed by Rolly central defender Keiron Miller. The ball fell kindly for Donald Campbell who wasted no time in blasting his shot past the helpless home goalkeeper Ronnie Greenan.

The Oban side increased their lead in the 25th minute when Ross Maitland fired over a cracking corner from the right and Dene Cassells was on hand to head the ball home past a rather static looking Rolls Royce defence.

The half time whistle arrived with Saints good value for their

2-0 half time lead but what a difference the second 45 minutes was going to be. From being well in control in the first half, Saints were dealt a harsh lesson in the second with the home team roaring back into the game.

It was no surprise then when Rolls Royce pulled a goal back. A crisp passing move ended up with the ball being played to Paul Innes, who had a great second half for Rolly. The wee midfielder teased the Saints back line before striking a great right foot shot into the net off Daniel Cassells' right hand post.

Saints came back into the game and Donald Campbell had a great opportunity when he was played through by Willie Gemmell, but his shot was saved by Ronnie Greenan - a good chance missed.

Saints had the perfect opportunity to kill the game off when they were awarded a penalty after Dene Cassells was sent clean through the middle, but was brought down in the box

by Rolls Royce defender John MacMillan who was shown his second yellow card of the match, followed by the inevitable red. Donald Campbell was entrusted with the penalty, but he fluffed his shot and the spot-kick was saved by the keeper - what a let-off for Rolly.

With the home side down to ten men you would have thought Saints would have been able to see the game out or perhaps go on and increase their lead, but again they lost a poor goal when Kevin Wilson was allowed far too much space and the Rolly front man thumped a shot in off the post to make the score 2-2.

Manager Iain Jackson was raging after the game and he blasted his players for what he described as 'totally unacceptable' second half performance.

This weekend Saints play two games, both at Glencruitten. On Saturday they take on title rivals Aikenhead Thistle and on Sunday face Eaglesham. Both games kick-off at 2pm.



No way through for Donald Campbell as he tussles for the ball with this Alba defender. Photos: Stephen Lawson



Every picture tells a story - Willie Gemmell can't believe it as his penalty kick is saved.



The young Saints' squad: Jamie Turner, Daniel Sloss, Cammy Clark, Aaron MacKay, Sam Coates, Lewis Campbell, Aidan Macphee, Lennon Campbell, Gavin Forgrieve, Jude Bain and Euan Logan.

Young Saints at Murray Park

YOUTH FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints 2002's pictured with their coaches Brian Forgrieve, Peter Bain and Kenny Campbell after playing against Glasgow Rangers at Murray Park.

The Saints boys were invited to Murray Park after a successful trip to a tournament in Helensburgh the previous week where they played well enough to be asked along to take on the Glasgow giants at Murray Park.

The group all enjoyed the experience playing against excellent opposition and certainly learned a great deal.

They boys did themselves proud and were rewarded with a private tour around the Academy after playing three games against three different Rangers sides.



Golf club and carpet bowls hold joint social and prizegiving

GOLF/BOWLS

ISLE OF Seil Golf Club's 3 Club Competition was won by Mary Phillips; 2nd was John Taylor.

In the two nine-hole competitions, the Greensomes was won by Mary Phillips and Ian Galloway and the Mixed Texas Scramble winners were Isobelle Smith, Brien Dickey and Mark McDougall.

Left: The golf club held a joint social and prizegiving with Easdale Carpet Bowls Club on April 26. It was an evening enjoyed by everyone.

GOLF

AFTER a four month lay up from golf as a result of a broken finger Graham Davidson won the Western Isles Trophy.

Results: 1 Graham Davidson 32 points; 2 Iain Wilshire 32 points; 3 William MacCrone 31 points.

Taynuilt

GENTS: Team Trophy Qualifier + Medal April 28 - 1 Fraser Inglis 58 (7); 2 Kenny MacGregor 62 (19); 3 Mark Grant 64 (17); 4 Ian MacMillan 64 (11).

Ladies: Altmacree Trophy 1st Rd + Medal 23 April 2013 - 1 Moira MacVicar 66 (33); 2 Carol MacDougall 69 (29); 3 Carol MacLarty 72 (18).

Islay

HUNTER Trophy played April 24: 1 Brian O'Neil 40 pts; 2 Graeme Hamilton 39 pts; 3 Colin Robertson 38 pts. Ciss 68.

Weather

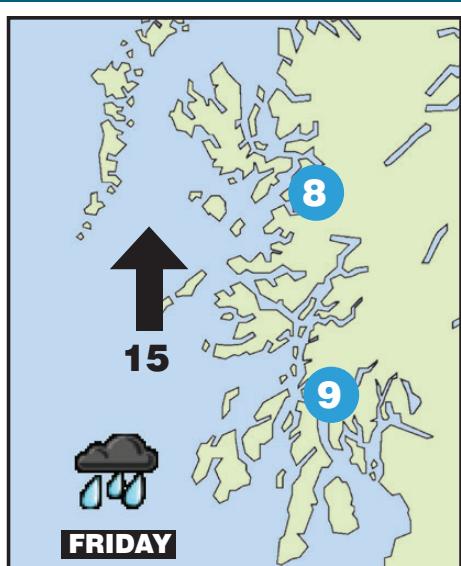
Thursday Light rain
Winds light, south south easterly
Temperatures 5°C to 8°C

Friday Heavy rain
Winds moderate, southerly
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C.

Weekend Outlook Sunshine and showers
Winds moderate, south south westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist
Oban to Coll/Tiree
Kennacraig to Islay

Moderate
Moderate
Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from

Thursday, May 2, 2013

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.46 1.2 10.35 2.8 17.10 1.2 23.26 3.1	
Fri	05.58 1.3 12.31 2.7 18.26 1.3 **.* *.*	
Sat	01.10 3.1 07.18 1.4 14.05 2.8 19.45 1.3	
Sun	02.21 3.2 08.33 1.3 15.06 3.0 20.54 1.2	
Mon	03.14 3.4 09.29 1.2 15.42 3.2 21.49 1.1	
Tues	03.56 3.5 10.12 1.1 16.13 3.4 22.35 1.0	
Wed	04.33 3.6 10.50 1.0 16.46 3.6 23.16 0.9	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardriishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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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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Search for missing fisherman



HIMDF to celebrate 30th in style

SPORTS NEWS
Full shinty round up



Fort FC manager in running for sports award

FORT William FC manager Danny Conlon has been nominated for a prestigious national award in recognition of his work with local youth sides.

