

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Search continues for missing diver

AS THE Oban Times went to press police and navy divers were due to continue a search in the vicinity of the wreck of the SS Breda in Ardmucknish Bay in the Firth of Lorne on Wednesday after a diver went missing on Tuesday morning.

It is understood the diver is 54 year old John Skerry, a local councillor from Huntington, Cambridgeshire.

Coastguards, who were contacted by the dive boat to say one of the party was missing, were assisted by Oban Lifeboat and a Royal Navy search and rescue helicopter from HMS Gannet. Two dive vessels in the area also joined the search.

Watch manager Graeme Waters said: 'Coastguard Rescue Officers from Oban carried out a second shoreline search at high water to check again whether this diver made it ashore and but sadly nothing was found.'

'A search in the vicinity of the wreck was also carried out by navy divers but nothing was found.'

It is understood the diver may have become stuck within the wreck of the Dutch freighter which was sunk by German bombers in 1942 and has become a popular dive site, shortly after 11am.

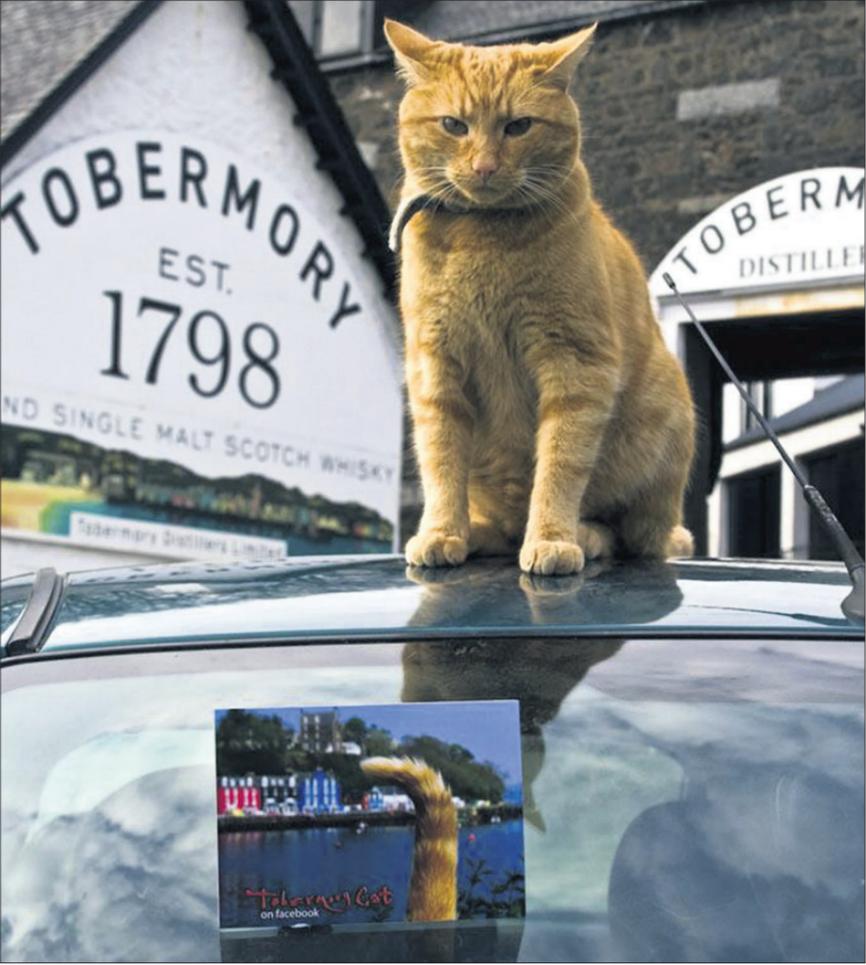
### Tests carried out after body discovered near Crianlarich

FORENSIC investigators are working to confirm the identity of a body found near Crianlarich at the weekend.

A man walking in a wooded area between Crianlarich and Tyndrum, near the A82, found the remains, thought to be male, on Saturday.

Central Scotland Police say the death was not being treated as suspicious and a post mortem examination will be carried out.

A spokeswoman for the force said: 'We are following a line of inquiry in relation to the man's identity but this will only be confirmed once we have received the results of these tests.'



Angus Stewart's character, Tobermory Cat, is being given a vacation until a dispute with publisher Birlinn is resolved.

### Ginger fur flies in Tobermory 'copy' Cat row

A MULL artist is mottoballing a character he created last year, saying he is being forced out by a 'copy-cat'.

Angus Stewart started a Facebook page in February 2011 called Tobermory Cat, tracking the activities of the enigmatic ginger kitty who could be regularly seen lazing around the town. It was said he became famous simply for being famous.

However, subsequent to this, Edinburgh publisher Birlinn announced plans to release a children's book, The Tobermory Cat, featuring artwork by million-selling children's artist, Debi Gliori.

While Birlinn say their cat, which like Mr Stewart's creation is ginger and becomes famous for being famous and can often be seen lazing around the colourful town, is a completely independent creation, Mr Stewart says he feels his idea has been 'stolen'.

Mr Stewart said: 'I believe this is a creative property. They could easily have picked a different cat in a different location but they didn't.'

He says the publisher's managing director, Hugh Andrew, visited his house and offered him a picture on the back of the Birlinn book, but no form of payment. He said: 'They suggested Tobermory Cat is nobody's property and nobody has rights to it.'

Mr Andrew said: 'Our story is about a ginger cat in Tobermory. It is entirely original. The idea was conceived before I knew about Angus Stewart's Facebook site.'

'I find this situation absolutely extraordinary. I've never had this situation in 28 years of publishing.'

Mr Andrew said he did visit Mr Stewart and asked him what he intended to do with his Tobermory Cat, but alleges the artist refused to answer him.

'I'm not stopping him doing his website, I'm not stopping him selling his postcards.'

'All we want to do is produce a fun book that showcases Mull, the isles and, as you have to go through it to get there, Oban.'

The Tobermory Cat, by Birlinn, is due to be published in November.

## New council leader pledges transparency

### Cross party alliance to offer new 'living' minimum wage to council employees

NEW Argyll and Bute Council leader, Roddy McCuish, has promised to be 'open and transparent' as he outlined his plans to improve living standards across the county.

Speaking after formalising the new administration with council chief executive Sally Loudon on Tuesday, the Oban South and Isles councillor and former postal worker told The Oban Times his objective is to make the county a better place to live.

Among the raft of measures the new alliance will work towards in the short term is introducing a new 'living' minimum wage for council staff of £7.20 per hour.

He has also outlined his desire to elevate the county's roads from some of the worst in the country to some of the best as part of a greater focus on infrastructure.

Education will also receive greater focus under the new alliance's proposals.



New council leader Roddy McCuish

He said: 'Everything we have been asked to do are things that would make life better for everybody across Argyll and Bute. Often, most of these things don't have a cost implication.'

'We have a strong plan to work towards everything we outlined in our manifesto.'

Two new spokesperson posts will be created.

Dougie Philand will take up the post of spokesperson for welfare and employment, while

Louise Glen-Lee becomes spokesperson for communication and broadcasting in a bid to improve the council's transparency.

Mr McCuish said: 'Everybody else in Argyll and Bute can go to a councillor if they have a problem.'

'We feel it is important staff of the council - of which there are over 4,000 - have an identified councillor who will champion their cause.'

'We are also looking for a way forward so everyone in Argyll and Bute can engage in what's going in the council and everything is as open as it can be. Of course in that we have to recognise that some things need to be confidential.'

'Our priority is to form a strong, transparent council that listens to the electorate.'

The new council's full list of spokespersons will be confirmed next week, ahead of the first meeting of the new council on May 22.

### Nine charged with drugs offences

NINE people have been charged with drugs offences after a weekend of action by local police, during which a number of properties were searched.

Contaminated drugs

Quantities of cocaine, heroin, ecstasy and cannabis were recovered as part of the swoop.

It is understood the action was undertaken after suspicions were raised that contaminated drugs were in circulation in the town.

Last week, a 27 year old man was found dead at Donmor Lodge. It is understood death is being treated as drugs related.

A post mortem into the death will be conducted later this month.

Meanwhile, The Oban Times has learned that another man, 21, was left unconscious for two days in another incident understood to be drugs related.

Strathclyde Police has not confirmed if the searches are connected to the incidents.

Among those searches, a dealer quantity of herbal cannabis was found at a property on Jura Road, searched on May 6. A man was expected to appear in court on indictment as The Oban Times went to press.

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### New Islay doctor could be on the horizon

BOWMORE Surgery on Islay could soon have a new GP after a verbal agreement was reached with a candidate, The Oban Times has learned.

It is understood that NHS Highland is awaiting only formal acceptance from the individual, who would take over the full time running of the practice, which is now based at the island's hospital.

The surgery has been run by locums in recent months, but it is thought a new, permanent GP could be in place this summer.

A spokesperson for NHS Highland said: 'NHS Highland has identified a suitable candidate and we are currently in discussions with them with regard to the details of running the Practice.'

### Leading Argyll hotelier takes Scotland's luxury tourism message to Asian audience

A NORTH Lorn Hotel will join a 10-strong group of Scottish businesses in a major tourism event to Asia next week.

Beppe Buchanan-Smith of the Isle of Eriska Hotel, near Benderloch, will join the VisitScotland and Scottish Development International (SDI) led delegation to Bangkok, Thailand.

With the launch of the twice-daily flight from Dubai to Glasgow imminent, SDI whose Asia Pilot programme assists luxury hotels engage within the Asia markets, and VisitScotland have teamed up with Emirates Airlines for a trade and media event.

The event will be held as part of VisitBritain's Destination Britain and Ireland expo, which attracts nearly 120 major international buyers.

David Adams McGilp, regional director at VisitScotland, said: 'Events such as Destination Britain and Ireland, as well as the stop-over in Dubai, give VisitScotland an excellent platform to showcase Scotland to these key markets.'

'It also gives businesses such as the Isle of Eriska Hotel valuable face-to-face time with buyers, helping to put this region firmly on the international map.'

Michael Koetsier, head of tourism trade for SDI said: 'Increasing visitors from Asia is key to the long-term growth strategy of our high end tourism companies.'

'Scotland holds a special appeal to Asian tourists looking for an authentic and luxury holiday and we are actively working with companies such as those attending the Dubai and Thailand events to help them maximise business from these markets.'

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# Olympic Games job stalls swim round Tiree attempt

A FORMER promoter of the Tiree Wave Classic who hoped to become the first person to swim around the island has had to postpone the attempt. Anna Wardley was due to take to the Atlantic Ocean this August as part of her five island swim challenge, during which she would also attempt to circumnavigate Dragonera, Portsea, Jersey and the Isle of Wight. However, the freelance reporter and press officer was approached at the last minute by the head of the Olympic and Paralympic News Service to cover this year's games - events that would clash with her record attempt and the swim around the Isle of Wight.

The 36-year-old, from Gosport, will now attempt to swim around Tiree next year. She said: 'It's been a really tough decision as the contract spans the Olympic and Paralympic Games so clashes with the two final swims I had planned for the year, including Tiree. After lots of thought, I've accepted the post as it feels like the opportunity of a lifetime and at the end of the day the islands will still be there next year.'

Anna aims to take to Tiree's waters in August 2013, the only month the water is warm enough to allow her to make the attempt without a wetsuit.



Rachel MacNeill hopes her novel approach to a dram will help attract whisky lovers.

# 'Sexy' whisky attracts increasing female admiration

## Islay woman developing 'dram architecture' as whisky taps into rising female market

AN ISLAY woman who, through her travel business, established the Whisky for Girls website has just returned from a London talk at the Women and Whisky Panel.

Rachel MacNeill, who runs Wild and Magic Islay, was invited by the organisers of Miss Whisky to talk about her role in the industry and to present a bottle for tasting.

On one of two panels asked to attend, Rachel chose to present Bruichladdich's Black Art third edition.

Like Whisky for Girls, Miss Whisky is an organisation aiming to dispel the myth that whisky is a drink purely for men.

Rachel said: 'I chose this bottle due to the name. I felt it matched with Wild and Magic Islay. Also, this dram is called the 'sexiest whisky in the world', so I thought for a whisky and women workshop it was an excellent place to start.

'This is a very rich fruity dram, with a colour of deep rose wine. I thought it would challenge women's preconceptions about look and taste in a malt.

*"There has been an explosion of focus on women in whisky. I'm happy to be part of it."*

**Rachel MacNeill**

Rachel was in illustrious company. The other women on the panels were Kirstie McCallum, master blender with Burn Stewart, Deirdra McBeth, brand ambassador with Jameson Whiskey from Ireland, Cat Spencer from Master of Malts, Celine Tetu from Compass Box and Helen Stewart from Scotch Malt Whisky Society.

Rachel said: 'It was really exciting being there and meeting so many interesting people. I was quite nervous when I first arrived as they all looked so glossy and professional. I found that being from Islay, we know so much more about whisky than we realise. It has seeped into our blood by osmosis.'

'Most of the people out there at festivals and tastings are one step removed from the distilleries and the life that we take for granted.'

While Rachel started Whisky for Girls as much for fun as anything else, she feels she has tapped into a whole new trend.

She said: 'I thought I'd make a Whisky Tour to Islay just for women and I started to write about whisky and explore it on my website.'

'There has been an explosion of focus on women in whisky. I'm happy to be part of it.'

Rachel is developing a new way to categorise whisky - called dram architecture, and help make the drink more accessible to both men and women. She said: 'I don't pretend to be an expert, but I'm learning and I have a different way of looking at things which I find helps people to feel more confident when they come to whisky tasting as beginners.'

Rachel's website can be found at [www.whiskyforgirls.com](http://www.whiskyforgirls.com).

# Not so much Hotel le Jura - more Isle of Jura Hotel

STAFF at the Isle of Jura Hotel had to go beyond the call of duty over Easter weekend after four French guests arrived with a booking form for Hotel le Jura - in France.

With the hotel fully-booked, staff were alarmed to see the four men arrive for a two-night stay.

However, being told they must have been mistaken, the guests presented their online booking form for the hotel's namesake in Dijon, France.

With no other accommodation available on the island, the guests were put up on camp beds in one of the hotel rooms currently being renovated, half painted and with no furniture.

Hotel owner Cath MacCallum told *The Oban Times*: 'They thought the whole thing was hilarious but I don't think they realised there was no other option.'

'My husband Andy was on duty when they came in and his heart was in his mouth when they reached for the print-out because he thought we must have made a huge mistake.'

'The guys hadn't smelt a rat when they paid in euros or when they received an email in perfectly written French. They just thought it was a really good booking service.'

Fortunately for the Frenchmen, rooms were available the following night but their luck ran out when they went to see the Corryvreckan the next day. The whirlpool, their main purpose for coming to Jura, was flat calm.

# Malcolm Webster loses bid to widen legal appeal

WIFE-killer Malcolm Webster has lost a legal bid to widen the grounds of his appeal.

The 53-year-old former Oban resident and nurse, who was last May jailed for life and ordered to serve a minimum 30-year sentence, was back in court last week as his defence team sought to expand the challenge against his conviction.

However, the Court of Criminal Appeal in Edinburgh rejected the bids saying there needed to be 'much clearer' indication of the dispute about the evidence.

Webster was found guilty of murdering Claire Morris in an Aberdeenshire crash in 1994 and of intending to bigamously marry Simone Banarjee, of Oban, to gain access to her estate.

He also plotted to kill second wife Felicity Drumm in New Zealand.

# Islay lifeboat comes to aid of yachts

ISLAY Lifeboat was launched to assist a yacht, which last Tuesday had snagged on creels.

The yacht *Westbound Adventure* called Clyde Coastguard reporting that they had the yacht, *Christella*, under tow.

However the rescuing yacht was having difficulties maintaining the tow.

When Islay RNLI Lifeboat arrived on scene they found that the *Christella* still had creels entangled. These were cut free and the lifeboat towed the yacht, with three people aboard, to Craighouse, Isle of Jura.

# Highlands and Islands Food and Drink awards expand categories

FIVE new categories have been added to this year's Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards.

Awards organisers, the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Forum, are encouraging entries from top performers in the industry in Argyll to enter for a range of categories including best drink, best marketing initiative, development of export markets, independent food and drink retailer of the year and best other eatery award.

Supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) the awards are the region's most prestigious food and drinks accolades, celebrating excellence and achievement in the industry and recognising industry players at the top of their game.

Quintin Stevens of the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Forum said: 'With some of the best natural produce in the world, the awards showcase the wide range of food and drink products in the region and the equally diverse profile of businesses, from internationally renowned companies to small innovative producers.'

'We've introduced several new awards this year to cater for and appeal to the wealth of outstanding innovation and effort we know is helping to shape the future of the industry. We hope that more businesses in Argyll's food and drink industry will step forward this year and let the awards help gain recognition for and promote their achievements.'

Entries are open until Friday June 15. For further information check [www.hifoodanddrinkawards.com](http://www.hifoodanddrinkawards.com).

# Isle of Skye woman wins £100 of fuel



Jean Hunter is delighted at winning £100 worth of fuel in *The Oban Times*.

## Huge entry for 'Free Fuel' competition in *The Oban Times*

RETIREE Skye postwoman Jean Hunter will find her shopping trips to Portree a lot more affordable after winning last month's *Oban Times* prize competition.

Jean, from Drynoch near Carbost, correctly answered 'petrol' to our question 'which is the most common type of fuel used in motor vehicles?' - and her name was first out of the hat for the £100 fill up of her tank with fuel.

**Retired**

Jean, aged 72 and originally from Kilchrenan in Argyll, has lived on the Isle of Skye for 40 years and retired from doing her post round five years ago.

She said: 'I don't travel off the island a lot, but where we live it is essential to have a car.'

Jean usually fills up at Portree Filling Station, 15 miles from her home.

# Singing Kettle ticket winners

TWO LUCKY families have been announced as winners of *The Oban Times* Singing Kettle competition.

Wendy Douglas of Ganavan, Oban, and Tania Williams of Kilmelford, will be taking their families to the sing-along extravaganza Shake, Rattle and Roll at the Corran Halls on May 16. At this year's show, children are invited to take part in all the musical fun by making their own shaker or bringing along a musical instrument.

The winning families also receive a free Singing Kettle DVD and fun pack.

The lucky winners had to answer a question and send in an entry coupon to enter the competition.

# Mull Lines



Tobermory lifeboat greets the Leverburgh lifeboat in the Sound of Mull.

THE ROYAL National Lifeboat Institution's (RNLI) newest vessel stopped by Mull for a training exercise last week en route to its new home.

The *Lifetime Care* is to be based at Leverburgh on the Isle of Harris - the first all-weather lifeboat station to be opened since 1990.