He is up for the volunteer of the year in youth football at the Scottish Football Association Grassroots Awards.

As well as managing the senior team, Conlon has been heavily involved with the U14 and U17 sides for a number of years, and helps run the popular midnight football league each summer. The winners will be announced at a ceremony at Hampden Park in September, with Scotland legend Kenny Dalglish handing out the trophies.

Lewis wind farm plans lodged

PLANS for £70 million 14-turbine wind farm on Lewis were lodged with Western Isles Council on Tuesday.

Greenock-based 2020 Renewables wants to build the 42MW development over a square mile of land on North Tolsta common grazings, 10 miles northeast of Stornoway.

The firm says 70 jobs would be created during the construction phase along with several maintenance jobs when turbines are operational.

Portree primary quiz champions celebrate



Portree Primary School is celebrating after winning the Primary Rotary Quiz

Trophy Highland final in Dingwall on Saturday. Proud pupils Jonathan Smith, Dougal McKiggan, Emily Macdonald and Iona Macaskill, front, show off their trophies after beating runners-up Avoch by four points. Both teams now go forward to the district final in Perth in June where the top six schools from 420 original entrants will compete for the first prize of £500.



They're off: The Lochaber Together 5k run gets underway. 20_f18run03

Cancer battle strongman fun run guest of honour

A LOCHABER strongman attended a cancer charity fun run and family day in Fort William on Saturday two days after finishing a punishing course of chemotherapy.

Mark Haldenby watched his training partners perform near-impossible feats of strength at Lochaber Together in aid of Cancer Research.

Now the father-of-three from Caol is determined to win his own battle against the blood cancer Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Mr Haldenby, who received his last bout of chemo at Fort William's Belford Hospital last Thursday, paid tribute

to everyone who has supported him throughout his illness. The former Scottish champion powerlifter, guest of honour on the day, told The Oban Times: 'I have been very fortunate to have the Macmillan nurses administer the chemotherapy, they have just been fantastic to me and my family.'

'They have been there every time I have needed them. It's been scary but great at the same time. I don't know if I could have got through it as easily without the nurses, my family and my friends. Things look okay - it looks like a good result.'

The 39-year-old was overwhelmed by

well-wishers - but could only look on as his strongmen friends from Fort William, Peterhead and Fraserburgh thrilled the crowd. Mr Haldenby said: 'I just wish I could have competed. I was tempted, I just wanted to get in there. Now it will be for next year.'

He added: 'It was a great day and I was really proud to be part of it. I'm really grateful for all the support I received from Cancer Research and all the people who turned out.'

The main 5km fun run was won by Craig MacLean with Innes Orr - aged just eight - second, Stewart MacLean third

and Red Cross volunteer Robbie MacKay fourth.

Other crowd pleasers at the BA Club included Upper Achintore children's cheerleading group the Ben Nevis All Stars.

Event manager Adam Ramsey said on Tuesday £8,590 had been raised so far with a further £5,000 to come from Cancer Research UK charity shop sales from 176 bags of recycled goods collected by the Rotary Club of Lochaber.

He said: 'I would like to thank all the sponsors, volunteers, competitors and all those who came along to support us.'

Sports centre back on track

THE BID to create a £1 million indoor sports centre in Fort William looks to be back on track after crunch talks between the group behind the plan and Highland Council officials in Inverness.

Jane Blanchard and Leen Volkwer of Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) met with Highland Council leader Drew Hendry, council officials and Graham Finnie of sportscotland last Thursday, who pledged their support.

It was agreed to move the plan onto the next stage, which involves hiring a consultant to develop a business model.

Mrs Blanchard, chairwoman of LSA, said: 'The meeting was extremely positive and there was a very clear will from all present to ensure that the projects should succeed, without delay or hindrance.'

Support

Mrs Blanchard has previously said she feared the project was dead in the water due to a lack of financial support from the council.

LSA say the sports centre, planned to be based next to Lochaber High School, would allow local clubs to train and play year round, no matter the weather.

Life-saving project launched

A LIFE-SAVING initiative providing immediate emergency treatment for cardiac arrest victims was launched in Fort William yesterday (Wednesday).

The Lochaber Defibrillator Project will see heart-start machines housed in 10 town Pubwatch premises and the Free Church in Caol, An Drochaid in Claggan, the Spean Bridge Hotel and from Strontian and Glenfinnan. Councillor Thomas MacLennan, a former Pubwatch chairman,

said: 'When the doctors' practice moved out to the Blair Mhor on the High Street was not as safe as it had been. So I thought

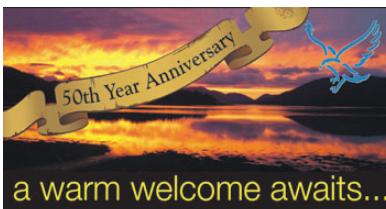
it was important to have a defibrillator cabinet at no cost.'

Project backers include the Scottish Ambulance Service, the Rotary Club of Lochaber and the British Heart Foundation. Lochaber Care and Repair installed the defibrillator cabinets at no cost.

18>



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Big Foot winners Solene Cargill, Jessica Baker, Briony Kirk, Peter Mathieson and Jessica Cunningham at the awards ceremony.

Mallaig pupils bag first class business prize

BUDDING entrepreneurs from Mallaig High School have scooped the top business prize at the regional Young Enterprise Scotland (YES) company programme finals.

The 'Big Foot' team of Solene Cargill, Jessica Baker, Briony Kirk, Peter Mathieson and Jessica Cunningham created a book for children, incorporating a recipe, which teaches children practical reading and numeracy skills in a fun way.

'Max the Monkey and the Choconana Cupcakes' sold out of its first print run - and its second print run is still selling well.

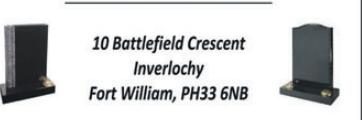
Apart from the top award, the innovative Mallaig quintet won a clutch of other categories at the



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Police files

EQUIPMENT including an outboard engine and a two-foot galvanised anchor were stolen from a yacht moored at Ardoe Bay, Acharacle, sometime between late January and Saturday April 27.

A two metre stainless steel anchor chain and a number of other parts were also stolen.

□ □ □

A CAR parked on Columba Court, Lochcylive, was damaged sometime between 6pm on Saturday and 9.30am on Sunday.

□ □ □

FUEL was stolen from an HGV lorry parked in the Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William, sometime between 5.45pm on Thursday April 25 and 5.15am on Friday April 26.

□ □ □

NUMBER plates were removed from a car in the Fort William area sometime between 8pm on April 20 and 5.30pm on April 22.

□ Anyone with any knowledge of the above incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police on 101, the confidential line on 01397 702000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Moving on: Lochaber High sixth years line up before the graduation ceremony in the school last Friday. 20_f18grad01

Sixth years bid fond farewell to Lochaber High School



Left to right, Lochaber High School S1 pupils Carlie MacKinnon and Heather Millar from Spean Bridge, Lauren Battersby from Kinlochleven and West Highland College UHI cookery student Esther Nassaris competed in the 'Canna Cook', Winnie Cook' junior chef competition with chefs Michael Campbell and Brian Gunn. 20_f18cook01

Young cooks in the mix at food festival

MORE than 800 people visited Fort William Food and Drink Festival in Caol Community Centre last weekend to sample all that is best in Lochaber a big draw, while 16 local traders had their wares on display in the main hall on Saturday.

Festival committee chairman and Nevis Radio station manager David Ogg said: 'It has been very hard work over a long period of time to bring this together, but very worthwhile.'

'We are delighted with the support shown by local businesses and the people who came and I would like to thank them for all their support. Hopefully this will be the first of many.'

The two-day event, run by community station Nevis Radio, featured master classes from 'Great British Bake-off' star Brendan Lynch. A 'Canna Cook Winnie Cook' session with top local chefs Brian Gunn and Michael Campbell and teams of Lochaber High School pupils also proved

a big draw, while 16 local traders had their wares on display in the main hall on Saturday.

Festival committee chairman and Nevis Radio station manager David Ogg said: 'It has been very hard work over a long period of time to bring this together, but very worthwhile.'

'We are delighted with the support shown by local businesses and the people who came and I would like to thank them for all their support. Hopefully this will be the first of many.'

That consultation - seven

NINETY Lochaber High School (LHS) sixth years, accompanied by proud parents, grandparents and other relatives, attended their graduation ceremony at the school last Friday evening.

The celebration started with music from the LHS Ceilidh Band before the sixth years were piped in by Ewen MacQueen

and Ruairidh Shaw. A short résumé on each pupil was read out before they crossed the red carpet on stage to receive their graduation certificate from head teacher Jim Sutherland.

A group of sixth years performed 'Skyfall' as a musical interlude before Deborah Degelaen brought proceedings

to a close, eloquently thanking all members of staff for the experiences and opportunities she and her classmates had benefited from during their time at school.

On behalf of the staff, Mr Sutherland wished the group well before they were piped out. He said: 'We've had an

excellent group of sixth years who have achieved good results, worked hard on their personal development, taken on responsibilities, contributed positively to the life of the school and helped other people. I wish them all the very best as they move on to the next stage of their lives.'

Raasay crofters fear shooting rights consultation will split community

By STEPHEN NORRIS

pages long - arrived from Mr Wheelhouse through Raasay letterboxes last week listing three options:

□ A long term let of up to 175 years granted to a local community group - either the Raasay Crofters' Association (RCA) or another community group (which could include the crofters).

□ Putting the lease on the open market with the winning bidder being required to demonstrate community benefit.

□ Exercising the right to buy over the land (which would include rights over the lease).

The prospect of another local body entering the leasing process did not impress RCA secretary Anne Gillies, who claims the government want to turn Raasay's sporting rights into a 'big business'.

She told *The Oban Times*:



Anne Gillies.

'This is really divisive in a small community. What annoys me most is that [Mr Wheelhouse] is creating division between crofters and the wider community because he is effectively advocating competing for control.'

'When the crofters controlled the sporting rights it did away with any disputes. But if a

different group took over on the same ground the crofters run their sheep there could be conflict.

The reason the association was set up in the first place was to avoid conflict between stalkers and crofters working the sheep.

All he has done is make an issue of this when there was none to be made.'

She added: 'They have not listened to us. I imagined that he realised from the meeting that we were not interested in a community buy-out.'

'He said we had done an excellent job but still did not give us a 10-year lease and insisted he was legally bound to consult the community. I can't see another group taking over. Nobody has shown any interest in it before and nobody has the obvious skills to do it.'

'It's not about how many venison burgers you can sell in the shop or how many holiday cottages you let - the central issue is the possible conflict out on the hill.'

Mr Wheelhouse urged all islanders to have their say so that community backing for an option could be demonstrated.

He said: 'Based upon a constructive public meeting during my earlier visit to Raasay, I understand fully that the sporting rights on Raasay are very important to the islanders, which is why we have committed to consulting fully with the community before deciding how the sporting rights should be managed in future.'

'We want to ensure that we put in place a system which meets Raasay's needs and allows the community to reap the maximum economic and conservation benefits from the valuable sporting assets and this will inform our policy in respect of any similar scenarios which present to us elsewhere in Scotland in the future.'

Man drowns after kayak capsizes on Loch Morar

A MAN drowned and a second man was taken to hospital suffering from hypothermia after their kayak capsized on Loch Morar on Sunday night.