The crew - made up of volunteers - took the opportunity to stop at Tobermory, re-opened in 1990, to carry out a joint training exercise.

Tobermory's station mechanic Jock Anderson took the plunge into the sea to simulate a man overboard scenario before being rescued by the Leverburgh RNLI volunteers.

The Leverburgh lifeboat was piped into Tobermory Bay courtesy of Alexander Anderson and Fraser Mitchell from Mull and Iona Schools Pipers, who played from the bow of the Tobermory lifeboat.

Jock Anderson said: 'We were keen not only to have an opportunity to train with our newest neighbours in the Hebrides but to also give them a warm west coast welcome not only to Tobermory but also to the wider lifeboat family.'

'All of us at Tobermory RNLI would like to give our best wishes to our new colleagues both afloat and ashore at Leverburgh.'

PUPILS at Bunessan Primary School were treated to two workshops courtesy of the Edinburgh Science Festival.

Generation Science, the touring schools programme, visited Mull with its 'Fizz Bang Boom' and 'Lego Mindstorms Challenge'.

Youngsters witnessed a chemical reaction that caused lots of foaming of liquids to great height and interacted with hip hop dancing robots as part of the programme.

This is the programme's first visit to Mull since 2005 but they will be back on May 15.



A MONUMENT of national importance is to return to Mull after undergoing repair work by Historic Scotland.

The Mariota Stone, which is around 500 years old, was a grave marker in Kilvickeon Parish Church before being taken away in 2008 for conservation work.

The stone is the oldest of a number of impressive table tombs and headstones in the churchyard and got its name from the inscription which reads: 'Here lies Mariota, daughter of...'. No other information is legible.

The stone will go on display at Tigh na Rois, the Ross of Mull Historical Centre, later this month before being moved to a new purpose-built protective shelter.

THERE'S a new arrival on Mull - the first white tailed eagle chick has hatched at the new hide on the island.

Proud parents Iona and Fingal have been fussing over the new arrival and rangers hope a second egg is in the nest and will hatch in the next few days.

For the past 38 days, the adult birds have taken turns incubating the eggs, sitting very low on the nest. First indications that something had changed was last Tuesday when Iona was sitting higher up on the nest. She was also fidgeting and fussing with the eggs.

Sue Dewar, white tailed eagle ranger with Mull and Iona Ranger Service, said: 'It was on Wednesday afternoon that we first witnessed Iona, the female adult, bending her head down and gently feeding the chick.'

'Tiny morsels of food were torn off by her huge beak and were delicately fed to her new chick. Iona was also very careful to keep her talons well out of the way so as not to put the chick in any danger.'

'The new arrival is great news for the birds but also for Mull as so many people come to witness these massive and magnificent birds.'

Part of the income from trips to the hide is put into a fund which is available to the islanders for local community projects.

A recent survey reported that the white-tailed eagles alone bring in £5m annually to Mull's economy. If there is a second egg it could hatch in the next couple of days, as eagles lay eggs two or three days apart, but sit from the time the first egg is laid.

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

# Fatal accident inquiry hears of young shepherd's tragic death

THE DEATH of a young shepherd was an 'accident with tragic consequences' according to the findings of a fatal accident inquiry held at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

James Steele, 32, fell to his death while trying to help

neighbouring farmers, Derek and Catherine Dempster, gather sheep on August 5 last year.

**Fallen**  
James' father, Donald Steele, of Taynuilt, told the inquiry that it had been a 'fine' day and he had been in Glen Cruachan with

James helping gather sheep for shearing.

He said: 'It was late in the afternoon when I realised something was wrong. Catherine Dempster told me James had fallen and she was going to ring the emergency services.'

'I went over to where James was but he was dead.

'He was just lying on the ground.'

Despite efforts to save the father of two, James, who was airlifted to Glasgow by helicopter, was pronounced dead

on arrival at the city's Southern General Hospital.

A pathologist's report confirmed the cause of death as a 'head injury due to a fall from a height'.

The former Oban High School pupil had worked on farms and

estates for a number of years and had been working with Castle's Estate near Loch Awe as a shepherd since 2005.

Health and safety inspections at the estate following James' death found that the existing policies were 'robust' and no

recommendations were made by Sheriff Ruth Anderson.

She said: 'Mr Steele was a hard worker and skilled. I want to express my sympathy to his family and friends. Nothing could have been done to stop this tragic accident happening.'

## Oban police go on video and Twitter

OBAN'S police office has joined the internet revolution by launching its very own Twitter feed. Launched as part of a redesign of the force's website, the new feed means the force can communicate instantly with followers, passing on advice and information on events, incidents and ongoing investigations.

The feed can be found at @strathpol60. Meanwhile, Inspector Julie McLeish features in a new video introducing Oban, Lorn and the Isles on Strathclyde Police's redesigned website.

The Oban page outlines police priorities for the area and links to their ongoing public consultation survey.

For more information, go to www.strathclyde.police.uk and follow the links for Your Community.

## New Clyde ferries go to Merseyside shipyard

WESTERN Ferries has appointed Merseyside company Cammel Laird as preferred bidder to build two new ferries for the Gourock to Dunoon route.

Construction is due to start in June this year, with both vessels to be delivered in the summer of 2013.

The new vessels will be faster, more environmentally friendly and will offer 20 per cent greater capacity for passengers and cargo.

## Inveraray Castle opens its doors to local residents

INVERARAY Castle and Garden will throw open its doors to local residents this weekend.

Those living within the PA27, PA32, PA33 and PA35 postcode areas will be able to peruse the seat of the Duke of Argyll this Sunday from 10am-5pm.

A 20 per cent discount is available in both the castle tearoom and gift shop.

To find out more, check www.inveraray-castle.com or phone 01499 302 203.

## Mull alleged drink driver told to 'take legal advice'

A MULL man who had chosen to represent himself in court was instructed to withdraw his guilty plea by a sheriff at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Ralph Franklin, of 28 Struan Crescent, Tobermory, appeared on an undertaking after being found by police on the village's main street on April 29 allegedly drink driving.

Franklin, 59, had originally pled guilty to the charge but after hearing his claims that he was in the vehicle with the keys in his hand - not driving - Sheriff Ruth Anderson said: 'Life is never straight forward Mr Franklin, I am going to allow you to withdraw your guilty plea at this stage, because I am telling you to. I strongly advise you to seek legal advice when you leave here today.'

The case was continued without plea until May 29.

## New community website for Cowal

COWAL Marketing Group and Argyll Voluntary Action has launched a new community website to help promote the area.

The website, www.visitcowal.com, now allows local groups to quickly promote events thanks to a new upload form. The website was part funded by Argyll and Bute Council.

## Man arrested after alleged assault on teenagers

A 24 YEAR old man was arrested last week, accused of assaulting two fifteen year old boys in Oban's George Street at 1.30am on May 3.

## Oban man jailed for 10 months and banned from driving for eight years

A MAN has been sentenced to 10 months in prison after he was so desperate to find drugs he stole a vehicle and drove from Oban to Glasgow, crashing the stolen vehicle on the return journey.

John Johnstone, 31, broke into a garage where he was an employee after it had closed for the day on April 16.

Johnstone, of 3B Longsdale Terrace, Oban, took keys and stole a customers' Toyota Land-cruiser.

The court heard he was on a methadone prescription but had been 'rattling' and unable to find drugs in Oban.

Johnstone had driven to Glasgow to buy heroin and had lost control at Loch Awe on the return journey causing the vehicle to strike a barrier and a wall.

The court also heard Johnstone had six previous convictions for driving while disqualified - all of which, according to his solicitor, were related to his drug use.

Sheriff Paul Crozier banned Johnstone from driving for eight years and sentenced him to 10 months imprisonment.

## Local businesses among top awards nominations

THREE local businesses, two events and one marketing campaign are among those shortlisted for prestigious tourism awards.

The Scottish Thistle Awards are given to those businesses that excel in offering an exceptional service to the tourism industry.

Argyll and the Isles dominates the Central South West Region, with six nominations in total.

Under the Best Guest House or Bed and Breakfast awards, Alt na Craig House, Oban, has been nominated, alongside the Ardorna guest house near Barcaldine. Kilmore's Clan Cottages is nominated for the Best Self Service Award.

The British Wavesailing Association's Three Wave Classic is nominated for the Best Sporting Event Award, alongside the Scottish Six Day's Orienteering Event in Oban last year.

The Loch Lomond Waterbus has been nominated for the VisitBritain Marketing Campaign of the Year Award.

Meanwhile, Arran's Auchranrie Resort has been nominated for the Historic Scotland Tourism Entrepreneur Award.

The winners will be announced at the regional final at the Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow, on May 23. The winners will then be shortlisted for the national finals in November.

## Three arrested following disorder

THREE people were charged by police at Donmor Lodge, Oban, last week.

A woman, 33, was arrested last Tuesday night, charged with hindering and obstructing police officers investigating an unexplained death.

The following day, May 2, a 48 year old man was charged with acting in a disorderly manner and obstructing officers during an investigation.

A 49 year old man was later charged with disorder offences at the scene.



The team behind the successful Royal Burgh cafe. 06\_a19caf01

## Prestigious national award for Royal Burgh's outstanding Italian connection

A FAMILY that has served traditional Italian food to people in Mid Argyll for generations has scooped the prestigious Fish and Chip Quality Award.

The Royal Burgh Cafe, run by Adriano Pia and family, received the award from the National Federation of Fish Friers (NFFF), in recognition of the quality of food and service in the Inveraray restaurant and takeaway.

The NFFF report states the cafe got top marks in all aspects

of the award including preparation work and knowledge of the end product.

**Hard-working staff**  
Adriano, who has been at the helm of the family business for 25 years, says the award is well deserved for his team of hard-working staff.

'The success of the cafe is not just down to myself but teamwork and everybody that works here; it is recognition of what is done here day in day out,' he said.

Adriano took over the business from his father who came to Argyll 27 years ago after falling in love with the area. Growing up around Italian food and drawing on his family's background and knowledge in farming helps in sourcing the best ingredients possible, he says.

Equally passionate about the environment and how food is packaged, the business recycles as much as possible and mostly uses paper products.

Having worked in family fish

and chip shops in Lochgilhead and Tarbert, Adriano said he is grateful for the characters he has met in each of the Loch Fyne towns.

Mr Pia, known to his close friends as buona forchetta, which means enjoying good food, likes to share the naked taste of good food and specialties in his restaurant. The cafe will soon be launching a new evening menu incorporating the best of Argyll foods cooked with Italian flair.

## VAT hike threat to caravan holiday trade

ARGYLL caravan parks could be on the way out - due to the hike in VAT imposed in the government's 'pasty tax' - which also applies to static caravans.

**50 per cent slump feared**  
Industry sources say the demand for these caravans would decrease by around 50 per cent when the tax is imposed in October, risking jobs as a result.

Static caravans are currently only liable for a 20 per cent tax rate for the fixtures and fittings, which equates to around a five per cent tax rate as a whole.

Port Ban Holiday Park at Kilberry, Tarbert has been in existence since 1966, it has been passed down from the original owners to their 11 children.

Now director and co-owner, Jonathan Sheldrick, has contacted local MP Alan Reid in the hope he can lobby the government to change their minds.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We keep the park running through rentals but our profit comes from caravan sales. If this legislation goes through we will have to make decisions about dismissing employees - myself included - it is my job that is on the line.'

The family run business currently has a waiting list for

caravans which, Mr Sheldrick says, will 'shelter' them from the first effects.

'We are anticipating a boom this year as people try and beat the cost increase but after that we think it will go very quiet for the next two years.'

Figures collected by the British Holiday and Home Parks Association forecast a 52.2 per cent slump in demand for static caravans which would see nearly 4000 people across the UK lose their jobs.

To Mr Sheldrick this means that Port Ban Holiday Park would lose income equivalent to a full time employees annual wage.

There are also fears that the changes will impact on other Argyll businesses that depend of the caravan park residents - and on Britain's manufacturing industry.

HM Revenue and Customs forecast a 30 per cent fall in demand but the vast majority of park owners believe the effects will be far beyond this.

But Mr Sheldrick remains hopeful: 'We are getting a lot of feedback from our local MP and the association and it looks hopeful that the government will do a u-turn on this.'

## Mull man had 'really nasty' lock knife

A MULL man searched while waiting for a ferry was found to have a lock knife in his possession, Oban Sheriff Court heard.

Euan Mckay, who now lives at 34 West End Park Street in Glasgow, was found with the weapon in a black Nintendo case on April 29 while in Oban's ferry terminal.

The 26-year-old pled guilty but claimed he had the knife for use in art and crafts - an explanation Sheriff Paul Crozier rejected.

He said: 'This is a really nasty little article and I'm not satisfied that the explanation provided is accurate.'

Sentencing was deferred until May 18.



Ernie Upton's Reefed Sails off Duart, Mull, valued at £1,800, could be yours for £5 as part of Oban Phoenix Cinema's prize raffle.

## Chance of oil painting for £5 as Oban Phoenix Cinema keep fundraising

A SPECTACULAR oil painting by local artist Ernie Upton worth £1,800 could be yours for £5 as Oban Phoenix Cinema's latest fundraiser.

Reefed Sails off Duart, Mull was gifted to the Oban Phoenix Cinema social enterprise by the artist in a bid to help raise extra funds for the picture house, which will open its doors this summer.

The painting is of yachts passing Duart Castle on Mull, sails reefed in building seas. It can be viewed at ALBA, in Oban's Albany Street.

In total, 2,000 tickets have been printed, meaning the painting could raise as much as £10,000 for new features and facilities.

Director of Oban Phoenix Cinema, Laura Russell, said: 'We would like to thank Mr Upton for donating this fabulous

painting to us and for allowing us to hold a public raffle.

'All those who take part by buying tickets will be contributing to Oban Phoenix Cinema - and everyone has the chance to win.'

'The lucky winner will take home a very special work of art with a strong local connection.'

'Tickets for the raffle are available from board and committee members and at all Oban Phoenix Cinema events. The winner will be drawn at the Corran Halls on September 22, when the group will hold a bring and buy sale.'

Meanwhile, the directors and volunteers from the cinema will be bag packing at the Co-operative this Saturday from 10am-4pm. Anyone wishing to help out should contact Isla MacColl on lalcol@hotmail.co.uk.

A NEW CD combining the significant musical talents of the Oban, Lorn and Isles area is to be launched to celebrate this year's Festival of the Sea.

In total, 11 separate artists have combined to create The Essence of the Sea, an album conceived by former councillor Neil Mackay, whose own band, Macadam, features.

The album was produced by Finlay Wells, who has also co-written a track especially for the festival with Sileas Sinclair, Daydreams and Waves.

The album launch coincides with the announcement of the Festival of the Sea Fringe, which will see live music played across the whole area every day of the event, which runs from May 18-28, with 12 evening gigs held in and around the area throughout the festival.

Finlay says the eclectic album is the perfect way to celebrate the area's rich musical pool, while proceeds from the sales of the album will help fund the next Festival of the Sea.

He said: 'The album is called The Essence of the Sea, so all the tracks have a watery theme.'

'In purely musical terms though, each of the artists are quite different. We've got everything from Skerryvore to Oban High School Pipe Band.'

Also featuring on the album is Mod gold medallist Juy Dunlop, Angus MacColl, Gunna Sound, Mary Catherine MacNeil, Skip-inish Ceilidh Band, Angus

*"Every artist was 100 per cent keen to be part of it."*

producer Findlay Wells

Smith and Achnaba. Each artist picked their own track to appear on the album, which is due to go on sale on May 18.

It is hoped the very nature of the album will help introduce listeners to artists and even genres they've never had the chance to fully appreciate - both locals and visitors alike.

'Hopefully, it will act as a good introduction for people that haven't heard some of these acts before,' said Finlay. 'Every artist was 100 per cent keen to be a part of it as the Festival of the Sea is quite a huge event, and it helps the whole area.'

With Daydreams and Waves, Finlay hopes to have created something that sums up the festival.

He said: 'It's an instrumental track and quite dreamy with some big dynamics. It was great to work with Sileas on that. Writing it was quite fun because we hadn't written together before.'

For more information about the Festival of the Sea, visit obanseafestival.org.

## Gym boss placed on probation following sexual assault case

A GYM boss previously found guilty of indecently assaulting two young women has been placed on probation for a year.

Robin Morton, of 23 Balvicar, near Oban, was also placed on the sex offenders register when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week and will be monitored for the same period.

The 50-year-old, who is selling his share of Energy Fitness to his business partner, had claimed during his trial that the witnesses were lying about the assault and called their evidence 'poisonous' and 'vindictive'.

But the victims explained how he had offered them massages after they enquired about a job and described the experience as 'perky'.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson also

found Morton guilty of offering one of the women £50 to allow him to massage her.

Procurator Fiscal David Giancy told Morton during the trial: 'These witnesses had to enter a punishing cross-examination by your solicitor, which was lengthy, emotionally bruising and rigorous, yet their positions remained unchanged.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson said Morton had 'overstepped the mark' but was a 'low risk of reoffending'.

Sheriff Anderson reiterated that she found the witness' evidence 'both reliable and utterly credible' and said that while Morton may not agree he had done anything wrong she hoped he now accepted the judgement of the court.

## Talent show raises £200 for H2O

THE RECENT Oban High School talent show raised over £200 for Hope 2 Oban (H2O) who want to thank the S6 pupils for all their hard work and wish them every success as their school days draw to a close.

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# Talent shines through at music and dance fest

## Highlands and Island event uncovers stars of the future



Champion of champions: Jack Westwell won best performance at the concert. 08\_t19himdf13



'To A Mouse' was a very popular theme at the dance competitions on Sunday. 08\_t19himdf16



Abbie MacNeil, 14, was a winner at the Scottish Area Highland Dancing Finals held in Atlantis Leisure. 08\_t19himdf01



Sixteen-year-old Rebecca Hill from Connel took first place in the clarsach advanced class. 16\_t19himdf09



Oban girl Kirsty Campbell, 15, took home the trophy for best overall in woodwind. 16\_t19himdf10

THE SUN shone on some bright stars of the future at last weekend's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

The festival, in its 29th year, attracted competitors from around the country but some of the highlights came from Argyll.

Rebecca Hill, 16, has been playing the clarsach for eight years. The Connel girl's rendition of *Glenlivet* was 'stunning' according to judges.

'It made such an impact,' said one as Rebecca collected the trophy for first place in the advanced class.

Meanwhile, 15-year-old Kirsty Campbell from Oban picked up the best overall performance in the woodwind section.

The humble youngster, who has been playing for five years, admitted she had won before but 'not for a while'.

Another youngster, Finlay Bennett from North Connel, picked up trophies for his playing of the fiddle and chanter.

The 11-year-old said: 'It is the first time I have won and I'm really pleased.'