The two men, not thought to be local, got into trouble after their boat flipped over, plunging them into the cold water of the remote loch.

The surviving kayaker managed to swim to safety on a nearby island where he spent the night, before making his way back to shore in the morning.

After reaching the Oban bothy by the loch he found a group of walkers who called emergency services just before 10am.

Youngsters take on Witch's Trails

NEVIS Range is hosting round two of the Scottish Power Youth Mini Downhill Series on Saturday.

Youngsters will race on the Witch's Trails in Leananach Forest with categories including under 10s, under 12s, under 14s and under 16s.

Meanwhile at Glencoe Mountain, the unseasonably cold spell and excellent spring snow conditions means the centre will open for ski-ing this weekend, weather permitting.

Road to the Isles half marathons

FINAL plans are in place for Saturday's annual Road to the Isles Half Marathon and Relay Team Half Marathon in aid of Mallaig and District Swimming Pool.

Both events start at 11am from Beasdale Station off the A830 and take the scenic route through Arisaig and Morar before finishing at the pool. The relay is for teams of up to three people. A third event, walking half marathon 'Walk on the Wildside', starts at 10.30am from the same location.

Entry fee pre-event is £13 and £15 on the day. Competitors will receive a t-shirt on completion and medals will be issued to the fastest participants. Home baking, soup and sandwiches will be laid on at the pool.

Gaelic culture of Lochaber talk

PROFESSORS Hugh Cheape and Donald Meek will discuss the Gaelic culture of Lochaber, its poets and story tellers in Strontian next Tuesday evening.

The free Royal Society of Edinburgh event, entitled 'Gaelic Culture of Lochaber: Lifting the Night - A' fuaðach na h-oidhche' begins in the Sunart Centre at 7pm. The evening will finish in time to catch the Corran Ferry back over Loch Linnhe.

New fishing allocation welcomed

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson has welcomed Marine Scotland's announcement of a new days at sea allocation for west coast prawn vessels.

The allocation - equivalent to 95 per cent of the fishing effort between 2009 and 2011 - makes a repeat of last year's controversy, when east coast prawn fishermen descended on the west coast in search of prawns, less likely.

The MSP was 'pleased' a deal had been reached.

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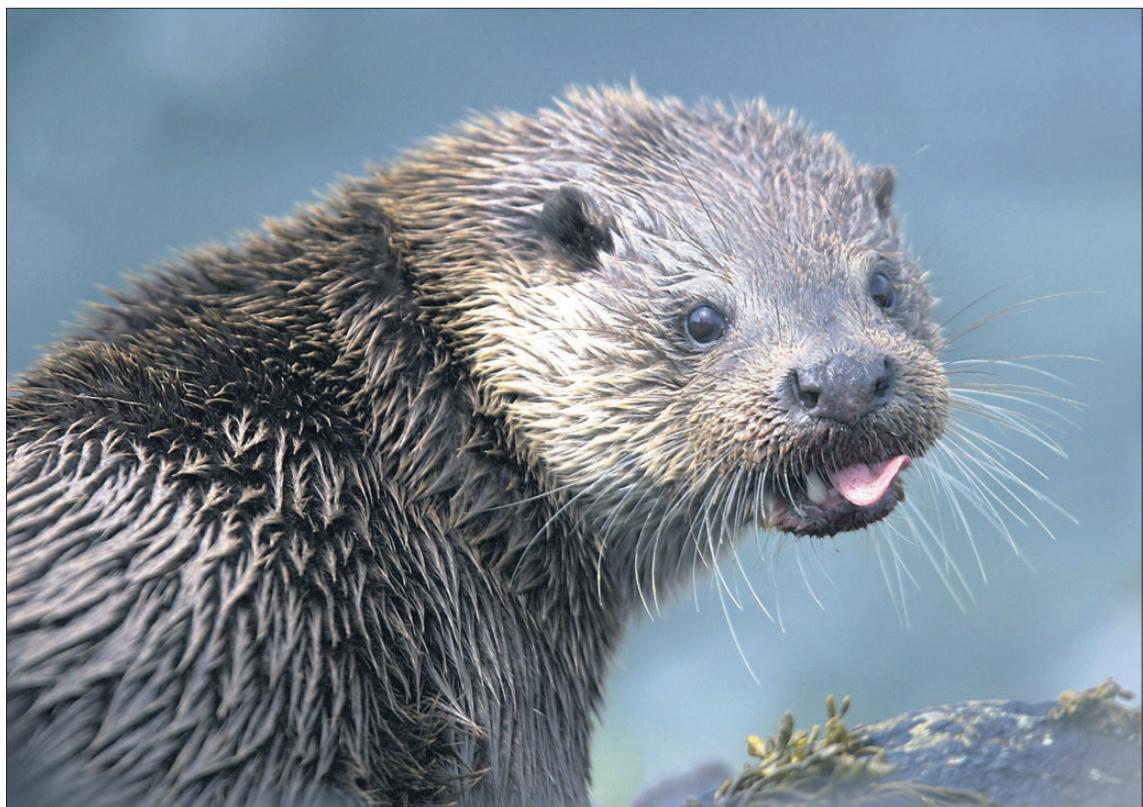
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Warning signs are to be erected on the A828 between Benderloch and Appin later this year to warn drivers of the otters' presence.

New road signs in bid to save otters

OTTERS are back on the prowl in North Lorn, with the population thought to be increasing in numbers. The news also comes with a warning to motorists.

Appin-based biodiversity officer for Argyll and Bute Council, Marina Curran-Colhart, has watched the population of otters expand south towards Benderloch in recent months, with the creatures now in regular residence around Suth-

erland's Grove and Inverfolla.

Otters are known to travel long distances, particularly at night and use scent as their main means of communication. Scientists believe that this scent can be made up of a complex mix of 432 chemicals and plays an important role in the social life of the animals.

One of Scottish Natural Heritage's 'Big Five' attractions for tourism, the growing numbers

of otters has been welcomed by the local tourist industry.

Sadly estimates on the numbers of otters resident in the North Lorn area are based on the volume on animals being killed when crossing the A828 Oban to Fort William road between Benderloch and Appin, with 13 road accident victims found in recent weeks.

As such, signs will go up on the A828 later this year to warn

motorists of the otters' presence - and hopefully save a few lives on the way.

Marina said: 'The otter population is increasing and we are working with Transport Scotland to warn drivers about their presence. We estimate that for every otter that is killed there's at least another three in the area. It's great that they're increasing though and we're watching with interest to see how they're doing.'

Mike Story, the Connell-based executive director of Argyll and the Isles Tourism, said: 'It's one of the big species being pushed by SNH and one of those iconic species people really travel for. They're right up there with sea eagles and dolphins as one of the area's top tourist attractions.'

It is believed that otters numbers may also be an indicator of good water quality.

Argyll and Isles tourism message promoted in USA and Italy

ARGYLL and the Isles tourism sector received a major boost with confirmation the area will feature on travel wholesaler publications in the USA and Italy for the first time.

Fantastic news'

The news comes just weeks Argyll and the Isles Tourism Ltd (AIT), established links

with 170 tour buyers during VisitScotland's Expo in Glasgow.

Confirmation of the listings by the wholesalers - covering two of the world's biggest international travel markets - has been warmly welcomed by AIT.

Executive director, Mike Sto-

ry, said: 'Travel wholesalers in Italy and the USA have already contacted us to say our area will be included in their 2014 trade publications for the first time. These publications are used by hundreds of overseas travel agents.'

The value of these listings

should not be underestimated.

There is clear evidence that American and Italian visitors still prefer to book their overseas trips through travel agents rather than directly online, so getting Argyll and the Isles featured as a premium destination is fantastic news.'

AIT's acting chairwoman, councillor Louise Glen Lee,

helped greet visitors to AIT's stand at the expo.

Privilege

She said: 'It was a privilege to work with such a committed, enthusiastic and professional group of volunteers from every corner of Argyll and the Isles.'

'They are fantastic ambassadors for our area and the

friendly and informative welcome given to all the visitors to our stand matches the one they will receive when they come and stay with us.'

Funding support

Mr Story added: 'Our presence was only made possible with funding support from the Scottish Government and

the European Argyll and the Islands Leader programme as well as Visit Scotland Growth Fund, Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Island Enterprise and contributions from the local marketing groups and the exceptional amount of volunteer time provided by those who manned the stand with us.'

would propose.
'Let's give this board the support it deserves.'

Mr Hall had earlier revealed the council is due approximately £722,000 back from the former Strathclyde Police and a similar sum from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue in surplus left over from improvement payments.

Deficit

He also said Atlantis has been running at a £61,000 deficit in each of the past three years.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre added: 'The council has missed a trick here. Atlantis isn't something to be cut, it's something we should be proud of.'

In an open letter to Argyll and Bute Council, North Argyll GPs said the value of Atlantis 'should not be under-estimated'.

GPs from Lorn Medical Centre, Taynuilt Medical Practice, Easdale Surgery and Appin Surgery said: 'We should remember that Atlantis is a success story for Argyll and won Social Enterprise of the Year in 2012.'

The healthy eating scheme is encouraging many who thought they were too unwell or unfit to get back into regular exercise.

The wider benefits of a facility such as this helps attract professionals such as doctors, nurses, scientists and teachers to come work here.

'Recruitment is already difficult and we need to keep all the advantages we have.'

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Deadline day looms for Atlantis agreement

North Argyll GPs back Oban's award winning leisure centre 'success story'

ATLANTIS Leisure's voluntary board will discover next month if a new lease can be agreed with Argyll and Bute Council - as local GPs rally behind the facility.

At last week's meeting of the council, a proposal by the opposition's deputy leader, Ellen Morton, was passed.

This means council staff must progress discussions with the Oban facility's board 'as a matter of urgency', with the aim of recommending the level of support required from the council at next month's meeting.

It came after the SNP-led administration dropped a motion

to review the costs of all leisure facilities in the county with a view to taking a report back to the council at its June meeting.

The board's chairman, Neil Matheson, last week told *The Oban Times* a deal has to be agreed by June if the voluntary board is to stay.

Speaking during last week's meeting, Oban councillor Fred Hall - who resigned from the SNP over their handling of Atlantis - said: 'The deal originally presented to Atlantis was more akin to a deal on the back of a fag packet the like of which Del Boy from Only Fools and Horses

Council defeated over Dunoon care home closure

DUNOON care home Struan Lodge has won a reprieve after the ruling SNP-led administration suffered a humiliating defeat at Kilmory last week.

Rebel Gordon Blair and former SNP councillors Michael Breslin and Fred Hall helped inflict defeat on James Robb's administration.

the European Argyll and the Islands Leader programme as well as Visit Scotland Growth Fund, Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Island Enterprise and contributions from the local marketing groups and the exceptional amount of volunteer time provided by those who manned the stand with us.'

The council will now consider how to cut costs and whether to increase bed capacity, as well as whether the home could be run by a social enterprise.

The wider benefits of a facility such as this helps attract professionals such as doctors, nurses, scientists and teachers to come work here.

'Recruitment is already difficult and we need to keep all the advantages we have.'

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Development manager appointed to Oban CHORD project

A DEVELOPMENT manager who worked on one of the world's most remote islands has been appointed to oversee the Oban CHORD project.

Linda Houston will start work on the project on May 20 and will soon set about spending £6.9million to regenerate the

town centre and waterfront. A north pier quarter will be created, the area around the seafront will be revamped and there will be improvements of the transport interchange at Station Square.

Linda has worked for more than 30 years in area regenera-

tion and economic development. She comes to the role having recently completed a series of regeneration projects in St Helena, a tiny island in the South Atlantic. This followed a three year role with the Department for International Development as a director of the St Helena

Development Agency between 2007-10.

Prior to this Linda was an advisor to various government regeneration agencies. She managed the establishment of the London Bridge BID in 2006, the Cheapside Initiative in 2007 and directed the Pool

of London Partnership from London Bridge on the South Bank 1996 - 2007.