Winners also came from far and wide with Abbie MacNeil from Glasgow picking up trophies at the Area Finals and in the Highland Dancing competition at Atlantis Leisure.

The 14-year-old has been dancing for 11 years and visits Oban every year for the festival.

Star of the Accordion and Fiddle Masters was 20-year-old Maggie Adamson from Fladdabister in Shetland.

Maggie is studying violin at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and has won a host of trophies in the past 12 months

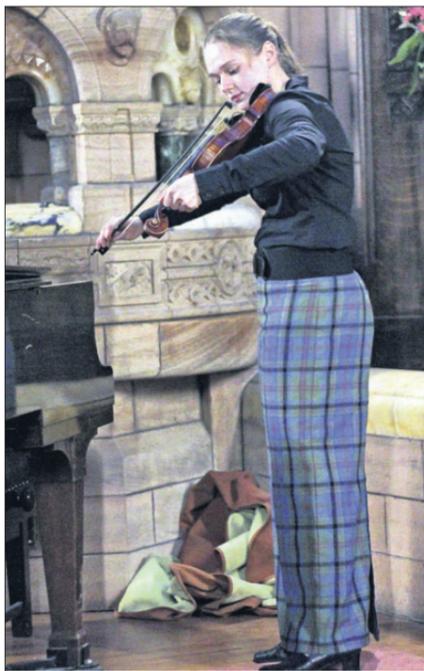
including the all-Scotland championship, the Senior NAAFC Championship and the Glenfiddich Fiddle Championships.

This year she will be playing as part of the Proms Festival in the Royal Albert Hall in London with the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland.

A very talented family also took part in the festival this year with elder sibling Jack Westwell collecting the prize for best performance at the concert of champions.

The Edinburgh teenager composed his own piece of piano music for the festival and received rapturous applause for his playing in the Corran Halls.

Spectators were treated to an outdoor performance as the Lisbeg Pipe Band marched from Oban's Station Square to the Corran Halls - gathering a crowd as they went.



Maggie Adamson, from Shetland, won the fiddle trophy at the Accordion and Fiddle Masters. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.



Lisbeg Pipe Band from Ballygawley, Co Tyrone in Northern Ireland, took part in the parade through the streets of Oban from Station Square to the Corran Halls. 08\_t19himdf04



Performing in St John's Cathedral was Oban accordion player Craig MacFadyen. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.



Kate MacPherson, Katherine Harris and Eilidh Munro placed in the top three in the classical song class. They were accompanied by Ena Millar. 16\_t19himdf03



Timothy Ness from Monifieth performed at the concert of champions. 08\_t19himdf11



The Mauchline Wedding was one of the performances in the Robert Burns themed event. 08\_t19himdf17



Shona MacFadyen, West Kilbride, in the Accordion and Fiddle Masters. 08\_t19himdf02

Results and more pictures on Page 13

**ENERGY WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN. THANK GOODNESS.**

Last autumn, we told the world that we were going to change. We said we were going to restore simplicity, become more transparent, improve our service and make sure all our customers are treated fairly. Slashing our energy products to just four, making our bills clearer and making all our deals available to all our customers are just a few of the changes we've made. We've come far. But we're only just getting started. This is a new dawn for the energy business. And we're leading the way. We think today is going to be a good day.

NHS Highland ScottishCare Argyle & Bute Council

**Reshaping Care for Older People**

Third Sector Partnership

**Locality Events**

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Everyone with an interest in the current and future services for older people is welcome to attend any of these locality events

There will be two sessions each day, the first from 10a.m. until 12.30p.m. and the second from 1.30 p.m. until 4p.m.

Each session will start with a short presentation; you are welcome to pop in at any time during the day and stay for as long as you like.

May 10th	Drill Hall, Lochgilphead
May 11th	Victoria Hall, Campbeltown
May 14th	Church Centre, Glencruiltan Road, Oban
May 15th	Columba Centre, Islay
May 17th	Craignure Hall, Isle of Mull
May 18th	Pillar Hall, Victoria Hall, Helensburgh

Talented 11-year-old Finlay Bennett, from North Connel, won trophies for fiddle and chanter. 16\_t19himdf08

Newsdesk 01631 568000

## Decision day for Oban's Jubilee bonfire within McCaig's Tower

TODAY is D-day for an ambitious plan to hold a bonfire in McCaig's Tower to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Planners from Argyll and Bute Council will meet to discuss the proposal by local man Graham

MacQueen, who says the June 2 event could put Oban on the map as a 'forward thinking' town. **Worried** However, the proposal has caused something of a stir, with some locals saying they

were worried the bonfire would damage the tower and nearby homes. Such fears have been dismissed by Mr MacQueen who says the bonfire would heat the walls to 'no warmer than they'd be on a

hot summer's day', but he admits a backup plan will be put into action if the bonfire is refused by the local authority. **Application** Mr MacQueen, who says he was previously told the bonfire

could go ahead before the council asked him to submit a written application, said: 'There was a bit of concern from residents that houses would be damaged and cars melted. 'There was also the wedding

on the same day but we've sorted that out. 'It's all been a bit of a storm in a teacup, but if it goes ahead the effect on the town would be marvellous. 'The effect will be stunning.'

### New anxiety course to be held in Oban

A NEW course to help people suffering from anxiety or depression is to start in Oban at the end of the month. The free, six-week course aims to help people understand why they might be feeling low, anxious or depressed.

It teaches skills to help build confidence, manage stress and tackle everyday problems.

Service users have said: 'The course sessions helped me greatly and some of the things I learnt from you have been invaluable.'

'Before I attended your course I felt extremely isolated, confused, frustrated and scared about the way I was feeling.'

'Although it took a lot of courage to come along, myself found my confidence within myself grow after each session.'

The courses start on Monday May 28 at 1.30pm in Glenruitten Church Centre, Oban.

To find out more email fonat@actionondepression.org or phone 07827 999575.

## Young mums take plunge for charity

### Third time lucky as pregnancies stall ski dive



IT IS often said mothers must have the patience of a saint - but that rule must have been tested for two Oban mums who endured

an 18-month wait when trying to raise money for charity. Helen Jamieson and Lynn Robertson had planned to do a

sky dive for Cancer Research on August 21 2010 but it was called off as a result of high winds.

The rescheduled date in April 2011 also had to be abandoned - but not due to the weather. This time the pair had fallen pregnant at the same time!

Helen, 28 said: 'Our company had asked for volunteers to do a sky dive for Cancer Research and we had been fundraising since summer 2010.'

'It was third time lucky for us when we finally jumped in April but the weather was changing all day, it was really cloudy and we didn't think we were going to get up.'

The M&Co colleagues finally took the plunge on April 15 at Strathallan Airfield in Perthshire - raising almost £3,000 for the charity. Lynn, 33 said: 'It was brilliant. It was absolutely fantastic and I would do it again in a heartbeat. It is a really good charity to be raising money for - we all know someone who has been affected by cancer.'



### Dunbeg wins annual Rotary Club schools' quiz

OBAN Rotary Club held its Primary Schools Quiz competition at the Royal Hotel, Oban, last Friday.

The competition was a closely fought encounter of a very high standard and the winning team was from Dunbeg Primary School.

Six primary schools took part, the highest entry ever for the competition.

Dunbeg Primary School will now take part in the district finals in Pollokshaws Burgh Hall on Monday May 21.

Shown in the picture, right, are Ken Oxland, President of the Rotary Club of Oban, and the members of the winning team, Caelan Sloan, James Emslie, Ethan Sharp and Hugo Stahl.



### Laurinburg exchange anniversary ceilidh

THOSE who have taken part in the Oban - Laurinburg exchange trip on both sides of the Atlantic are being encouraged to attend an anniversary ceilidh in June.

This year is the 20th year of the student exchange programme between Oban High School and Scotland High School, North Carolina.

To mark the occasion, a ceilidh will be held in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Saturday June 23 where a ceilidh band and pupils from Oban High School will provide the entertainment.

Former Oban High School teacher Anne Stewart, who is

helping to organise the ceilidh, said: 'The ceilidh is open to anyone who wants to come but we would particularly like to see people who have been involved in exchange in some way.'

'The exchange has been really important for both towns over the past 20 years and has involved around 400 school pupils from both sides of the Atlantic.'

Anne said she hoped representatives from Laurinburg would be making an appearance on the night.

Tickets are being sold in advance of the ceilidh and are available by e-mailing laurinburg20@hotmail.co.uk.

## Lorn Lines

THE ANNUAL Flag Week organised by Oban's Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre raised more than £1,000 for the charity.

The final total was an increase of around £200 on the previous year.

During Flag Week, volunteers armed with their collecting cans knocked on doors throughout Oban.

The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre thanked members of the public who gave so generously and the volunteers who gave up their time and made the effort to help raise money for the centre, which offers oxygen therapy treatment to aid MS and other conditions.

YOUNG photographers from Oban challenged the town's camera club to a picture competition.

The school-age members of H2O Zoom! went head-to-head against members of Oban Camera Club for the second successive year on April 30.

This was an open competition with each club entering 25 images. The tough task of judging was in the hands of local photographer Kevin McGlynn.

The final score was very close with the more senior Oban Camera Club scoring a total of 328 for their 25 images and Zoom! coming in a close second with 314 for their 25 images.

Best picture overall winner was Oban Camera Club member Eric Shaw, who was presented the H2O challenge cup by sponsor and lifetime photographer John Douglas.

From Zoom!, best H2O picture was jointly won by Dionne Gilbride and Lauren Leggett.

Zoom! is currently putting together its 2012 summer exhibition - ARGYLL - Awesome Rural Gateway, Youthful Land of Light.



Not a chair was to be had during a soup lunch for Oban Pipe Band at the Shore Street band hall recently, with the chicken and sweetcorn soup going down a treat. 15\_1150soup1unch1

THE ANNUAL meeting of the Argyll Members' Group of the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) was recently held at the Falls of Lora Hotel.

After the AGM, Bryan Dickson, NTS head of buildings, gave an excellent talk emphasising that NTS was a charity.

He told members the trust holds and cares for the second biggest estate in Scotland.

He described the enormous range of buildings, illustrating many of them with a wide range of interesting photographs.

Chairwoman Jenny McEvoy gave the vote of thanks.

You can send the news and views from your organisation, group or club direct to editor@obantimes.co.uk

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OT

Jobs fear as Uist building firm goes into administration

A CONSTRUCTION firm which was formed on South Uist 35 years ago has gone into administration, threatening the jobs of its 277 employees across Scotland.

UBC Group, formerly Uist Builders (Construction) Limited, has offices in Daliburgh, Stornoway, Inverness, Glasgow and Tayside.

Zolfo Cooper has been appointed administrators for the building and civil engineering firm. The company's contracts include building affordable housing and marine engineering projects.

Stòras Uibhist chairman Huw Francis told The Oban Times the news was 'hugely disappointing'. He said: 'They've been a good employer over the years and it's going to be a big blow to lose those jobs from the island. It's difficult economic times just now and these things can't be helped.'

UBC managing director Seumas Pedrana said it was a 'very sad day' and the company had looked at every possible option to avoid administration.

Belhaven care plan wins MSP's backing

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson is backing proposals to transform the mothballed Belhaven Ward in Fort William into a respite care service centre.

Crossroads Caring Scotland (Lochaber) wants NHS Highland to consider a partnership deal to re-open the ward, which once housed 23 beds for the frail elderly undergoing rehabilitation or assessment.

Mr Thompson urged 'a positive response' to the plan.

A health board spokesperson said: 'NHS Highland can confirm we have received a letter from Dave Thompson and we will be responding to him shortly.'

NEWSDESKS
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Sea wall safety ladder warning

TWO MEN in a boat failed in a dramatic rescue bid off Fort William - to find a woman's purse containing her entire £80 weekly allowance.

And the Saturday morning incident at the West End car park prompted her father to warn lives could be lost unless a rusting ladder on the sea wall is repaired.

Local woman Michelle Burgess and daughter Bethany were sitting on the wall when her purse slipped out of her fleece pocket and fell into the sea.

Michelle's dad Bob Burgess arrived with wife Wilma to pick them up for a shopping trip to Oban - just in time to see the purse sinking under the waves.

Two staff in an inflatable boat from the nearby Crannog restaurant arrived at the scene after an onlooker phoned them.

Bob directed operations from above, but the half-hour search

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

with a grab proved fruitless. The grandfather, who is a carer for Wilma and retires as a plumber next Saturday when he turns 65, was unable to reach the badly corroded ladder - which he claims is a safety hazard.

He told The Oban Times: 'The nearest ladder had two or three rungs missing at the bottom and the Crannog guys said it didn't look safe.'

'These ladders don't go all the way to the top of the wall or handrail, so they are difficult and dangerous to get onto.'

'I think the council should repair or replace these ladders before a fatal accident happens. For a split second you are not holding onto anything at the top.'

The tides are very strong and if anyone was to tumble in you would have a hell of a job getting down to help.'

Bob added: 'I consoled my daughter by saying it could have been worse - it could have been Bethany who fell in.'

'She had a full week's benefit money in it to buy herself and her daughter some clothes.'

Newly re-elected Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Brian Murphy pledged to investigate.

He told The Oban Times: 'I would need to take a look at it and get our guys to check it in and take it from there.'

'The ladder should be there for a purpose and in the event of somebody falling in the water and being unable to access it, I would certainly want to see it repaired - if that is the purpose it is intended for.'

Deal struck on council administration

THE SNP has struck a deal with the Liberal Democrats and Labour to form the new Highland Council administration following a day of tense negotiations in Inverness on Tuesday.

It also emerged SNP group leader Drew Hendry will be the new council leader. Independent councillors made up the largest group following

last week's elections, with 36 out of 80 elected members. The new coalition will have 44 councillors. Ross-shire councillor Isabelle Campbell made a controversial decision to defect from the Lib Dems to the Independents the day after the results were announced.

See the full council election roundup on page 7.

Motorcyclist dies in horror crash

A MOTORCYCLIST was killed in a horror crash on the A82 three miles west of Spean Bridge of Tuesday morning.

Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT) competitors were caught up in the ensuing chaos as huge traffic jams built up either side of the scene.

Police closed the road for four hours after the 10am accident, which also involved a car.

SSDT riders heading for competition sections further up the Great Glen were rerouted

via Gairloch so the event could continue.

The road blockage heaped further misery on motorists already faced with lengthy delays caused by upgrading works at the Lochybridge roundabout.

A82 Partnership spokesman Stewart MacLean said: 'Following the tragic fatal accident, the full impact of the decision to allow the roadworks to take place at Lochybridge during May has been highlighted.'

As The Oban Times went to

press police had not named the victim. SSDT organiser Mairi Jenkins reported on Facebook that the motorcyclist was not a competitor.

Meanwhile on Sunday afternoon, crowds packed Fort William High Street to see the 275-strong field ride through the pedestrianised thoroughfare.

After day two, two riders remained pointless - Jordi Pascuet and five-time winner Dougie Lampkin. Reigning champ James Dabhill was in fourth.



Fort man Bob Burgess shows the rusting ladder at the spot his daughter lost her money. 20\_1919ladder01

New furniture shop to open in Caol

LOCHABER's retail sector has received a boost with news that Inverness firm Blackbridge Furnishings is to open an outlet in Caol.

The company, which supplies solid pine, ash, birch and oak furniture, had been looking to expand to the Fort William area for some time. The store, in the former Nevisprint premises on Caol Industrial Estate, is scheduled to open at the end of this month. New manager Iain Kenney told The Oban Times four people would be employed initially. Three more staff could be needed if the business performs as expected.

He added: 'It's another outpost to serve our existing customers and grow the business.'

'We have a good customer base over here. We have noticed a lot of people from Lochaber and the islands coming to our Inverness store.'

Careless driving caused head-on crash

A MAN whose careless driving caused a head-on crash on the A830 Road to the Isles has been fined £360 and given eight penalty points.

Jason MacLean, of 2 Templeview, Croyard Road, Beaulieu, pled guilty to driving without due care and attention at Callop railway bridge on November 26.

The 36-year-old admitted driving at excessive speed, crossing the road and colliding with another car. The passenger in the other car suffered a broken sternum and spent two nights in hospital, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Drunk who swore at ambulance workers fined £360

A MAN who drunkenly shouted and swore at two ambulance workers in Kinlochleven has been fined £360.

Andrew Thomson, of 6 Castledyke Road, Carstairs, pled guilty to assaulting, obstructing or hindering the men by striking the ambulance on Leven Road on October 29.

The 25-year-old called 999 at 5am when his friend fell and injured himself after a night out in the village, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Defendant found with three different drugs

A FORT William man found in possession of three different drugs after a police search has been sentenced to two weeks in prison.

Gary MacKinnon, of 3 Maryburgh Court, was taken into police custody in relation to a separate matter on November 22.

He was searched and officers

found 38 tablets of class 'C' drug Buprenorphine and 0.8grammes of class 'B' drug dihydrocodeine.

Painkillers

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said the drugs were powerful painkillers.

He said: 'He was using the drugs to help him stay off heroin. He is now off the heroin, exercising regularly and is completely drug-free.'

Police also found 0.1grammes of heroin in the 39-year-old's possession at Fort William Police Station, with a street value of around £10.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined MacKinnon £450 but Mr Kennedy asked for the equivalent prison time in place of the fine.

30 Years Ago

Those Were The Days The Oban Times

Thursday, May 13, 1982



As the start of the tourist season draws closer, it's a safe bet that Oban's most famous landmark, McCaig's Tower, will be the focus of attention for many visitors. 16\_11919wtd01

Children's favourite on the Isle of Iona

A NEW attraction on Iona - Perry and Pos, a magnificent pair of Welsh Cobs - have already won the hearts of local children.

Last week they also began turning the heads of visitors, to whom they offer an ideal way of seeing round the tranquil island - by horse drawn carriage.

The new company offering the service is Island Carriages, set up by Sue and Reg Morgan of

Hospital site moves to Soroba

THE LATEST site for Oban's new general hospital appears to be Soroba, according to Councillor William Hunter.

He said he had a 'very strong impression' the site at Soroba was now committed for the hospital, not Ganavan.

Radio complaints

AT ITS meeting last week, Lochaber District Council decided to monitor complaints and comments regarding the recently introduced timings of BBC Radio Highland's morning programmes.

the Isle of Mull Pony Trekking Centre, Ormsaig, Pennyghael.

The Morgans bought Perry and Pos, seven-year-old half brothers, from a top Derbyshire driver, Caroline Dale, on condition that they were never parted.

The pair have always worked as a team and last year they showed their worth when they took second place in a national driving competition.



Council urge land rethink

THE SELLING of open land overlooking Branksome Park for private development has been sharply criticised by Oban Community Council.

The land is being offered for sale by Argyll and Bute District Council for private development of an indoor sporting and recreational complex.