Linda said: 'I have a particular interest in waterfront initiatives and have spent more than 20 years sailing in and around the Hebrides.'

'I am looking forward to tak-

ing up my new role in Oban and to meeting the many private, public and voluntary sector players who have a vital role to play in delivering the plans for the regeneration of the town centre and waterfront and taking forward initiatives for the wider Oban area.'

Sea search continues for missing Luing fisherman

THE SEARCH for a missing fisherman and his boat off Easdale was being continued by Royal Navy divers as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Police Scotland have now been passed responsibility for the search which has officially been deemed a missing person's enquiry.

The fisherman, named locally as father of three Scott McAllister, went missing last Thursday, April 25.

'Going over'

He issued a mayday call around 1pm that afternoon which was picked up by Stormway Coastguard. It said his boat *Speedwell* was 'going over'. It was reported to be taking on water and in danger of capsizing.

It is believed Mr McAllister is 40 and the third generation from his family to work the sea around his home island of Luing.

Local boats rushed to the aid of the stricken boat when the coastguard relayed the mayday. More than 15 vessels have now been involved with the search including Caledonian MacBrayne ferry *MV Lord of the Isles*, Oban



More than 15 vessels have now been involved with the search. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

and Tobermory lifeboats and the cruise ship *Hebridean Princess*.

The Royal Navy search and rescue helicopter from Prestwick was also sent to the scene but this proved to be 'fruitless'.

Following their contribution to the initial search a spokeswoman for the Royal Navy

confirmed a team of divers were now involved.

She said on Tuesday: 'Northern Diving Group are based at Faslane but had routine dive training in the Oban area.

'Normally they wouldn't be involved, it would be police divers, but because they had the infrastructure there anyway

they were requested to assist and agreed. On Monday they were unable to dive, today they have been down a couple of times and have been doing their dive training within the rough area we believe the vessel is, but they haven't been diving to the depths which they believe the boat may be at.'

'Weather permitting they will continue to dive over the next couple of days in the area where the boat is likely to be.'

It had been reported that *Speedwell* had been found on the seabed last Friday but a spokeswoman for Police Scotland confirmed this was not the case. She said 'there was

no positive identifications of a wreck'.

Despite extensive searches of the sea and coastline no trace of Mr McAllister or his boat had been found as *The Oban Times* went to press. A meeting was due to be held on Wednesday morning to discuss future searches.

Pressure mounts for return of RET

PRESSURE is mounting on the Scottish Government to restore Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) to commercial vehicles serving the Western Isles, Coll and Tiree after a report showed its removal harmed the islands' economies.

The purpose of the study by MVA Consultancy - commissioned by the Scottish Government - was to consider the impact of the removal of the tariff from April last year.

Not only did the study prove the removal of RET had a negative impact on the economy, but it proved untrue claims made by the Scottish Government that hauliers did not pass on savings from RET on to consumers.

Calls have now been made for the Government to reinstate RET to the isles.

Angus Campbell, leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, said: 'The removal of RET for commercial vehicles has been damaging for the economies of the islands, particularly smaller islands such as Barra, Benbecula and the Uists, and has been detrimental for consumers.'

'I call on the Scottish Government, as a matter of urgency, to take the sensible course of action and reinstate RET in full, including for commercial vehicles.'

He has been backed by MSPs, MPs and local hauliers.

Jamie McGrigor, Highlands and Islands MSP, said: 'SNP ministers should now apologise to hauliers, local businesses and residents in the Western Isles, Coll and Tiree for introducing a policy which has impacted negatively on already fragile island economies.'

SNP MP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Angus MacNeil, doesn't think RET should be brought back in straight away, however.

He said: 'I think it is now important that firstly, no further increases go on lorries and secondly, that when funds become available - in other words, when the Westminster government stops cutting Scotland's budget - that the Scottish Government lowers lorry fares.'

He added: 'Lorry fares are cheaper than they would have been had the RET trial not gone ahead.'

Gardeners get ready for Oban in Bloom 2013

THE 2013 Oban in Bloom gardening competition is about to get underway with private gardeners, businesses, hotels, guesthouses and even those with hanging baskets being encouraged to enter this year's competition.

There are several trophy categories to choose from, plus an overall champion's award.

Closing date for entries is May 24, and with no spring judging this year due to the unusually cold weather, judging will take place in the week commencing July 22.

The range of categories include: commercial premises (Cakebread Cup); hotels, guesthouses and B&Bs (McTavish's Kitchen Cup); large garden (MacDougall Cup); medium garden (Poppies Cup); small garden (Thompson Quaich).

There will also be a special award for the best display of hanging baskets, plus the best privately-owned garden will be awarded the Kinlochlaich Trophy.

The entry judged as the overall champion will be presented with *The Oban Times* Quaich.

Entry forms can be obtained from Lorn House, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street; ACHA; Atlantis Leisure; Oban hospital and all local garden centres.

Young footballers to run for funds

A YOUTH football team from Oban hopes to raise £2,500 by asking local businesses to sponsor every squad member in this weekend's Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) 10k run.

The novel fundraising plan will raise enough money to cover travel costs and pitch hire for the team's involvement in the Dunbartonshire Football Development League, a competition they have a chance of winning this season, as well as a cup competition. If they achieve their targets, the Oban Saints Under-14s would become the club's first junior team to achieve a league and cup double.

Team coach Joseph MacIntyre said: 'Each year the players have to decide a way in which they can raise funds for the run. This Sunday we feel that this is a fantastic gesture from a brilliant bunch of boys. The other coaches and I have been so impressed by all of the players' development, attitude and commitment this season.'

Businesses are being invited to donate £100 to sponsor a player, who will wear the company's t-shirt/logo during the run. Any business interested in sponsoring a player can contact coaches Joseph on 07831 618 288, Donald MacLean on 07525 858 154 or Scott Cooper on 07411 766 497.

West coast basks in Scottish Hotel Awards glory

THE WEST coast firmly put itself at the forefront of the tourist sector after winning 15 major accolades at the Scottish Hotel Awards and even more regional prizes.

Argyll and the Isles, Skye, Lochaber and Arran all took centre stage one of the biggest awards ceremonies in Scotland's events calendar, held at Glasgow's Crown Plaza on Sunday evening.

The success has been described as 'major recognition' for the west coast and a significant boost for the area ahead of this month's Scottish Thistle Awards.

Among the biggest winners were Calum and Rachel Ross of the Loch Melfort Hotel, who were named hoteliers of the year, while the Isle of Arran was named destination of the year.

Ardtorna, Barcaldine, won the Guest House of the Year award after winning the guest house innovation and eco award, while The Pierhouse Hotel won awards for best Small Country Hotel and retained the Best Seafood award for the second year. It was also the only hotel to win two major awards at the event.

Jo Currie, owner of Tobermory's Highland Cottage, was named a Tourism Dame alongside Arran's Helen Driver, manager of the Kilmichael Country House Hotel. Mull's Tiroran House was also named Country House Hotel of the Year.

Other major winners include Skye's Toravaig House Hotel as Island Hotel of the Year and Kinloch Lodge as Romantic Hotel

of the Year.

Arran's Auchrannie Resort won resort of the year and its neighbour, Glenisle Hotel, won Seaside Hotel of the Year.

The Inverlochy Hotel, Fort William, was luxury hotel of the year, Kilmichael House won the Beautiful Menu award, the Cameron House Hotel won the Concierge Team of the Year.

Calum Ross of the Loch Melfort Hotel said: 'We're delighted to win and overwhelmed so many of our guests voted for us.'

As a director of Argyll and the Isles Tourism, it's fantastic to see so many businesses from our region win awards. Without question, Argyll and the Isles is the place to holiday.'

Pierhouse owner Nick Hornsby said: 'We're the only hotel to win two major awards and I'm delighted. It's great for the area too because it attracts more people here because there's more places worth visiting.'

Helen Driver, who has managed the Kilmichael Country House Hotel for last 20 years, said: 'What a wonderful surprise - I never expected this.'

Isabella MacDonald, co-owner of the Kinloch Lodge Hotel, said: 'Skye is such a romantic destination and to be known as the most romantic hotel is a fabulous accolade for myself and the team.'

Katie Mackay, of Tiroran House, said: 'We're chuffed to pieces!'

See next week for roundup of pictures of the award winners.

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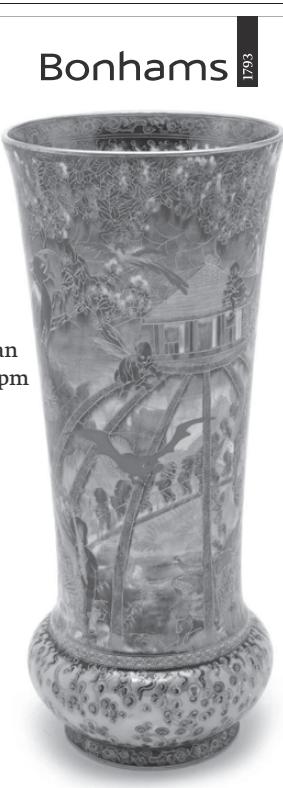
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Lorn Lines

OBAN Lifeboat sold £30,000 worth of its special whisky in the first week of sales.

The result is there are only a few bottles remaining from the batch that was donated by Diageo to raise money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Birchwood Service Station, in Soroba Road, was the only outlet in Oban to sell the whisky at £195 per bottle but has run out of stock.

The Green Welly Stop in Tyndrum had a few cases for sale exclusively online but as of the beginning of this week had only a few bottles left.

OBAN and Lorn Lions Club have postponed their fun day at Ganavan Sands until later this year. The event had been planned for May 4.



BURNS Club of Oban president John MacLean, third right, and treasurer Ken Oxland, second left, present a £300 cheque to members of Oban Mountain Rescue Team.

The Burns Club of Oban has also continued from last year by giving a further £400 to Oban and Lorn primary schools to promote and encourage the use of Burns within the schools.

The club offered a big thank-you to all the members who support the local Burns Club and give so willingly through a raffle and auction held at the annual Burns Supper.



Catherine Carswell and Alice MacLeod were running the new shop on Saturday. 16.118friends01

A POP-UP shop organised by the Friends of Oban Hospice sprung up at the bottom of Albany Street this week.

The shop, which opened on Saturday, saw a range of clothing and accessories on sale to raise funds for the charity. Catherine Carswell, one of the volunteers at the shop, said: 'We take the opportunity of using up empty shops and it helps us raise funds.'

'All stock is donations from the community - in this instance it is clothing only but in other shops we have had bric-a-brac. The people are so, so generous in this area.'

The shop windows were specially decorated for the event by a volunteer and the charity's next fundraiser, a flower demonstration at Oban High School, is on May 9.

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ARGYLL COLLEGE

Rugby Sevens

RUGBY

THIS weekend will see teams from across the north of Scotland travel to Banvie for Lochaber Rugby Club's annual sevens competition.

The day starts at 12pm on Saturday, with last year's champions Mull expected to return to defend their crown. The home club lost out to the islanders in the final, and will be looking to go one step further and win the tournament this year.

Aside from the on-field action, a family fun day will be held in a marquee next to the clubhouse, with a children's entertainers as well as refreshments and snacks.

Once the rugby is finished, the clubhouse will host an evening of dancing and live music from 6pm.

New manager

SHINTY

THE VACANT managerial position at Lochaber Camanachd is likely to be filled when the club's board meet next week.

Callum Cameron has been in interim charge of the side since Michael Delaney stood down at the start of April, and has said he is interested in taking it on full time.

Rollover jackpot

LOTTERY

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £600 is up for grabs in this week's Fort William FC lotto draw. Last week's numbers were 13, 15 and 18.

Fort suffer second heavy defeat in seven days

Manager looking forward to the end of the season

REPORT BY
RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William manager Danny Conlon says he's looking forward to the end of the season after watching his side fall to a second heavy home defeat in the space of seven days.