But community councillors feel that any indoor development should take place on the strip of ground between

the bowling green and the swimming pool and the area overlooking Branksome Park should be retained as a natural, open air park for older children.

The open land facing on to Dalriach Road in the same area is already earmarked as a park for young children with their parents.

Councillor William Fowler said: 'It is a great shame that this piece of land looking on to

Branksome Park is not being left as a piece of open ground where children can go and kick a football. That is what we need, not an indoor development.'

He was backed up by councillor Ian Smythe who said that at the moment the area was an eyesore: 'I think it is absolutely appalling,' he said.

'What we need is an open plan facility for children in the town.'

Forest fire warning

TWO HUNDRED hectares of five-year-old trees were destroyed in a blaze in Barcaldine Forest on Friday evening.

Forestry workers and firemen spent three hours fighting

the fire, which swept through acres of trees, heather and grass belonging to the Forestry Commission.

It is thought it may have been started by a carelessly dropped

cigarette or other light. Four fire appliances were out from 5.30pm until 11.30pm to deal with the blaze, which was more confined to the Loch Etive side of the forest.

The cuppa with a difference on offer in the Isle of Skye



THE SKYE village of Luib on the main east coast road north of Broadford is where husband and wife Tony and Shirley Hodgson have opened a tearoom with a difference.

While Mrs Hodgson and daughter Alison serve customers in the tearoom, her husband is attending to orders of another kind. Behind the tearoom is Skye Shooter Supplies, the first licensed gun shop west of Inverness, stocked with a range of guns, ammunition and allied equipment.

'Versatility is the name of the game,' said Mr Hodgson, a former weapons instructor with the Special Air Service, the undercover unit which must be familiar with weapons of all nations. 16\_11919wtd03



Friday afternoon activities for a group of Portree High School children, clearing brushwood from a central site in the town as part of a campaign to tidy up the Skye capital. 16\_11919wtd05

### Bookings up for Aviemore aquaculture event

A RECORD number of advanced registered visitors will descend on Aquaculture UK 2012, which this year welcomes 106 exhibitors.

Held on May 23-24, the exhibition features manufacturers and suppliers from all over the world displaying new products and developments in aquaculture technology, fish feed, fish health, quality assurance, passive grading, fish farm equipment, storage solutions, processing and packaging.

Environmental protection, distribution, consultancy, insurance, training and funding, are also catered for at the event, held at Aviemore's Macdonald Highland Resort.

Meanwhile, entries are open until May 13 for aquaculture researchers keen to present at the conference on the first day of the show. The author of the best presentation, as determined by a panel of judges, will be awarded the Novartis 'Best Student Presentation' award.

This prestigious prize includes an expenses paid trip in July to Prince Edward Island, Canada, to visit one of Novartis Animal Health's state of the art research and development facilities.

Full details of the event and details of how to enter the Best Student Presentation competition are available at [www.aquacultureuk.com](http://www.aquacultureuk.com).

### Rail and cycle shop link in ticket discount scheme

NEVIS Cycle's shops in Oban and Fort William have been included in a ScotRail scheme to save cyclists cash.

The train operator's scheme offers 15 per cent off cycle hire for people with Freedom of Scotland Travelpass cards and 10 per cent off for those with other valid tickets.

The tickets are also valid at the Ticket to Ride rental shop in Inverness. Bikes must be left for collection at either of the three participating rental shops.

### Police investigate Mull money theft

POLICE are appealing for information after cash was stolen from an office at a Mull garage.

The theft from the Ledaig garage, Tobermory took place between Sunday, May 6 and Monday, May 7.

### Ben Lawers walk for Killin, Crianlarich and Strathyre pupils

PRIMARY school pupils in Killin will take on Ben Lawers in a sponsored walk as part of a busy month for the village school.

They will be joined by pupils from sister schools at Crianlarich and Strathyre in climbing the hill on May 30 as part of a drive to raise funds for their schools.

While they won't be taking on the whole hill, the walk will still pose quite a challenge for the groups.

Killin Primary School's busy month starts on Monday when pupils hit the village's streets in its annual spring clean.

The whole school and some parents will head out in groups to give the scenic village a dust down as part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful scheme.

Shortly afterwards, the pupils will tend to the school's own appearance in its Grounds Day, replanting the garden and tidying the playground.

June looks set to be just as busy, with Go Yellow day bringing a touch of colour to the school - with even teachers dressing up - before P6/7 pupils head to the MacRobert Centre in Stirling to perform a short concert on a European theme.

### Police appeal after Dalmally vandalism

POLICE are appealing for information after a window on a yellow JCB digger was broken in Dalmally.

The incident occurred sometime between 10am-11.30am on Saturday, May 5.



Video of this available online [OBANTIMES.CO.UK](http://OBANTIMES.CO.UK)

## Oban PC loses pounds to raise cash for local youth sports project

ROLLERCOPIER Andrew Simpson has provided 15 pairs of skates to Atlantis Leisure for his youth initiatives, after raising money from a sponsored diet.

**Donation**  
PC Simpson, a community police officer for Oban and Dunbeg, lost 24 pounds in nine weeks, collecting £310 in sponsor money in the process.

**Youth nights**  
His hard-earned cash has gone towards buying rollerblades for Atlantis' Freestyle Friday and Saturday Night Live youth nights, which are hosted by the leisure centre to keep teenagers

off the streets over weekend evenings.

PC Simpson, who taught rollerblading when he previously worked at the leisure centre, said: 'It is good to raise money to give youngsters something to do.'

'Although I'm a bit rusty on the skates I'm looking forward to coming down to one of the youth nights to give it a go again.'

'I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me for such a good cause.'

And if anyone is wondering how PC Simpson lost weight

so quickly, it has little to do with any rollerblading exercise regimes.

'I mainly cut out chocolate, potatoes and bread,' he confessed.

Atlantis Leisure general manager Nick Wesley thanked PC Simpson for his donation, adding the skates would be a welcome addition to the various activities run by Freestyle Friday and Saturday Night Live, the latter of which is organised by the centre's youth worker Donna Smith and a Young Enterprise team from Oban High School.



PC Simpson laces up his rollerblades with the help of Atlantis Leisure general manager. 15\_119skates01

## RIBS from across the country gather at Easdale for annual rendezvous

BOATS descended on the west coast last weekend for the second annual Easdale RIB Rendezvous, and were blessed with an ideal combination of blue skies and calm seas.

Around 40 Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boats (RIBs) from as far afield as Northern Ireland, Birmingham and Yorkshire joined local RIB owners at Easdale Island's sheltered harbour.

The event aimed to promote boating by allowing those less experienced sailors to test their vessels in the safety of numbers.

Many RIBs visited the new pontoons at Salen, Loch Sunart before heading to Tobermory and a circumnavigation of Mull stopping off at Iona and Staffa.

Another popular local destination was the early Christian site at Eileach Naimhobh on the Garvellachs.



The RIBs make ready to set off from Easdale last weekend

RIB sizes ranged from 11m with 600HP to 4m and 40HP and were owned by people from diverse backgrounds.

The event was organised by Safari Adventures who hope to attract and promote tourism to Easdale during the quieter months of the season.

# Local election round-up

## Cross party administration grasp reins at Highland

### Drew Hendry appointed as council leader

HIGHLAND Council is under new political leadership after SNP, Liberal Democrat and Labour councillors agreed to join forces to form the administration.

Last Thursday's elections left the Independents as the biggest group with 36 - just five short of majority control.

The SNP have 22 councillors, five more than in 2007, the Lib Dems 14, a loss of eight, while Labour have eight, a gain of one.

#### Negotiations

Fraught negotiations on Tuesday broke down amid fears from the three political party groups that collaborating with the disparate Independent bloc would be unworkable.

And after a day of frantic horse-trading, SNP group leader Drew Hendry emerged as the new council leader in waiting when the deal was struck with Labour and the Lib Dems.

He will be installed as head of the new administration if the full council ratifies the move at its first meeting in Inverness next Thursday.

#### 'Work cooperatively'

He told The Oban Times: 'We have worked together through the different manifestos put forward by the different political groups and gained a basis for a comprehensive programme to benefit the Highlands, and to get the best possible deal for the next few years.'

'We will work cooperatively with the Scottish Government, having put party differences aside.'

'We have put together a strong administration to face the challenges, but also to look for the



'We will work cooperatively with the Scottish Government, having put party differences aside.' - new Highland Council leader Drew Hendry

opportunities that are available to our people.'

Lochaber Independent councillor Allan Henderson said with irony after the dramatic day: 'That's what the Independents get for winning the popular vote in the Highlands.'

Meanwhile, the elections threw up a few new faces in the West Highlands. In Fort William Ardnarnachan, Kinlochleven sub-postmaster Andrew Baxter topped the poll.

Thanking all those who helped his election drive, he told The

Oban Times: 'The hard work now begins - making sure that the new administration at council headquarters understands that the views of the residents of South Lochaber will no longer be taken for granted.'

'My role as local councillor is to work with those communities to assist them in making Lochaber an even better place to live and work.'

The SNP's Bren Gormley was comfortably re-elected as was Labour's Brian Murphy. Former councillor Thomas MacLennan from Fort William was the fourth ward member elected after a close battle with Ardgour's Davie Corrigan, who lost out by only six votes at the seventh stage of counting.

The Caol and Mallaig ward saw no change, with councillors Allan Henderson, Eddie Hunter and Bill Clark all returned.

Of the defeated candidates, the SNP's Niall Rowntree polled well on first preference votes but failed to pick up sufficient support thereafter.

Clr Henderson, who campaigned alongside fellow Independent Eddie Hunter, said they had gone round 'every single letter-box on the mainland'.

He said: 'I did not manage to reach the islands and I apologise for that. Eddie said if he did not get in at least he would certainly get thinner.'

In Eilean a' Cheò (Skye), new man John Gordon from Portree and the SNP's Ian Renwick were elected on first preference votes alone.

The Lib Dems' Drew Millar and Independent Hamish Fraser also polled strongly and were elected at the third stage.

## Argyll and Bute alliance sees SNP, independent and Conservatives join forces

A NEW alliance of the SNP, independent and Conservative councillors will take control of Argyll and Bute Council after last week's close-run election.

Negotiations to form a new council were concluded on Sunday evening after a meeting at Tarbet, with Oban South councillor Roddy McCuish taking the reins of the new administration. John Semple, South Kintyre, will be the new deputy chair.

#### Argyll First

The Argyll First group of councillors - Conservative and Unionist Party member Donald Kelly, and independents John McAlpine and Dougie Philand - joined with independent councillors Iain MacDonald, Robert G MacIntyre, Alistair MacDougall, Elaine Robertson, and George Freeman of Lomond North in forming an alliance with the 12 elected SNP members.

The new alliance was ratified in a meeting with council chief executive, Sally Loudon, on Tuesday.

After agreeing the new coalition, Mr McCuish said: 'The people of Argyll and Bute have



given us a clear mandate for change in the way the work of this council is conducted.'

#### Dunoon voting

The agreement makes moot the result of this week's by-election in Dunoon - the ward of former council leader Dick Walsh - which was called following the death of SNP candidate Alistair MacAlister. However, the result could yet have a bearing on the strength of what has been tentatively described by some as a 'fragile alliance'.

There was no change of councillor in South Kintyre, or Kintyre and the Islands, but one of the biggest casualties of the 2012 local council election saw Alison Hay voted out after more than 20 years as a councillor.

Her seat in the Mid Argyll ward was taken by Sandy Taylor of the SNP, while independents Donnie MacMillan and Dougie Philand retained their positions.

In Oban South and Isles, new council leader Roddy McCuish was joined in re-election by party colleague, Mary-Jean Devon. Elected at stage eight was former police officer, Fred Hall, SNP, and former councillor, Alastair MacDougall, independent, Mull.

In Oban North and Lorn independent councillor Neil Mackay lost his seat, being replaced by former Ardrachattan Community Council chairman, Iain Angus MacDonald. Former Oban Times journalist, Louise Glen-Lee, retained the seat she won in

last year's by-election, following the death of Donald MacDonald. Also returning is independent councillor, Elaine Robertson - who had the biggest share of the first preference votes in the 10 candidate ward - and Duncan MacIntyre.

The political spectrum in Cowal remained the same, with Ron Simon of the SNP the only councillor in the ward not to retain his seat; being replaced by party colleague, William Gordon Blair.

There was no change to the political make up in Bute, but only George Freeman retained his seat in Lomond North, with former provost William Petrie stepping down and Daniel Kelly losing his place. In came the Conservative's Maurice Corry and independent councillor, Robert Graham MacIntyre.

Helensburgh Central welcomes Eileen Morton as its new councillor, daughter of former deputy leader, Ellen Morton, who herself retained her seat in Helensburgh and Lomond South. Richard Trail of the SNP took Lib Dem Andrew Nisbet's place.

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**Harris beach in world's top seven**

A HARRIS beach famed for its sweeping white sands has been named as one of the world's top seven in a global publication.

Travel magazine said Luskentyre, west of Tarbert, had 'Caribbean-white sand and Maldives-blue sea'.

The mag also rated the A82/A87 route from Glencoe to Skye as among the best on the planet.

In its favourite meals section, Travel also listed the Three Chimneys on Skye as world-class.

**Communiy action grants up for grabs**

COMMUNITY groups in the West Highlands running projects to do with managing and enjoying nature are being invited to apply for a new community action grant.

Scottish Natural Heritage is offering awards of between £1,000 and £20,000 for short term schemes of 12 months or less.

Grants are focused on getting more people involved in outdoor recreation, volunteering and outdoor learning.

Other qualifying criteria include improving habitats, recording species and protecting landscapes.

SNH started considering applications on Tuesday. For more information see www.snh.gov.uk.

**Get help and 'meet the funders'**

THE COMHAIRLE is to host three evening 'Meet the Funder' events across the Outer Hebrides later this month.

Representatives from the BIG Lottery, Community Energy Scotland and Children In Need will be among those meeting local groups to discuss community-based projects potentially eligible for funding.

The events at Barvas and Bruc Community Centre on May 22, in Balivanich Community Centre on May 23 and at Castlebay Community Centre on May 24 run from 12pm to 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and refreshments will be provided.

**Outer Hebrides celebrate Scottish Biodiversity Week**

SCOTTISH Biodiversity Week 2012 is being celebrated in the Outer Hebrides later this month.

The comhairle and local groups have organised a full programme of nature-related events and activities from May 19-27 under the theme 'Biodiversity is Life - Biodiversity is Our Life'.

For full details visit www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/safeguarding-biodiversity/events or pick up a leaflet from council offices in Stornoway, Tarbert or Balivanich.



One of the WW2 mortar rounds found on the Singing Sands last week.

**Bomb squad kept busy on Singing Sands**

Dozens of World War II mortar rounds blown up on beach

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

DOZENS of World War II mortar rounds were uncovered and blown up by specialist Navy bomb disposal teams on a beach in north Ardnamurchan.

The exercise over dunes at Kentra near Ardtoe, known locally as the Singing Sands, took place over five days last week.

The operation followed a similar exercise on January 24, when a specialist team from Faslane exploded 14 mortars discovered by Salen coastguard team member Tom Jackson.

Winter storms in December redistributed huge amounts of sand along the scenic beach, exposing shells used during training manoeuvres for the 1944 D-Day landings in Normandy.

Despite their remote location, the Singing Sands are becoming increasingly popular with visitors over spring and summer.

Amid fears that more live shells could be present and pose a serious risk to public safety, the Northern Diving Group of the Royal Navy, better known as the Bomb Squad, moved into Salen last Monday.

The expert detachment carried out a week-long search of the area assisted by coastguards from Mallaig, Salen and Kilchoan.

Spearheading the hunt was Lieutenant Justin Wong on secondment from the Royal Canadian Navy.

Altogether nearly 50 items of mainly live ordnance were found and were dealt with the same

day by placing them in a hole in the sand, attaching detonators and exploding them after the coastguard teams had cordoned off the area.

The team from Faslane and their coastguard helpers had a spell of excellent weather for the job, according to coastguard sector manager for Lochaber, Phil Wren.

He told The Oban Times: 'Most of the shells were still live, which was the frightening thing.'

'If anyone sees anything that looks like a shell, especially if it has got fins on it, stay well clear and call the coastguard on 999.'

The coastguard and Navy take responsibility for any ordnance found on the shoreline. Police and the Army handle munitions found inland.

**Slow broadband speeds back in the spotlight**

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

SLOW broadband speeds in Lochaber are back under the spotlight in the wake of last week's council elections.

Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson, one of five Lochaber councillors re-elected, is to write to the chief executive of BT and BT Ian Livingston after receiving numerous complaints from voters in Caol.

Clr Henderson is furious that businesses and households in the village - only two miles across the River Lochy from Fort William - are being handicapped by broadband speeds up to 20 times slower than in the town centre.

Because broadband connections rely on the existing inefficient copper cable network, transmission speeds rapidly decline even over short distances.

The provost told The Oban

megabytes per second in Caol and Corpach?

'Fort William can get up to 20Mbps, but realistically gets about 10Mbps. I will be writing to the chief executive of BT asking when they intend to upgrade this obsolete system. Residents of Caol are paying the same cost for an inferior service.'

Louise Humphrey, Head of Scottish Affairs - BT Scotland, said: 'Caol is part of the Fort William exchange which has recently been enabled/upgraded which means that it can now provide speeds of up to 20Mbps.'

'However, because the service is delivered over the existing copper network it is distance limited - the further people are from the exchange in terms of cable length the slower the speed.'

'If ever this was evidence that we need a trunk link road extension to the A830 via Caol to Fort William with modern communication adjacent this is it.'

'How can we expect to develop business on speeds of only 0.5

**Fort William man denies speeding at 67mph through town**

A FORT William man has denied driving at speeds of up to 67mph in the town and hitting and injuring a cyclist, leading to his right leg being amputated.

Graham Douglas, aged 28, of 12b Linnhe Buildings, pled not guilty to driving dangerously and at grossly excessive speed on Lundavra

Road and colliding with Andrew MacLeod, who was on a mountain bike, severely injuring and permanently disfiguring him.

The alleged incident happened on March 7, 2011. Nineteen witnesses are due to give evidence at the trial, which will be held in Fort William Sheriff Court on Monday May 21.



Councillor Allan Henderson: demanding improved broadband speeds for Caol. 20\_119parade03

**Islanders 'shocked and stunned' by death of GP**

RESIDENTS on the Small Isles are struggling to come to terms with the loss of popular local GP Rachel Weldon, who took her own life last Wednesday.

The body of Dr Weldon, who was aged 54, was found at her home on Eigg last Wednesday.

The GP and her husband Eric had lived on the island for 12 years and watched Eigg thrive as plans to generate its own electricity from renewable sources came to fruition.

One islander, who asked not to be named because of the sensitivities involved, summed up local feelings.

She told The Oban Times: 'Everybody here is shocked and stunned. People are still trying to come to terms with what has happened.'

'She was a great doctor and will be sorely missed. It's really painful, altogether. That's all I can say, really.'

Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson extended his condolences to the family and local community.

He told The Oban Times: 'I did not know the doctor well but nonetheless I was extremely

saddened to hear of her untimely passing.'

'Being a small tightly knit community this has a huge effect on the whole island of Eigg and the neighbouring islands.'

'Dr Rachel was very well spoken of in the Small Isles providing a vital service in the health chain.'

An NHS Highland spokesperson said the health board was 'deeply saddened' at the news.

Four weeks ago Dr Weldon was banned from driving for 14 months at Fort William Sheriff Court after being found to be more than twice the drink limit near Caol shopping centre.

Her solicitor Stephen Kennedy said at the time Dr Weldon 'very much regretted' the incident.

A GMC spokesperson said Dr Weldon had informed them about the conviction and was still fully registered with a licence to practice.

A Northern Constabulary spokesperson said police in Fort William are continuing to make enquiries into the death.

A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal at Fort William.



**Kyle firefighters raise £3,000 for charity**

A presentation was held in Kyle Fire Station last Thursday night to hand over cheques to Macmillan Cancer Support, Crossroads Care and the Special Care Baby Unit at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, who each received £1,000. The money was raised at dances, ceilidhs and an annual raft race, all organised by Kyle fire crew over past months. Crew manager Michael Henderson told The Oban Times: 'A big thank you to all that supported these events.'

**Teenager told police he stole car and drove it into ditch so he would be sent to prison**

A HOMELESS teenager who stole a car in Caol and drove it into a ditch told police he did it so he would be put in prison.

Donald MacPhee was jailed for four months, fined £400 and disqualified from driving for two years after pleading guilty to getting into the Volkswagen Polo on St John's Road and driving it without the owner's consent at around 3.15am on April 8.

The 19-year-old admitted driving without

due care and attention for only a few hundred yards before colliding with a signpost and crashing into a ditch at the side of the A830 at Blar Mhor, damaging the car.

After the crash he approached two police officers and admitted his guilt, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'He was soaking wet, covered in mud and with injuries consistent with being involved in a collision. He was asked at one

point why he did this and he replied 'Because I want to go to jail.'

MacPhee also pled guilty to failing to give two breath specimens at Fort William Police Station, driving without a licence and driving without insurance. Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said: 'He has no income, no savings and no accommodation. He felt he had lost his way and he felt unwanted by his friends and family.'

**School vandal given chance by sheriff**

A TEENAGER who broke in to Fort William Primary School on two separate occasions last year causing more than £1,600 of damage has been 'given a chance to compensate' by a sheriff.

Jacob Payne pled guilty to forcing entry to the school, smashing its windows, setting fire to a painting inside and stealing a quantity of money on September 28.

The 16-year-old also admitted breaking into the school on April 20 and forcing open a lockfast canteen and stealing cash, including pupils' lunch money.

**Compensate**

Deferring sentence for nine months for good behaviour, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I want you to go back to the school and ask if there is anything you

can do to compensate, whether that is cleaning or something else.'

'You are still very young. You've been given a chance here Mr Payne - I hope you can take it.'

Fiscal Alison Wylie said the damage caused totalled £1,650. She also said there was a 'substantial amount of mess' following the second break-in, which

meant the school was unable to open on September 29.

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said Payne, of 2 Brown Court, Fort William, had been accompanied by other children during the break-ins.

**Role**

He said: 'Mr Payne claims he actually put the fire out before he left the building, but he has to accept his role in all of this.'

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This time of year is wonderful for the home owner. The weather and light are conducive to repairs and redecoration, the opportunity is there to extend and improve and, with the past winter in mind, appropriate changes may be made to ensure the next cold snap will pass unnoticed indoors. Mind you, there are problems. You have to do everything properly because that clear summer light shows up every little imperfection, highlights every faded spot and emphasises those murkier areas you hoped no-one would ever notice. Still, your home represents a considerable investment so it pays to keep it in tip-top shape if only to maintain the value of your investment.

Start off with the fabric of the building, is it intact? Could it do with some long over-due repairs? If so, don't delay, either get down to the work yourself or, get in a good local builder to tackle the work.

Survey the outside of the property, look at the roof, the walls, the guttering and down pipes, drains, window and door frames, windows and doors. Survey the fabric inside too. Look at the ceilings, walls, woodwork, is it all in good repair? Look under windows for signs of damp. Look at ceilings upstairs for signs of a leaking roof. Remember where the draughts came from last winter, make a note and plan to have them banished.

Now think about the services of the property. When was the house last re-wired? Are there enough power points and are they in the right places? What about lighting, is there enough? Should you be considering outside security lights, they are cheap enough these days. Was the central heating performing well last winter? If not it may be time to renew the boiler, put in more radiators, change the fuel or the entire system. Have you

had the boiler overhauled yet, it should be done every year?

Perhaps there are more radical changes you could do with. If you need more space, perhaps an extension would be an idea. Have you a loft that could be converted, a garage you could build over, or space in the garden? Think of what you could do with that extra accommodation. On the other hand, a conservatory might be a better idea. Again it could open up all sorts of possibilities as well as bringing your home and garden into much closer proximity. If an extension is on the cards, have a word with your local planning department, they'll put you on the right road to organizing it. They may even be able to give you a list of approved architects, surveyors and builders.

Less expensive but almost as useful might be an extra bathroom, shower room or cloakroom. They are all amenities that will add to the value of your home as will double glazing, cavity wall insulation, specially insulated exterior doors or a burglar alarm.

Of course your home may not be able to provide the space for such radical innovations, so you could just concentrate on your bathroom. With a brand new suite, separate shower cubicle, bidet and vanity unit your comfortable bathroom could become a luxury one and thus one of the supreme pleasures in your life.

When all or any of that is in hand you'll need to give some thought to decor. There's nothing like bright sunshine to show up the flaws in that wallpaper, those chips in the paint. There never has been a better selection of decorating materials in the shops, and it's at prices most can afford. Hire shops will provide the tools and equipment and you can supply the energy. It really takes comparatively little time to give your home a completely different look and with modern materials, most of the difficulties have been ironed out so you don't need the greatest of skills.

Of course, all this has its disadvantages. Once the inside looks perfect, the furnishings



may begin to show signs of age. Well why not? The shops are stacked full of wonderful furniture and furnishings. And don't you think you owe yourself the comfort and pleasure of a completely face-lifted home? Of course you do. And if you can't quite run to a new suite, a new carpet and loose covers with some spectacular scatter cushions and curtains to match will make everything look brand new.

When all that has been attended to, give a thought to your kitchen. Is it fit for the second decade of the 21st century? Does it have all that is necessary to make your life easy? Does it accommodate all the family's requirements? Are you proud to show it off to your friends and family? Take a tour

around the big DIY stores or the specialist kitchen suppliers. If you don't see the kitchen you could kill for, it would be most surprising. The latest kitchens are breathtakingly beautiful, wonderfully practical and supremely comfortable. For those who have to spend a great deal of their time at home in that kitchen, the best is really only just good enough.

So there you have it. This summer, turn your home into a show house. Make it the envy of your friends, the focus of your family's activities, the haven you all need to relax in at the end of a busy day. It'll take a month or two to get it right but when you've done, just think how satisfying it all will be!



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**NORTH CONNELL**

NORTH Connell Village Hall, in partnership with various senior citizens clubs, will be holding a celebratory Queen's Jubilee lunch for 110 senior citizens and a few others on July 3.

It is hoped to attract a large attendance as logistically this is a big challenge for the ladies who are preparing the lunch. To feed this amount of people is quite a feat.

Club Nan Caraidan (Benderloch) has had a design for a mug created by local artist Gloria Young. This will be made by Prince William Pottery, Liverpool.

To find out more contact Sandra Munro, 563708, or Maimie Cattnach, 720227.

**LAGGAN**

LAGGAN Forest Trust (LFT) has been nominated in the community action category at the Scottish Charity Awards.

The awards, run by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, rewards the work of charities, community groups and individuals. The winner in each category will be decided by an online vote.

LFT development manager Robin Jackson said: "We were delighted when we heard that we had made the shortlist of four in the community action award."

"This is wonderful recognition of the hard work carried out by the team, volunteers and supporters working with LFT and is also testament to the success of the people of Laggan working together as a community."

**JURA**

THE OFFICE bearers of Jura Parish Church will bring a proposal to the congregation asking that the church join with parishes on Islay.

The suggestion will be discussed at a meeting on May 30 at 5.30pm in the church.

The church has not had its own minister for more than two years and the meeting will discuss whether to pursue the

linking of Jura Parish Church with the Bowmore and Port Ellen parishes.

The link would mean Jura Parish Church would become part of the ministry of Rev Rob Barlow.

Those proposing the change believe Jura would not lose any of its independence as a small congregation, but would ensure the services of a minister, albeit one shared with other churches.

ISLANDERS are planning to celebrate HM the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in style with a street party and bonfire.

On Sunday June 3, the street party will take place at the village hall car park from 1pm where a barbecue, stalls, raffle and games will be run.

The dress code is red, white and blue.

The following Tuesday there will be a bonfire night, fireworks and a quiz entitled '60 years of British history' in the hall from 8pm.

A meeting to finalise arrangements was held in the hall on Tuesday and donations towards the cost of the event would also be greatly received by Jura Community Council.

A BAZAAR held on Easter Saturday raised nearly £400 for church funds.

On Easter Sunday the congregation raised a further £124.05 to give to the international aid charity Mary's Meals.

ALL 250 places for this year's Jura Fell Race have been filled ahead of the annual event on May 26.

The course record is held by Mark Rigby who ran it in three hours, six minutes and 59 seconds in 1994.

**ISLAY**

ISLAY Community Council is delighted Bowmore surgery will soon have a new permanent GP.

Dr Kate Pickering has been appointed to the post and will start on October 1. She is already known to some members of the community as she has previously undertaken locum duties on Islay.

Following the process of recruitment, the community council is extremely pleased with the outcome and offers its congratulations and very best wishes to Kate.



South West Ross Piping Society competition prizewinners with their trophies.

**South West Ross Piping Society competition**

THIS year's South West Ross Piping Society competition saw a record entry of more than 100 competitors.

The 46th annual competition was held in Plockton High School Hostel, with Sandy Cameron winning the overall U15 trophy, Conal McDonagh taking the U18 prize and Norman Gillies winning the 18-22 category. Judges on the day were Euan MacCrimmon, Jim MacGregor, Archie MacLean, Decker Forrest, Iain MacFadyen and Niall Stewart.

Results: Chanter (new competitors) - 1 Angus MacDonald; 2 Archie MacLean; 3 Ceitidh

Smith. Chanter (previous competitors) - 1 Gilleasbuig MacVicar; 2 Ryan MacAskill; 3 Jonathan Beaton. Novice march - 1 Dougal MacKiggan; 2 Martin MacRae; 3 Katrina Martin. U15 March - 1 Brighde Chaimbeul; 2 Sandy Cameron; 3 Connor Kellett. U15 Strathspey and Reel - 1 Sandy Cameron; 2 Brighde Chaimbeul; 3 Ronal Nicolson. U15 Jig - 1 Sandy Cameron; 2 Brighde Chaimbeul; 3 Cameron Sharp. U15 Piobaireachd - 1 Sandy Cameron; 2 Brighde Chaimbeul; 3 Cameron Sharp. U15 Gaelic/Slow Air - 1 Brighde Chaimbeul; 2 Sandy Cameron; 3 Cameron Sharp. U18 March, Strathspey

and Reel - 1 James Roxburgh; 2 Conal McDonagh; 3 Conall Macillechiar. U18 Jig - 1 Conal McDonagh; 2 Bruce MacDonald; 3 James Roxburgh. U18 Piobaireachd - 1 Conal McDonagh; 2 James Roxburgh; 3 Bruce MacDonald. 18-22 March Strathspey and Reel - 1 Norrie Gillies; 2 James Rosie; 3 Lachie Dick. 18-22 Jig - 1 Norrie Gillies; 2 James Rosie; 3 Lachie Dick. 18-22 Piobaireachd - 1 James Rosie; 2 Norrie Gillies; 3 Lachie Dick. Youngest competitor in piping - Finlay Cameron. Turnout and bearing (boys) - James Roxburgh. Dress and deportment (girls) - Haley MacKay.

again being cut after several years when few people were cutting.

Many islanders feel recent public criticism about excessive commercial peat cutting for leisure gardening purposes should not be allowed to affect the domestic peat user.

They believe it is taking environmental concerns too far to consider banning hand or small scale peat cutting for domestic use and that the environment would suffer if made empty and barren by the lack of people able to live there and manage the land - not to mention the whisky industry.

**KYLEAKIN**

SKYE and Lochalsh Sports Council re-elected chairman Charlie MacRae, secretary/treasurer Peter Gordon and 15 committee members at its annual general meeting in Kyleakin Hall.

With the reduction of the annual grant last year from Highland Council, the Sports Council agreed on a one-year trial to limit the grants available to clubs to £300 per year.

Last year 40 clubs were paid up members with grants given to 19 clubs.

**COLONSAY**

COLONSAY'S first book festival attracted authors from the cream of Scotland's writing talent.

Liz Lochhead, award winning novelist James Robertson and writer Sophie Cooke held sessions in the island hall on Sunday.

Saturday saw novelist Margaret Elphinstone, poet Kenneth Steven and international best selling author Alexander McCall Smith take to the stage.

Mr McCall Smith told the audience he had recently spoken

to two and a half million people at the Calcutta book festival but loved the intimacy of a smaller audience in Colonsay hall.

Planning for the festival was done by an island committee headed by Dilly Emslie. She told *The Oban Times*: "We were thrilled to be able to secure writers of the stature of our guests this weekend. It far exceeded our hopes for a first event on a small island."

"The diversity of their writing meant that there was a broad appeal for local residents and visitors. A number of people came to Colonsay for the festival; other visitors came along when they found out it coincided with their stay."

"We have gone from the position of wondering if we could stage a book festival here to already making approaches to writers for next year's event." The book event coincided with the first weekend of Colonsay's spring festival - a three week celebration of the island coming back to life after the dark days of winter. The spring festival sees experts leading a host of events from food foraging to archaeological walks, spring flower hunts and courses on knitting and baking.

**PLOCKTON**

A CROWD of more than 50 people enjoyed a talk on the life and times of Sir David Hamilton, the last Laird of Lochalsh, at a recent meeting of Plockton Historical Society.

Guest speaker Richard Wilberforce delivered the talk in Plockton Hall and was introduced by Robert Kennedy.

Plockton arts network Lochan recently presented a play entitled 'The Matchmaker' by Donald Smith with John Sheddan, Annan Hepburn and Finlay McLean. More than 40 people enjoyed the show.

The final Lochan show in Plockton Hall is on Friday May

**ISLAY LETTER**

**Dancers enjoy anniversary weekend**

THE LOCAL branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society is celebrating its 30th anniversary and the occasion was marked in terpsichorean fashion by enthusiasts throughout the country at a weekend of vigorous jiggling in Bowmore village hall.

Events began with a celebration ceildh in the local hall where the dance music was provided by the Marian Anderson band who accompanied the dancers throughout the festivities.

Inter-dance entertainment was provided by a group of popular local singers and instrumentalists and the programme also featured Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile, under the baton of Iseabail Mactaggart.

Saturday morning was devoted to learning new dance routines with everyone put through their paces by tutor Sue Porter with bandleader Marion providing the accompaniments.

The culmination took the form of an anniversary dance where both local and visiting enthusiasts took the floor with much eagerness and provided the fitting conclusion to another successful weekend for the local branch.

**Skiff launch**

AROUND 200 people from throughout the island were in festive mood when they met at Portnahaven on April 21 for the launch of Islay Rowing Club's

first St Ayles skiff built by local boatbuilder Jack Glover.

Following the launch, the 'Lily Bheag', named after the boatbuilder's new grand-daughter, took to the water in style and was tested by a number of scratch crews.

The accompanying barbecue raised more than £800 and this, along with the proceeds of other fundraising efforts, will go towards the cost of the construction of a second skiff to keep 'Lily Bheag' company.

**Book festival**

SCOTS Makar Liz Lochhead will be among the literary luminaries appearing at this year's Islay Book Festival which is being held in the primary school at Port Ellen in September.

Liz is a distinguished poet and playwright and among her best known stage works is the acclaimed play 'Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off'.

Her poetry output has also garnered her various accolades and she was appointed the Scots Poet Laureate following the death of the first holder of the title Edwin Morgan in 2010.

Sharing the Port Ellen platform with the Makar will be a number of well known poets, dramatists, cookery writers and children's authors. Among them will be Catherine Czerkawska, Joan Lennon and resident authors Justin and Linda Ruthven-Tyres whose book 'Phoenix from the Ashes' charting grit and determination in the face of misfortune and loss, is

currently high on the best seller lists.

Among the festival's main sponsors are the MacTaggart Family and the Schroeder Foundation.

**Best Practice day**

LOCAL Gaelic tutor Mairead Mackechnie, who runs her own Gaelic consultancy business 'Gaelic in Islay', will take part in the national 'Best Practice Day' which the inter-authority Gaelic group CLDRG is holding in Glasgow's Pond Hotel on May 26.

This will be open to adult learners from the 15 participating authorities and Mairead will lead the discussion on Progression in Adult Learning. This will include her own Gaelic targets, now adopted by 11 local authorities, and information on the new assessment materials the tutor is developing with Stòrlann, the body responsible for Gaelic education materials production.

The open day will also provide a platform for Mairead's own residential Gaelic weekend due to take place in Bowmore in September.

**Get it right!**

THE AMOUNT raised by the local RNLI branch fund raisers over the past year amounted to £22,007.40 and not £2,007.40 as stated in the last letter.

Apologies to Margaret Hastie and her committee for downgrading their efforts so severely. **Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Telephone 01496 810 658.**

which every pupil entered, and also took part in the School Cross Country Championships.

They have also been Scottish shinty champions three times in the last 10 years and national indoor champions three times. The swimming team has also won the Scottish Schools' primary free-style relay championships against teams from all over Scotland.

Head teacher John Finlayson said: "Portree Primary School sees health, fitness and sport as a central priority and a central part of the education it offers."

The ceremony takes place in London on July 6. Three representatives from the school will attend.

**MORAR**

MORAR Community Council (MCC) held its April meeting in Lady Lovat Primary School. Among the issues discussed were:

□ Kinsadel toilets - Donnie MacDonald said the public toilets had not yet been opened for the season. He also mentioned that there

are no bins available at the beach.