Fort travel to take on Deveronvale this Saturday following last weekend's 7-0 thrashing by Fraserburgh.

Conlon will be hoping to avoid a repeat of the 7-1 victory imposed by the Banff side at Claggan Park in September.

Fort's lacklustre end to the season mirrors similar results at the same point last year, with Conlon suggesting the size of his squad was having an impact.

Paying the price

He told the Oban Times: 'We've been asking a lot of players to play a lot of games,

We've got a light, young squad and I think we're paying the price for that now.'

'We've got a home game and two away games left against Deveronvale and Brora, and they are both going to be really difficult. I'm just looking forward to the end of the season now.'

Sean Grant will be available

FOOTBALL

after missing the Fraserburgh game, but Andy MacLean is doubtful with an ankle injury.

Fort found themselves 3-0 down at half time against Fraserburgh, despite some good work from keeper Kyle Robertson. The home side conceded two penalties in the second half as they crashed to another heavy defeat.

Conlon said: 'It was a disaster for us. We just didn't play at all. We were slightly better in the second half but after the two penalties it was all over.'

Disappointed

'The two games against Cove and then Saturday are the performances that have really disappointed me.'

Captain Andy Martin had

been rumoured to make a comeback after missing five months with a horrendous arm injury picked up at work, but Conlon said it was too early to risk him.

He said: 'Andy was hoping to get involved but the physio said it was far too big a risk. He's probably not going to play this season.'



Fort William striker Davie Forbes battles for the ball inside the Fraserburgh box 20_f18footie04



Crowds gathered on the hills around Kinlochleven to watch bikers including Sam Hampshire tackle the course last year. 20_f18pre01

Vintage trial bikes draw the crowds to Kinlochleven

THE AIR in Kinlochleven will be thick with sounds and smells of vintage motorbikes for the Pre '65 trial this weekend.

The annual event proved so popular entries closed before Christmas, with 323 riders applying for 168 spaces. Local man Martin Murphy was one of the lucky few to be chosen and will set off with the rest of the field from the car park behind the Post Office in Kinlochleven on Friday.

The precursor to the Scottish Six Day Trial attracts large crowds to see machines manufactured before 1965 tackle the hills around the village over two days.

Some 275 motorcyclists - including six from

Lochaber - are set to take part in the SSDT, which starts on Monday.

Kinlochleven's Gary MacDonald will make his return to the event after missing out last year due to a driving conviction.

His Lochaber and District Club mate Gary McLennan will lead the pack on day one, while Donald MacPhie and David Eckl will represent the Isle of Skye Trials Club.

Riders from both events will take part in the annual parade down Fort William High Street on Sunday afternoon.

MOTORBIKE TRIALS

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Plockton and Portree share the honours in the Sorley MacLean 2013 matches

GEAMACHAN Shomhairle 2013 (The Sorley Matches 2013) between Plockton High School and Portree High, proved close run affairs this year.

The games, staged in memory of renowned Gaelic poet Sorley MacLean, are now established for both girls' and boys' teams and saw a large support line the touchline at Plockton's all-weather surface and shinty pitch respectively, despite the rain.

Passionate

The poet, a passionate advocate of shinty, attended Portree High and was head teacher at Plockton from 1956-72. He died in 1996.

Holly McCue, Eilidh Coghill getting the goals. Portree scorers were Fiona Lamond and Caitlin MacLean.

Boys match

Portree turned the tables in the boys match, winning 2-0 with goals coming from Angie Grant and Ally MacCrimmon.

At the after match reception in the Plockton High dining room, shortly to be known as Togach Shomhairle (The Sorley Building), Mr Ferguson presented Plockton girls' team captain Izzy Dalgety with the Cuach Sgathach (Sgathach's Trophy) and the Cuach Shomhairle (The

SCHOOL SHINTY

Sorley MacLean Quaich) to Portree boys' captain Will Cowie.

Player of the team awards:

Girls: Plockton – Catriona Kirk; Portree – Helen Lamond; Boys: Plockton – Oliver MacRae (full centre and captain); Portree – Stephen MacKinnon.

Thanked

Coaches, referees, teachers, parent helpers, school head cook Mrs Grace Gray and PE principal teacher Mrs Sandra Coghill were all thanked for all their sterling efforts in helping with the event.



The Plockton High girls' and boys' teams line up before the Geamachan Shomhairle.

Weather

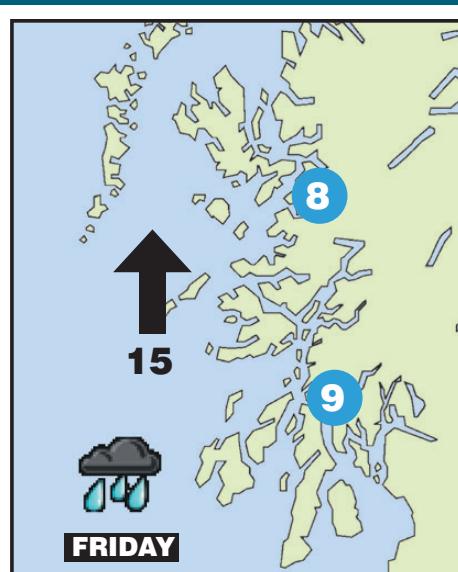
Thursday Light rain
Winds light, south south easterly
Temperatures 5°C to 8°C

Friday Heavy rain
Winds moderate, southerly
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C.

Weekend Outlook Sunshine and showers
Winds moderate, south south westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist
Oban to Coll/Tiree
Kennacraig to Islay

Moderate
Moderate
Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from

Thursday, May 2, 2013

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	
Thur	04.46	1.2	10.35
Fri	05.58	1.3	12.31
Sat	01.10	3.1	07.18
Sun	02.21	3.2	08.33
Mon	03.14	3.4	09.29
Tues	03.56	3.5	10.12
Wed	04.33	3.6	10.50

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardriishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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