□ Transerv's Neil Bruce-Low met with the chairman and secretary in response to concerns raised about overgrown trees at the lay-bys at Riverside and Achaluin on Morar bypass. He will look into what the possibilities are in removing some of the trees and get back to MCC.

□ Gala Day - On behalf of Morar Community Trust, Tiina McVarish asked if MCC would be willing to give a donation towards starting costs for this day. A sum was agreed to help with the initial costs.

□ Morar Hall - Tiina McVarish has spoken with Pam Noble to find out the implications in demolishing the hall. It has been suggested the trust raise funds to employ a project manager who could be brought in to check all the legalities involved and ensure all the necessary paperwork and funding is in place for such a task.

□ Network Rail has logged a request to improve fencing along the rail side.

**CAIRNDOW**



The garden's gazebo houses a collection of literary quotes.

**Ardkinglas Woodland joins tree scheme**

ARGYLL is home to a new member of the National Tree Collections of Scotland (NTCS) - joining the ranks of Scone Palace, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Kilmun Arboretum.

Ardkinglas Woodland Garden has signed up to participate in the scheme which promotes the best possible management of tree collections.

Tom Christian, project officer for the National Tree Collections of Scotland

said: "It's very exciting to be welcoming the new sites into NTCS, and to be working with them, helping to plan and plant for the future. By uniting the best of Scotland's tree collections under a single banner, providing access to shared resources, knowledge, and fundraising opportunities, NTCS is helping to ensure that this unique aspect of Scotland's cultural and natural heritage is maintained for the benefit of future generations."

**PORTREE**

PORTREE Primary School has been shortlisted in the Outstanding Sporting Initiative or Partnership category of the UK TES School Awards.

The school recently organised a Sports Relief mile-walk,

**BARCALDINE**



Barcaldine pupils after cleaning Sutherland's Grove.

**Pupils spring clean Sutherland's Grove**

BARCALDINE Primary School children have taken part in the National Spring Clean, which started on April 1 and runs until May 21.

After some discussion, the children decided to target Sutherland's Grove this year and were

delighted to find that there wasn't too much litter lying around.

However, they were bemused by what they did find - an empty oil drum, a coat hanger and t-shirt along with bottles and lip salve.

**Down Your Way**

**Killin**

IT MIGHT only be in its second year, but Killin Comedy Festival is already earning a reputation as one of the village's most eagerly anticipated events.

Opening the doors of the McLaren Hall to amateur drama groups, stand-ups and anyone else that enjoys raising a laugh or two, the non-competitive event is organised to help raise funds for the Scottish Communities Drama Association (SCDA).

Held on May 27-28, the aim of the relaxed event is to have fun and organiser Lesley Syme, who is also part of SCDA and Killin Drama Group, is looking forward to another year of laughs.

She said: "The SCDA is short of funding and we looked at ways of raising money. We love doing comedy and making people laugh so we quickly came round to holding a festival. Something just for fun."

"Last year went so well people said to us, 'when are you doing the next one?' So here we go again."

Already groups from across Scotland have signed up for this year's event, with a variety of different styles of comedy on show.

Lesley said: "There's quite a variety. This year we've got a couple of people doing a five-minute sketch and someone else doing a 20-minute monologue. Because it's not competitive, there are no rules - as long as it's legal! The only rule is to have fun."

For more information on the festival email Lesley at lesleysyme@tiscali.co.uk.



Killin Primary School gets stuck in to fruit paid for through a Co-operative grant.

PUPILS at Killin Primary School have been tucking into fruit in a big way over the past few weeks, thanks to the local Co-operative.

The supermarket chain gave the school a grant of £481.93 to help buy fresh fruit three times a week.

Treats such as apples, bananas, strawberries, grapes and even kiwi fruit have been regularly enjoyed by pupils since the Valentine's Day grant.

A school spokesperson said: "The fruit gets cut up for the pupils and that seems to make it easier to eat. It's been really popular."

A TWIST of fate saw Killin Drama Group head to the final of the Scottish Community Drama Association's One Act Festival in Stirling.

The group had to step into the breach at the last minute after one of the finalists due to appear for the final at the MacRobert Centre had to pull out, having failed to secure a licence for its production.

Killin, who had earlier placed third in the Stirling district competition, was asked to step in just 10 days before the final.

"Everyone else had four weeks," said Killin Drama Group's director Lesley Syme. "We had just one and a half weeks to get ready."

"When I heard, I was quickly round the village to track down the cast."

Lesley and her cast, Gordon Hibbert, Glenda Marden and Alex Tigwell, took their 45-minute production of Vanessa Brooks' Swan Song to the MacRobert Centre for the final on April 26 but despite their efforts and a good performance they missed out on a chance to represent Scotland at the UK final in Milford Haven, Wales.

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# World-first carbon capture experiment starts in Lorn

## Japanese scientists working closely with SAMS on project in Ardmucknish Bay

SCIENTISTS will, from Monday, begin to pump carbon dioxide into the sediment below Ardmucknish Bay, Benderloch, as part of a world-first carbon capture experiment.

**Pioneering**

Drilling on the pioneering project is now complete and most equipment now in place, allowing the team of scientists being led by Dr Henrik Stahl from Dunbeg's Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) to begin taking readings of the bay's normal chemical activity.

Between 80-800 kilos of carbon dioxide will then be pumped into the sediment bed of the bay for each of the experiment's 30 days from Trale

slipway, directly comparable with the amount of carbon created by 80-800 people exhaling each day.

The experiment is drawing significant attention from across the world and could have significant implications for carbon capture and storage schemes across the world.

**Japanese scientists**

As such, a team of Japanese scientists who are working closely with SAMS on the project will visit Ardmucknish Bay next week to witness first hand the opening stages of the experiment.

Dr Stahl said: 'We've been working on this project for quite some time so we're very excited to see how it all evolves.'

'We are already starting to get useful data because we are recording what the environment is like now.

'We will start the release of Carbon on Monday and it is anticipated it will take 10 days for the gas to reach the sediment.'

An array of sensors will not only detect how much gas breaches the sediment, but how far it spreads.

Monitoring equipment will also allow the team to examine what impact, if any, the release of the carbon gas will have on local flora and fauna, down to microbe level.

The team will then spend a minimum of 90 days observing how quickly the environment recovers.



Oban Sea Cadets prepare for their trip. 16\_t19cadets01

## Oban Sea Cadets travel to gain experience on HMS Raleigh

OBAN'S Sea Cadets are heading off on their first trip as a unit - to the Royal Navy's premier training site in the south of England.

The youngsters will travel by train, plane and automobile to HMS Raleigh in Plymouth for a week long training exercise.

The cadets will try their hand at fire fighting, sea survival and the assault course. They will also take part in an emergency response scenario where a sinking ship is simulated and the promising sailors have to plug the holes.

Formed in 2007, T S Pharos have already seen big achievements in their ranks. Lt (SCC) Ewan McCuish RNR said: 'We have recently had our first leading cadet in Oban since the 1960s.

'It is the second highest rank in the cadets and very hard to

achieve.'

Jordan Cattanach, 17, who was awarded the rank of leading cadet said: 'I'm extremely pleased to be awarded this rank, it was a challenging course in Rosyth Sea Cadet Training Centre.

'I'm hoping to go to the Royal Navy in the next few months to be a marine engineer. I'm really grateful to Bob Lee who is a former instructor and good friend for steering me in the right direction.'

The cadets recently received a cheque of £1000 from MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust which will be used to cover the cost of storage containers in their new boating area at Dungallan Park.

T S Pharos are hoping to be more visible in the town this year taking part in charities day, they are not attached to military but instead a charity who have to raise their own funds.



Jordan Cattanach is Oban's first leading cadet since the 1960s. 16\_t19cadets02

## Driver fined after threatening work colleagues

A DELIVERY driver threatened work colleagues with a two foot long piece of wood after hearing someone had taken photos of his vehicle believing he was carrying out more than his fair share of overtime.

Andrew Scott, 58, has since lost his job at the delivery company after what his solicitor called an 'inexplicable offence'.

Scott, of 7A Knipoch Place, Oban, pled guilty to committing a breach of the peace after becoming 'indignant', Oban Sheriff Court heard.

Scott was fined £375 by Sheriff Crozier.

## Oban man made racist remarks

AN OBAN man 'should be ashamed' of himself 'the town's sheriff court heard last week.

Malcolm Ellis, of Flat 1, Craighard Road pled guilty to acting in a racially aggravated manner by shouting, swearing and uttering racist remarks in a public house.

Sheriff Paul Crozier said: 'This sort of behaviour is absolutely appalling in 21st century Scotland.

'It cannot be tolerated, you should be ashamed of yourself.'

Sentence was deferred on the 41-year-old until May 29 for reports.

## Woman arrested following incident

A 37 YEAR old woman was charged with acting in a disorderly manner and breaching the peace following an incident at Combie Court on Saturday.

She has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

## Environmental concerns halts planned school balloon race

OBAN High School's celebratory balloon race has been halted - after conservationists informed them of the dangers to nature from the debris.

Oban High School had planned a release of 2012 balloons from the town's North Pier on May 12 to celebrate 20 years of the link to Scotland High School in North Carolina, USA. But plans were halted when head teacher Peter Bain received an email from a concerned marine conservationist telling him about the harm balloon releases do to wildlife.

Ann Hunt, from the Don't Let Go Balloon Campaign, Marine Conservation Society wrote: 'Balloons have been found ingested in endangered turtles, dolphins, whales and seabirds. Once ingested, balloons can cause enormous suffering to animals and may lead to them starving to death.'

Mr Bain told *The Oban Times*: 'We wouldn't want to contribute to any marine

deaths by letting off some balloons as a publicity stunt.'

Balloon litter has become such a problem that one weekend of beach cleans in 2010 found 1,481 balloons or balloon pieces on just 376 beaches - nine balloons every kilometre - but just a fraction of the number in the sea.

Deputy head teacher John MacPherson, was organising the balloon race. He said: 'We are going to have a balloon pop instead and do it in a way that is safe for the environment.'

'We'll be getting an open-sided lorry with netting over it, the inflated balloons will be put in with tickets attached and then burst randomly. The last one left will be the winner.'

The school will also be contacting Mrs Hunt to invite her to send representatives along to help educate pupils on marine conservation.

## The Piping Scene

by Hugh MacCallum

### Piping at the Highlands and Islands Music Festival

THIS competition took place on Saturday May 5 in Oban High School. Iain MacFadyen and I judged the P/A piobaireachd and light music. As there were not too many entrants, this worked out well with the piobaireachd in the morning starting at 9am, and the March Strathspey and Reel after lunch starting at 2pm.

First on in the piobaireachd was Gordon Bruce and he was given Lament for King George III to play. He started off quite well although there was a hint of a slightly flat high A. His drones started to drift out about half way through the tune and this may have unsettled him as he went into the wrong variation and stopped.

Euan MacCrimmon was on next and he played Isabel Mackay. His drones were not quite locked in during the performance and the overall effect was the tune lacked pace throughout.

Alasdair Henderson appeared next with I got a kiss of the King's Hand. This was quite nicely played but he had a tendency to overstretch the final melody note before the cadences in the Taorluath variation. This and some technical fluffs affected his overall performance.

Jenny Hazzard was next playing Beloved Scotland on a good bagpipe. One or two rushed phrases in the ground and a rather jerky Cruinluath singling were the main points of criticism here. The overall effect of the Cruinluath movements was rather forced.

Next was Gordon McCready with The Earl of Seaforth's Salute. He took a little time to settle but this was a steady performance free from blemish with a strong finish.

William Geddes had an old day and stopped early on in The Old Men of the Shells.

Fiona Manson was next with Lament for Captain Donald MacKenzie. This is one of John MacKay of Raasay's tunes and has a nice melody. The ground was very musically played, as were the variations. There were one or two technical blemishes in the Taorluath variation and the Cruinluath was a little "sticky" at times. She kept the tune moving well to the finish.

Finlay Johnston appeared and was given My Dearest on Earth give me your kiss. This is a long testing tune and in the main Finlay coped with it well on a good bagpipe. He had a tendency to move off the final note of his cadences rather smartly in both the Taorluath and Cruinluath Singlings. He finished well with a good Cruinluath a Mach variation.

That concluded the piobaireachd competi-

tion and the results were: 1. Gordon McCready 2. Fiona Manson 3. Finlay Johnston 4. Jenny Hazzard 5. Euan MacCrimmon

After lunch the light music commenced with the players playing a March, Strathspey and Reel once over from lists of four tunes submitted by them and one of each chosen by the judges. We heard again from the eight players who played in the piobaireachd contest plus Euan Dewar, Craig Muirhead, Peter Hunt and Neil Walker.

Gordon Bruce had a good, steady, and technically sound performance to gain 1st place closely followed by 2.Gordon McCready, 3.Alasdair Henderson 4.Finlay Johnston and 5.Jenny Hazzard

I heard on the day that a lot of the players in the B and C grades failed to appear. I hope that they let the organisers know beforehand that they would not be attending. There may also be a case for splitting the B and C light music into two separate contests as was the case in the B and C piobaireachd this year. This would make for a more balanced event. However, praise is due to the organisers who have to cope with large numbers of juniors and seniors on the day. It is never an easy task.

It was altogether an enjoyable day.

**Donald MacPherson**

The piping world was saddened to hear of the death of Donald MacPherson on 21 April 2012.

Donald was a leading player since he came to prominence just after WWII until he retired from competitive piping in the 1980s. He was taught by his father who was a pupil of John MacDougall Gillies. Donald won the gold medal at The Argyllshire Gathering in 1948 playing The Old Men of the Shells and the gold medal at The Northern Meeting in Inverness in 1954 playing The Lament for The Children. From then on he won the Open (Senior) competition at The Argyllshire Gathering no fewer than fifteen times, and the Clasp at Inverness on a record nine occasions.

Amidst all of this, Donald was a very modest and quiet man and never boasted of his achievements. I knew him firstly as a fellow competitor, and latterly as a friend and judge. As a judge he could sometimes be frustrating as he was often reluctant to criticise anyone too heavily, and as a consequence it sometimes took longer to produce a result! Such was the kindly nature of the man.

He will be sorely missed in the piping world.

We extend our condolences to his wife Gwen and family.

Hugh MacCallum

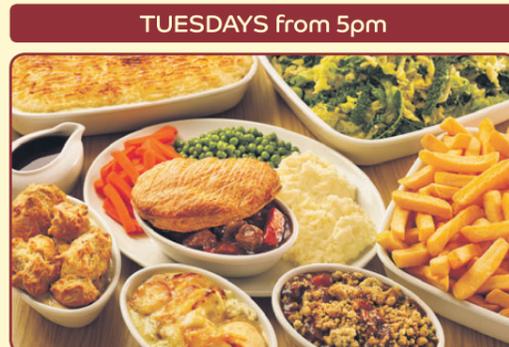
# NEW Weekday Theme Nights at the Loch Iall



MONDAYS from 5pm

CHINESE

Taste of the Orient



TUESDAYS from 5pm

Pie Night

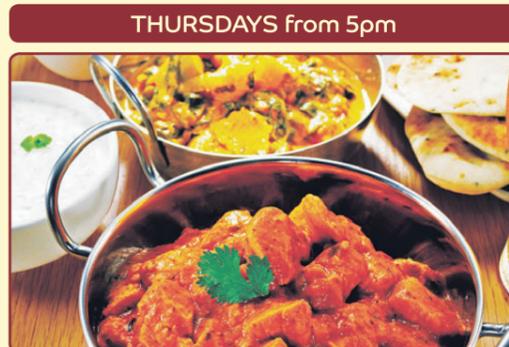
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TEXMEX

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THURSDAYS from 5pm

Curry

Spice up your night



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# Highlands and Island Music and Dance Festival

## Results

**HIGHLAND DANCING**  
SCOTTISH AREA FINALS:  
Overall Winner: Dunbartonshire & City of Glasgow;  
CHOREOGRAPHED SOLO/DUET: Dawn Fraser School of Dance, Stirling;  
CHOREOGRAPHY CHALLENGE: Choreographed Set theme: Tourism in Scotland  
Open Age Group: Overall Winner: Dawn Fraser School, Stirling;  
This is Scotland: 12 years and under: Overall winner: Grant/Wilson, Kirriemuir/Fife; Robert Burns: 16 years and under: Overall Winner: Dawn Fraser School, Stirling;  
An Important Day or Date in Scottish History: 17 years and over: Overall Winner: Dawn Fraser School, Stirling;  
**ACCORDION AND FIDDLE MASTERS: ACCORDION:**  
1 Lagavullin Distillery Trophy: Gary Sutherland, Giffordtown, 2 Campbell Memorial Trophy: Graeme MacKay, Inverness, 3 Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride;  
**FIDDLE:**  
1 Oban Distillery Trophy: Maggie Adamson, Shetland, 2 Gordon McLachlan Memorial Trophy: Shona MacFadyen, West Kilbride, 3 Lesley Thompson, Cupar.  
**CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS:** Jimmy Feighan Trophy for best performance at Concert of Champions: Jack Westwell, Edinburgh.  
**JUNIOR SOLO PIPING, CHANTER AND DRUMMING COMPETITION:**  
Chanter: Under 12 years: 1 Argyll Print Trophy: Finlay Bennett, North Connel, 2 Patrick McBeth, Connel, 3 Josh Barbour, Campbeltown; Chanter: 12 years and under 14 years: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Jamie McKerral, Campbeltown, 2 Harry MacLean, Campbeltown, 3 Annika Keppie, Loch Awe; Most promising Class 21 and 21a: Frances Shand Kydd Trophy: Jamie McKerral, Campbeltown;



More photos available online [OBANTIMES.CO.UK](http://OBANTIMES.CO.UK)

Benderloch's Sequence Choir impressed at the concert of champions. 08\_1191hmd15

Chanter 12 years and under 14 years: 1 Christina MacFadyen, Campbeltown, 2 Bridget Cox, Glen Lonan, 3 Megan Stewart-MacDonald, Fort William;  
Novice March: Under 13 years: 1 Oban Electrical Services Trophy: Alastair MacLean, Oban, 2 Alexander M Anderson, Tobermory, 3 Scott Paterson, Aros, Isle of Mull; The Anthony Campbell Memorial Trophy: (Netherlorn Piping Society) will be awarded to the highest placed Argyll resident player in Class 22: Alastair MacLean, Oban; Ground of a Piobaireachd: Under 15: D Watt & Son Trophy: Liam Donaldson, Kirriemuir, 2 Rory MacKenzie, Bishopton, 3 Stuart O'May, Campbeltown;  
Piobaireachd: Under 15 years: Pipe Dreams Trophy: 1 Seamus O'Baighill, Isle of Skye, 2 Lucy Ferguson, Dollar, 3 Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; March: Under 15 years: 1 The Willie MacCallum Trophy for March Playing: Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge, 2 Lucy Ferguson, Dollar, 3 Harry MacLachlan, Aberfeldy; Strathspey and Reel: Under 15 years: HIMDF Trophy: 1 Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge, 2 Lucy Ferguson, Dollar, 3 Harry MacLachlan, Aberfeldy; The Billy Kirkham Trophy awarded to the player with the highest aggregate in classes 23,24,24a, and 24b: Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; Jig: Under 15 years: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge, 2 Harry Richards, Dunblane, 3 Seamus O'Baighill, Isle of Skye; Piobaireachd: 15 years and under 18 years: 1 Angus MacAlister Memorial Quaich:

1 Lucy Ferguson, Dollar, 2 Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; March: Under 15 years: 1 The Willie MacCallum Trophy for March Playing: Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge, 2 Lucy Ferguson, Dollar, 3 Harry MacLachlan, Aberfeldy; Strathspey and Reel: Under 15 years: HIMDF Trophy: 1 Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge, 2 Lucy Ferguson, Dollar, 3 Harry MacLachlan, Aberfeldy; The Billy Kirkham Trophy awarded to the player with the highest aggregate in classes 23,24,24a, and 24b: Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; Jig: Under 15 years: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge, 2 Harry Richards, Dunblane, 3 Seamus O'Baighill, Isle of Skye; Piobaireachd: 15 years and under 18 years: 1 Angus MacAlister Memorial Quaich:  
1 Berni McMillan Trophy: Katherine Harris, Benderloch, 2 Samantha Parkinson, Oban, 3 Rachel MacGregor, Connel; Scots Song (S1 and S2): 1 Margaret Farmer Trophy: Eilidh Jenkins, Glasgow, 2 Emma Baird, Taynuilt, 3 Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh; Scots Song S3+: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Aimee MacDonald, Appin, 2 Amy Hoye, Oban, 3 Amy Boyce, Taynuilt; Classical Song S1 and S2: 1 Shona Keith, Lochgair, 2 Emma Baird, Taynuilt; HIMDF Trophy: Danielle Law, Glenrothes, 2 Aimee MacDonald, Appin, 3 Fiona Cupples, Mid Argyll; Songs from the Shows: Secondary 1 and 2: 1 Frances Grant Trophy: Emma Baird, Taynuilt, 2 Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh, 3 Charlotte Lawson, Easdale; Songs from the Shows S3+: 1 MacKin-

March, Strathspey & Reel Grade B and C Open: 1 Riona T MacInnes Trophy: Sarah Muir, Campbeltown, 2 Fusion Marine Trophy: Craig Sutherland, Crieff, 3 Angus J. MacColl, Benderloch.  
**SINGING:**  
Vocal Duet (Primary): 1 HIMDF Trophy: Amelia MacTaggart & Kate MacPherson, Benderloch, 2 Katherine Harris & Lauren MacDonald, Benderloch; Scots Song - Primary: 1 Karyn Black, Benderloch, 2 Amelia MacTaggart, North Connel, 3 Katherine Harris, Benderloch; Vocal Solo Girls P4 and P5: 1 R T MacInnes Trophy: Amelia MacTaggart, North Connel, 2 Molly Gregory - Beard, Strath of Appin Primary, 3 Maria Clark, Oban; Vocal Solo: Girls P6 and P7: 1 Frances Shand Kydd Trophy: Katherine Harris, Benderloch, 2 Samantha Parkinson, Oban, 3 Kate McPherson, Benderloch; Classical Song All Primary: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Katherine Harris, Benderloch, 2 Kate McPherson, Benderloch, 3 Eilidh Munro, Benderloch; Song from the Shows: Primary - Own Choice: 1 Berni McMillan Trophy: Katherine Harris, Benderloch, 2 Samantha Parkinson, Oban, 3 Rachel MacGregor, Connel; Scots Song (S1 and S2): 1 Margaret Farmer Trophy: Eilidh Jenkins, Glasgow, 2 Emma Baird, Taynuilt, 3 Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh; Scots Song S3+: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Aimee MacDonald, Appin, 2 Amy Hoye, Oban, 3 Amy Boyce, Taynuilt; Classical Song S1 and S2: 1 Shona Keith, Lochgair, 2 Emma Baird, Taynuilt; HIMDF Trophy: Danielle Law, Glenrothes, 2 Aimee MacDonald, Appin, 3 Fiona Cupples, Mid Argyll; Songs from the Shows: Secondary 1 and 2: 1 Frances Grant Trophy: Emma Baird, Taynuilt, 2 Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh, 3 Charlotte Lawson, Easdale; Songs from the Shows S3+: 1 MacKin-

non Family Trophy: Lindsay Johnson, Ford, 2 Malcolm Clark, Oban, 3 Amy Hoye, Oban;  
Vocal Duets: Secondary: 1 Mary Pollock Trophy: 1 Lindsay Johnson & Nicola Way, Mid Argyll, 2 Fiona Cupples & Hollie McGregor, Mid Argyll, 3 Amy Hoye & Lora MacLeod, Benderloch;  
Primary Folk Singing: 1 NABO Trophy: Dunbeg Primary, 2 Barcaldine Primary; Folk Singing Solo: Open: 1 Gaelic choir Trophy: Eilidh Munro, Bishopbriggs, 2 Pauline Carson, Oban, 3 Shona Keith, Lochgair; Ensemble: Open: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Purely Purple, 2 Blue Belles, Benderloch; Scots Song: Open: 1 Argyll Oils Trophy: Shona Keith, Lochgair, 2 Eilidh Munro, Bishopbriggs, 3 Eilidh Jenkins, Glasgow; Songs from the Shows: Open: 1 The Highlands Restaurant Trophy: Shona Keith, Lochgair, 2 Alison McGinty, Ardrishaig, 3 Pauline Carson, Oban; Classical Song: Open: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Shona Keith, Lochgair, 2 Alison McGinty, Ardrishaig, 3 Eilidh Munro, Bishopbriggs; Anne MacDougall Memorial Trophy (Highest Aggregate in Class 84 and 85): Shona Keith.  
**RECORDER:**  
Primary Recorder Groups: 1 Agnes Connelly Trophy: Dunbeg Primary, 2 Kilmore & Oban Church, 3 Taynuilt Recorder Group;  
Recorder Solo (Open): 1 Chelsea McNab, Kilmore & Oban Church Recorders, 2 Catherine Ravenhill, Kilmore & Oban Church Recorders; Folk Singing Group: 1 N A B O Trophy: Dunbeg Primary School, 2 Barcaldine Primary School; Primary Choirs (Accompanied): 1 Sinclair Trophy: Barcaldine Primary School, 2 Taynuilt Primary choir, 3 Strath of Appin Primary School.  
**JUNIOR ACCORDION:**  
12 years and under 16 years: March Strathspey and Reel: Traditional Scottish: 1 Iona Shop Trophy: Adin Graham, Windygates, 2 Alex Stewart, Stanley, 3 Cameron Bennett, North Connel; 12 years and under 16 years: Gaelic Waltzes: Traditional Scottish: 1 Iain McPhail Trophy: Finlay Sinclair, Kilmore, 2 Ruairidh Gollan, Ederton, 3 Liam Stewart, Fort William; 12 years and under 16 years: March Strathspey and Reel (Pipe): 1 Oban Accordion Club Trophy: Alex Stewart, Stanley, 2 Finlay Sinclair, Kilmore, 3 Cameron Bennett, North Connel; The Duncan Campbell Trophy will be awarded at the judge's discretion to the most promising competitor in Classes 31B, and 33: Cameron Bennett; John Allan Memorial Trophy will be awarded for the highest aggregate in



Campbeltown Brass Junior Quartet performed in Corran Esplanade Church. 08\_1191hmd12

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The choreography competition in the Corran Halls attracted a good crowd. 08\_1191hmd14

**SENIOR ACCORDION:**  
March Strathspey and Reel: Traditional Open: Button Key Accordion: 1 Graeme MacKay, Inverness;  
March Strathspey and Reel: Traditional Open: 1 McIntee Family Trophy: Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride; 2 Iain Stewart, Muir-of-Ord; Aggregate for 34b and 35b: Jimmy Shand Scotrail Trophy: Susan MacFadyen;  
March Strathspey and Reel: Open: Button Key Accordion: 1 Graeme MacKay, Inverness, 2 Michael Iain MacLeod, Inverloch, 3 John Weaks, Glasgow;  
Mrand Mrs MacInnes Trophy (Highest Aggregate in Class 34a & 35a): Graeme MacKay, Inverness;  
Gaelic Waltzes: Traditional Open: 1 Iain McPhail Trophy: Iain Stewart, Muir-of-Ord, 2 Graeme MacKay, Inverness, 3 Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride;  
March Strathspey and Reel (Pipe): Open: 1 Neil Sinclair Trophy: Graeme MacKay, Inverness, 2 Iain Stewart, Muir-of-Ord, 3 Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride;  
Own Composition (Accordion or Fiddle): Open: 1 Angus & Ella MacFadyen Memorial Trophy: 1 Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 Jack Westwell, Edinburgh, 3 Philip Westwell, Edinburgh;  
Traditional Scottish Group/Band: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Susan MacFadyen, 2 Graeme MacKay.  
**CLARSACH:**  
Beginners: 1 Campbell Family Trophy: Eilidh Jenkins, Glasgow, 2 Jessica Swan, Oban, 3 Samantha Parkinson, Oban;  
Intermediate: 1 Oban Gaelic Drama Trophy: Anna Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 Mairead MacLennan, Renfrew; Advanced: 1 Russell Quaich: Rebecca Hill, Oban, 2 Catriona Clark, Castle Douglas;  
Solo Singing with self accompaniment: Clarsach Society Trophy: Anna Westwell, Edinburgh; Recital of Scottish/Gaelic Music: 1 Rebecca Hill, Connel;  
Non-traditional: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Catriona Clark, Castle Douglas, 2 Rebecca Hill, Connel, 3 Anna Westwell, Edinburgh.  
**FIDDLE:**  
Under 12 years: Slow Air and March: Traditional Scottish: 1 Oban Strathspey and Reel Society Trophy: Finlay Bennett, North Connel, 2 Anna Westwell, Edinburgh, 3 Ross McLeish, Oban, and Kirsten MacLeod, Stornoway; Frances Shand Kydd Trophy for most promising competitor in Class 41: Kirsten MacLeod, Stornoway; 12 years and under 16 years: March, Strathspey & Reel (Traditional): 1 Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club Trophy: George Davidson, Tarves, 2 Hannah MacRae, Fort William, 3 Stuart Davidson, Tarves; 12 years and under 16 years: Slow Air (Traditional): 1 McLachlan Trophy: George Davidson, Tarves, 2 Hannah MacRae, Fort William, 3 Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh; March Strathspey and Reel: Traditional Scottish Open: 1 Calum MacPhail Trophy: George Davidson, Tarves, 2 Anne Nicol, Inverurie, 3 Shona MacFadyen, West Kilbride; Slow Air: Traditional Scottish Open: 1 Christine MacKenzie Trophy: Shona MacFadyen, 2 Anne Nicol, 3 George Davidson.  
**LADY FERMOY PIANO COMPETITION:**  
Pianoforte Solo (Pre-Grade 1 Standard): 1 Caroline Boyle Trophy: Laura McClymont, Oban, 2 Flora Ennis, Glasgow; Pianoforte Solo (Grade 1): 1 Sileas Sinclair Trophy: Katie Ramsay, Peterhead; Pianoforte Solo (Grade 2): Neil Sinclair Trophy: Jordan Ramsay, Peterhead, 2 Magnus Westwell, 3 Rachel MacGregor, Connel; Pianoforte Duet (Grade 1 or 2 Standard): 1 McLellan Trophy: Jordan & Katie Ramsay, Peterhead, 2 Flora Ennis & Jennie Duncan, Glasgow; Pianoforte Solo (Scottish Music): 1 Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 Jennie Duncan, Edinburgh; Pianoforte Solo (Grade 3): 1 Sheila Sinclair Trophy: Paul Mathers, Leven, 2 Marnie Clark, Castle Douglas, 3 Morgan Chalmers, Perth; (Grade 4): 1 Peter & Peggy Sinclair Memorial Plate: Anna

**WOODWIND AND BRASS:**  
**Woodwind:** Primary Elementary: Less than 1 year's experience: 1 Katie Houston, Taynuilt, 2 Rowan Chisim, Taynuilt; Woodwind: Primary Open: 1 Katie Ramsay, Peterhead, 2 Eliza Cox, Taynuilt; Woodwind Duet: 1 Eliza Cox & Katie Houston, Taynuilt; Junior Woodwind (Sec. Year 1): 1 Bridget Cox, Taynuilt; Woodwind: Intermediate: Secondary years 2 & 3: 1 Chelsea McNab, Oban, 2 Calum Munro, Bishopbriggs, 3 Caitlin Taylor, Taynuilt; Woodwind Senior Secondary years 4, 5 & 6: 1 Kirsty Campbell, Oban, 2 Briony Kincaid, Oban, 3 Kirsty Thompson, Dalnally; Secondary Ensemble: 1 Oban High School Flute Choir, 2 Campbeltown Brass Junior Quartet, 3 Oban High School Clarinet Choir; Secondary Woodwind Duet: 1 Emily Scott & Briony Kincaid, 2 Caitlin Taylor & Chelsea McNab, 3 Kirsty Thompson & Lorna Young;  
**Brass:** Primary Elementary Less than 1 year's experience: 1 Matthew Houston, Taynuilt; Brass - Open: 1 Amy Paterson, Campbeltown, 2 Archie McVicar, Campbeltown, 3 Suen Yee Walker, Campbeltown; Brass Duet (Primary): 1 Lucy Kerr & Rhona Omay, Campbeltown; Junior Brass (Sec. Year 1): 1 Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 Iona MacVicar, Campbeltown, 3 Kirsten Souter, Campbeltown; Brass - Intermediate: Secondary years 2 & 3: Tanya MacDonald, Campbeltown; Secondary Brass Duet: 1 Archie McVicar & Iona MacVicar, Campbeltown, 2 Anna Westwell & Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh;  
**DRUMMING:** Stick & Pad (14 years and under): 1 Oban Music Trophy: Kyle MacLeod, Northbay, Isle of Barra, 2 Cameron MacLeod, Northbay, Isle of Barra, 3 Nathan MacArthur, Castlebay, Isle of Barra; March (4 part) (14 years and under): 1 Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy: Andrew Watson, 2 Ryan Hawke, Rothesay, 3 Zander Varney, Rothesay; 6/8 March (14 years and under): 1 Netherlorn Shield: Alexandra Mundy, Rothesay, 2 Zander Varney, Rothesay, 3 Ryan Hawke, Rothesay; Hornpipe & Jig (15 and under 18 years): 1 United Auctions Trophy: Amy Underwood, Stromnitchan, 2 Blair MacDonald, Oban, 3 Ewan Fyfe, Inveraray; March, Strathspey & Reel (15 & under 18 years): 1 Adam MacCracken Trophy: Mark Leishman, Campbeltown, 2 Blair MacDonald, Oban, 3 Amy Underwood, Stromnitchan.

Accordions and fiddle masters Gary Sutherland, Giffordtown, and Maggie Adamson, Shetland. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Council alliances could be good for the electorate

LOCAL elections in both Highland and Argyll and Bute council areas have resulted in an alliance of political parties to gain overall control.

While some elected independent councillors can rightly claim that the majority of voters put them into local politics to ensure that the 'tow the party line' structure didn't affect how local councils are run, perhaps the coalition structure, the need to work together for a common aim, is exactly what this strange mixture of 'political bedfellows' require to keep them in check.

What will also prove interesting will be if the direct SNP link which now is in place between local and Scottish Government can circumnavigate the problems of the councils they replace.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### New traditional musicians

AN EVENING of Scottish Music: New Works is how the recent concert by third year students of the BA Scottish Music course at the Royal Conservatoire was advertised and it certainly lived up to its title.

A total of 21 students took part to perform the works of five of their fellow students with a full range of instruments being showcased.

There is the chance to hear the students again when, together with the musical director of their course Phil Cunningham, they stage a concert in St Andrew's in the Square on Friday May 18.

#### Glasgow Islay Association

AS PART of its continuing 150th birthday celebrations, Glasgow Islay Association are reminding readers that they are looking for entries to two competitions, the first for a postcard and the other for a bagpipe tune.

The postcard competition will be divided into two, one being for children up to the age of 12 and the other for seniors. First prize for both will be £50 and for second prize £25 and while the entries must depict Islay drawings, cartoons or photographs will be acceptable. The winners will be announced at the Gathering on Islay on July 28. Entries should be submitted to Liz Campbell, 7 Loanhead Avenue, Linwood, PA3 3QP by June 1. The pipe tune will be a 6/8 March which will be premiered at the above Gathering and the prize will be £200. The final date for entries, which should be forwarded to James MacLean, 1, Alwyn Avenue, Houston, Renfrewshire, PA6 7LH, is 1st June 1.

On Friday September 7, the City of Glasgow is hosting a civic reception to honour the achievement of the association and since numbers are limited it is intended to hold a ballot. Association members who wish to attend should submit their name and address to Liz Campbell at the above address by June 1.

#### New Gaelic song

AN COMUNN Gaidhealach is inviting entries for the composition of a new Gaelic song with a first prize of £200. Entry forms are available on www.ancomunn.co.uk, by phoning 01851 703487 or at marina@ancomunn.co.uk.

#### Community classes

THE NEXT meeting of Cofaidh is Ceardan will be held in Cushion and Cake, Old Dumbarton Road, on Wednesday May 16 from 7-9pm when the subject will be 'printwork'. Potential participants must register beforehand for this class on 0141 339 2022.

On Tuesday May 22 Alasdair Whyte will be in charge of the singing class which will concentrate on the 'Songs of Mull' at An Leana, Mansfield Street, again from

7-9pm. No pre-registration required.

#### Gaelic workshops

COMMUNITY Learning and Review Group is holding a day of workshops in Jury's Hotel, 80 Jamaica Street, Glasgow, when there will be an opportunity for professionals working in community learning and development to meet Gaelic speakers, adult learners and representatives from voluntary organisations to discuss issues of common interest relating to Gaelic education.

The event, from 10am to 4pm is free, including lunch. Applications should be received by tomorrow (Friday) by telephone to Annette Biggar, 01294 833173, or by e-mail abiggar@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

#### Fintry festival

STARTING on Friday May 18, Fintry Music Festival will take place for three nights in Fintry Sports Club.

#### Gourock Highland Games

THE GAMES will take place in Gourock Park on Sunday May 13 from noon with the march past at 4pm.

Fifty pipe bands took part last year and it is envisaged a similar number will be there this year and, as in the past few years, the West of Scotland Highland Dancing Championships will take place throughout the afternoon.

#### Diary dates

**Thursday May 10:** Glasgow Sutherland Association AGM, Buff's Club, 937 Dumbarton Road, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Duncan McCrone Band.

**Saturday May 12:** Paisley and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh Dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm.

**Sunday May 13:** Acoustic Affair, City Halls, 8pm, Outside Trail, Gourock Highland Games-see above.

**Tuesday May 15:** Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association AGM, Partick Burgh Halls, 7.30pm.

**Wednesday May 16:** Gaelic Quiz, Park Bar, 7.30pm.

**Thursday May 17:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, The Handsome Family.

**Friday May 18:** Phil Cunningham Showcase, St Andrew's in the Square-see above. Fintry Music Festival 2012 - see above.

**Saturday May 19:** Highlander's Club, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm, Donnie and Diane Band, Clann Gaidhlig Ceilidh Dance, Community Centre, Bishopton, 7.30pm.

#### Pub scene

MUSIC in the Islay Inn this weekend will be provided by Parting Glass on Friday and Crooked Reel on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Nicky McMichan on Friday, Monach Isles on Saturday and Willie Cameron/Martin Pottinger on Sunday.

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



## Oban High School Air Training Corps at summer camp - 1975

Peter Darling of Oban submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows cadets/adults from Oban High School Air Training Corps (2521 Squadron) at summer camp at RAF Coningsby in 1975. Left to right: Squadron Leader Bill Coutts, Cadet Sergeant Mark De'ath, Keith Hendry, Alan Cathro, Cadet Corporal Hamish Constable, Peter Darling, Ernie MacInnes, Steven Mackie, Robert Galbraith, Douglas Coutts, Dunbar Henderson, Cadet Corporal Donald MacNaughton, Willie MacKillop, Ian McGill and Pilot Officer Donald MacDougall. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

#### New 'Nissen' hut for Dunbeg

Sir, I can only imagine your readers have not failed to notice the large grey 'Nissen hut' like structure that is rapidly growing next to the current SAMS site at Dunbeg.

What happened to the sympathetic low rise 'shielded by trees' artist's impression we were treated to back at pre planning stage?

I believe this is the first of three proposed phases on this site. What a treat for the passing tourist!

In this week of local council elections I failed to hear any raised voices of concern over this seemingly retro design direction but after all was it not the same councillors who heaped praise on the new development and what it was to bring to the local community.

Anyway in keeping with its war time traditions, Dunbeg has a splendid new 'nissen' hut.

**Kay McDonald, Dunbeg.**

#### Mull Music Festival leaves wrong impression

Sir, I wholeheartedly support the views of D Stevenson in last week's *Oban Times* regarding the Mull Music Festival.

My husband and I have been visiting Mull at last twice a year for the last 20 years but have never previously had the misfortune to be in Tobermory for the 'Festival'.

We drove into Tobermory at 7.30pm on the Saturday evening to find Main Street full of people staggering about with vast carryouts of lager. The fish and chip van was under siege with customers eating on the street and dropping the wrappers on the road and saw the most unbecoming sight of

a woman lifting up her sweater and flashing at customers in the Chinese restaurant.

Is this the sort of tourism you want in Argyll? Maybe it brings money in, though I wonder just how profitable it is when so many people were camping or parked on the Ledaig Pier and buying their own booze rather than paying pub prices. Is it worth alienating the tourists who have more money to spend, such as those on the cruise ship that was moored at the pier? I dread to think what impression of Mull they will have taken home. We certainly couldn't leave quickly enough, but then residents like Mr Stevenson don't have that option.

I have worked with people in Mediterranean resorts who destroyed their local cultures and ultimately their economies by chasing British mass markets and finding themselves degraded by a clientele who were only interested in getting drunk as cheaply as possible. And that's what you've got at the Mull Music Festival. Forget the music; for too many people it's just an excuse to drink themselves silly.

It won't put me off visiting Mull in future - I'll just make sure to avoid these dates - but it could cause untold damage to tourism in the long run.

**Anne Burns, \*\*\*Checking address.**

#### Great boost for island

Sir, I write in response to last week's letter from D Stevenson.

The Mull Music Festival brings hundreds of thousands of pounds to the Mull economy, increasing revenue for bars, accommodation providers, ferries and shops, not only boosting much needed visitor numbers but also showcasing the traditional music talent on the island.

Many of the people who attend

the Mull Music Festival return with their families at other times of the year, boosting trade and creating employment.

The bars D Stevenson suggests should have limited trading hours are the ones funding this event and ensuring it grows year on year, enhancing the economy and increasing the quality of life on the island for residents.

Cruise ships are also a massive boost to Tobermory, however, why would we ever limit our audience? All visitors to the island must be embraced and encouraged.

D Stevenson suggests removing all campervans from the car park. Is he/she looking to drive them further up the town into a more residential area or just stop them coming altogether? I feel either option is 'idiotic. Having accommodation close to the venues is surely not only the safest way but also the quietest. I feel local councillors have the right idea in ignoring you on this matter as you have no interest in the future on Tobermory and Mull and only an interest in your own comfort and wellbeing, and you are clearly in a minority.

#### The real menace on the A85

Sir, Yet again, almost with tedious repetition, a letter has appeared in a local newspaper with the words 'cyclist' and 'menace' in the headline.

The author in this case is Mr Rodgers who is frustrated he has to manoeuvre around bike riders whilst he is driving on the A85. He goes on to state that drivers 'brush' these people with their cars and/or drive into the face of those approaching from the other direction to overtake these bicycle riders.

Most drivers in fact have the skills needed to carry out an overtake without connecting with the slower person on the bike or causing danger to oncoming traffic.

I can only assume from his letter, Mr Rodgers is unable to manage this simple manoeuvre without colliding with the bike riders and creating danger for other road users.

Perhaps it is Mr Rodgers that is the real menace of the A85.

**Kev W, Nevis Cycles, Oban.**

me think he doesn't get out very often. Let's hope that is the case.

**Robert McCall, Macrihanish.**

#### Get on your bike

Sir If A Rodger's driving talents are so limited as to cause him to pen a rant to his local paper about cyclists lawfully using the highway, maybe he should consider an alternative form of transport.

May I recommend cycling? Its health benefits are well documented and, speaking as an experienced road cyclist, I can confidently assure him that the majority of vehicle drivers with whom he will be sharing the road are more tolerant and capable than he.

#### Stay off the roads

Sir, As a motorist and cyclist I have to say that, unlike Mr A Rodger, I have no problem safely passing cyclists on the A85 or on any other single carriageway.

A little patience, good judgement of speed, distance and clearance will always suffice. I believe most motorists possess these skills. Should anyone be forced to 'brush' past a cyclist, as Mr Rodger puts it, then that motorist is clearly not in control of the situation. May I suggest that if Mr Rodgers belongs in this category, he should stay off the roads for the sake of everyone else. After all, it's only common sense.

Mr Rodger's first paragraph referring to the weather makes

### Times Diary

WITH all the good weather we've been having recently, it's easy to understand how it can go to some people's heads.

However, even taking account of the blue skies, it was difficult to explain the message on the electronic road sign on the A85 near Dunbeg on Saturday, which exclaimed 'Sun for four weeks'.

Sadly, the author of the sign does not possess incredible meteorological skills and cannot see into the future. Instead, the message was intended to warn of a month of roadworks on the A85.

SPARE a thought for the poor telesales person selling conservatories who phoned a mean minded reader this week.

'Wow,' responded the recipient of the call, 'I'd be really interested. What's your best package?'

The cold-caller listed through each of the options, double glazing, fancy frames, fitted blinds, decorative door knobs. 'I'll take it all, I've always wanted the best, regardless of price,' continued our reader.

The price was quoted and enthusiastically received by our correspondent.

'Excellent, now, if you can give me your address I can arrange our team to come out and finalise the quote.'

'No problem, my address is Flat 3/2...'

ASSISTANTS at a marine life centre were showing a party of school children around the various live and hands-on exhibits that make these centres so popular.

One assistant asked if any of the children had pets. There were the usual collection of dogs and cats, rabbits and guinea pigs, and even a pet rat. The assistant asked if anyone kept fish, and one young boy announced that he had a dogfish in a tank at home. 'Somewhat surprised, the assistant asked if the boy was sure it was a dogfish.

She asked: 'Do you not mean a goldfish?' But the boy was adamant that his pet was a dogfish.

She asked: 'How can you tell?'

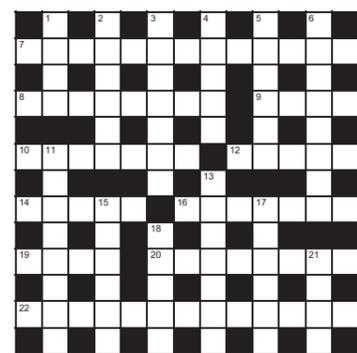
'Cos' when I lift him out of the tank he wags his tail,' came the prompt reply.



This picture was sent to *Diary* by John Gosling from Barcaldine. He took it on the morning of the election and asks: 'Do you think it is an omen from on high or is it a couple of airline pilots doing their bit for the SNP?'

You can send your wee funny stories, humorous happenings or quirky looks at real life to The Diary, PO Box 1, Oban or email direct to editor@obantimes.co.uk

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 That'll do nicely! (4,3,6)
  - 8 Designer of music (8)
  - 9 Cat calls (4)
  - 10 Bendy (7)
  - 12 Irate (5)
  - 14 Didn't smell too good! (5)
  - 16 Balcony (7)
  - 19 Minted object (4)
  - 20 Anagram maybe? (8)
  - 22 Direction opposite wsw (4,9)

- Down**
- 1 Kind of chop (4)
  - 2 Bliss (6)
  - 3 Horrible (7)
  - 4 Desolate (5)
  - 5 Insight (6)
  - 6 Americas (3,5)
  - 11 Seashore (8)
  - 13 Cache (7)
  - 15 Four score plus ten (6)
  - 17 Small computer program (6)
  - 18 Faint (5)
  - 21 \_\_\_ line (major axis of an elliptical orbit) (4)

### Last week's solution



SUARACH, a-rithist, cho mòr 's a nochd gus bhòtadh aig na taghaidhean air an t-seachdain seo chaidh. Tha luchd-naidheachd is poiliteigs a' bleith an teagannan agus gan cur fhèin air bhòil a' feuchainn ri obrachadh a-mach Carson a tha cho beag ùidh aig daoine ann a bhith a' dèanamh taghadh air còr theid gan riochdachadh air comhairle neo ann am pàrlamaid.

Tha an suidheachadh iongantach oir saoilidh mi fhìn gur e glè bheag de dhaoine aig nach eil beachdan, agus beachdan gu math làidir cuideachd, air an dà chuid ire agus eifeachdas sheirbheisean poblach agus mar a tha an dùthaich air a ruith. Their cuid gum bheil an sluagh air fàs searbh mu phoiliteigs ri linn mar a bha cuid de na riochdairean gan giùlan fhèin agus mar a bha iad a' dèanamh dimeas air sochaircan agus le foill dearbhte air cuid aca. Ach ma tha sin air sgreamh a chur air daoine, agus gun teagamh tha air cuid, nach saoilte gur ann a bhòidh sin gam brosnachadh agus a dhòl a bhòidh dha riochdaire ùr a dhèanadh dleasan gu h-onarach. Tha e air leth draghail agus

bheil mòr-chuid de shluagh na dùthcha deònach an cumhachd fhàgail aig a' bheagan taghadh a dhèanamh air cò aige bhios cumhachd riaghailidh agus dè an seòrsa feallsanachd a bhios a' stiùireadh chùisean.

An e trioblaid poiliteigs a-mhàin a tha an seo neo ann bheil an aon seòrsa leigse ri fhaicinn ann an suidheachaidhean eile? Saoilidh mi gum bheil agus chan eil saoghal na Gàidhlig fhèin falamh dheth a bharrachd! Air a' chòla-deug a chaidh, tha dà thachartas ciùil sònraichte air àite a ghabhail aig taigh-cluiche Eden Court ann an Inbhir Nis.

Anns a' chaidh fhear dhuibh sin chualas cuid de Chaimbeulaich a' Ghrioba le taghadh den cuid ciùil agus abair gun robh sin math! Beagan is seachdain an dèidh sin chuir, mar is àbhaist, a' chuir bhliadhnail aig Comunn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis feadhainn de shàr sheinneadairean Gàidhlig agus luchd-ciùil air an àrd-ùrlar. Ach a dh'aindeoin na thathas a' dèanamh gus suidheachadh na Gàidhlig a leasachadh agus a cultar fhoillseachadh, cha robh an taigh-cluiche

faisg air a bhith làn oidhche seach oidhche. Prìomh bhaile na Gàidhealtachd! Cànan is dualchas dùthchail! Agus cha toir na Gàidheil fhèin taic dha luchd-calain a tha cho comasach ri gin air an t-saoghal agus a tha air cliù cadar-nàiseanta a chosnadh! Mo nàire!

IT IS profoundly worrying that the majority of UK voters appear content to leave the appointment of local authority and parliamentary representatives to a minority.

Everyone is affected by public service provision and taxation, but astonishingly substantially more than half the population do not care sufficiently to vote in order to influence policy.

This malaise is not unique to politics! On two occasions in the past fortnight Inverness's Eden Court Theatre staged outstanding Gaelic music events but Gaelic users and supporters failed to fill the Theatre either time to support world class musicians! Shame!  
**Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)**  
ailean@obantimes.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.



Willie MacKillop Trophy winner Ruari Edmond.

### Young box player wins Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club award

A NUMBER of local musicians marked the end of Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club's 2011/2012 session with an evening of music in the Railway Club last week.

Accordion player Ruari Edmond was awarded the Willie MacKillop Trophy the most advanced young player of the session. Keith MacKillop presented the prize on behalf of his late father.

The youngsters who performed on the night were Ewan MacQueen, Innes MacIntosh, Michael MacLeod, Liam Stevenson and Hannah MacRae.

Some of the supporting artists for the session were Deirdre MacDonald on the fiddle, box player Hector Henderson, Simon Andrews on the drums and James MacArthur on melodian.

### Sineag MacIntyre joins Allan and Megan Henderson for London ceilidh

THERE is a sparkling array of talent featuring at The Highlands and Islands Society of London's upcoming May ceilidh and dance which is taking place at the London Welsh Centre, 157-163 Gray's Inn Road, London, on Saturday May 19 at 7.30pm.

Music for dancing comes from Didcot-based 'The Reel Blend,' led by society member Murdo MacRae from Lewis.

As an extra special treat, the society has worked in association with Ceolas to present some additional talent on the evening, namely Sineag MacIntyre, Allan Henderson and Megan Henderson.

Sineag is from Kilpheder in South Uist. She won the Traditional Gold Medal in Dunoon in 2006 and the National Gold Medal in Oban in 2009. Allan is from Mallaig and is an accomplished fiddler, piper, pianist and whistle player. He tours with 'Blazin' Fiddles'.

Sister Megan plays piano and accordion and is also a vocalist. She currently plays with 'Salsa Celtica', newly formed band 'Kristan Harvey and the Sanna' and also with 'Breachach'.

All three are graduates of the RSAMD.

Sounds like an evening to remember!

Further information is available on the society's website - www.thehisl.co.uk.

### 'Pub Landlord' Murray to tour the west coast

THE PUB Landlord is coming back to the Highlands and Islands with a new tour in July and August.

Al Murray is taking his 'The Only Way Is Epic' tour to Aros Hall in Tobermory on July 31. He will then visit Skye, Ullapool and Stornoway on August 1, 2 and 3 before heading to Barra on August 5. Tickets are on sale now.



# Ardnamurchan High School hosts first fashion show

ARDNAMURCHAN High School (AHS) presented its first fashion show last Friday evening.

The highly successful and well-attended event showcased the talents of its pupils to a selection of rock tunes.

#### Contemporary dance

Their creative designs, from dresses to flamboyant headpieces, were modelled on the catwalk. In addition, the evening saw S4 pupil Caitlin Laybourne perform a beautiful contemporary dance piece.

A slot to promote local designers' work also featured, with t-shirt

competition entries modelled enthusiastically by local primary school pupils from Strontian and Acharacle.

The evening had a sophisticated edge to it with a selection of non-alcoholic cocktails and canapés after the catwalk show, where the public were given the chance to see pupils' portfolio work. S4 to S6 pupils' portraiture work was particularly complimented.

AHS art teacher Miss L Blair said: 'I am very pleased with all the effort the pupils and staff have put into this event.'

'I think it's really important to

recognise the artistic talents in our school and give the local community a chance to experience it in the form of a fun, sociable evening. I am very proud of all who participated and grateful for so much support. A particular thanks goes out to S5 pupils Adele Cameron and Kirsty Macphee for all of their dedication throughout the project.'

The winning t-shirt design from the show, which promotes Ardnamurchan and was fashioned in the show, is now on sale at the AHS office and is expected to appear in local shops and businesses by the summer.



Joanne Ford, Kerry Borwick and Keri Harkins model senior art pupils' designs

### Directors wanted as Aberfeldy cinema revival gets underway

AS CONSTRUCTION on the new Birks Cinema in Aberfeldy gets underway this month, members of a new voluntary board of directors are being sought.

A new trading company is to be formed to help run the community facility and the Friends of the Birks Cinema hope to find the right people to help run the social enterprise from within the community.

Chairwoman of the Friends Charlotte Flower said: 'We want to make sure we get as many local people involved as possible as we establish how the facility will operate and be directed.'

'We are now also creating the right social enterprise structure to run the cinema efficiently and effectively and to deliver the social benefits to the local community which it will serve.'

#### Experience

The kind of skills and experience being looked for include marketing and communications, business start-up, creative arts, connected to community networks, catering industry, IT and human resources.

Applicants should outline briefly the skills, experience or knowledge that they could bring which would help to make the cinema a successful social and financial venture. Board members won't be paid.

For further information see www.birkscinemafriends.org.uk or email info@birkscinemafriends.org.uk. Applications close on May 31.

## Large turnout at Portree box club as Pentlands Ceilidh Band entertain

ISLE OF Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club's May monthly meeting saw a large turnout of musicians and enthusiasts.

Everyone was warmly welcomed by club chairman and MC Jim Campbell who invited local musicians on stage to entertain the eager audience.

On accordions were Aly 'K' MacPherson, Ceitidh Douglas and John MacGilvary who were joined by button box players Hamish MacDougal of Muir of Ord and Sandy Ross of Lochcarron.

The keyboards were in the capable hands of John Cameron while Sandy Ross and Aly 'K' MacPherson shared the drumming.

The only fiddler of the evening was the club's youngest regular player, 12-year-old Ellie MacPherson, who had the audience singing along with her music. As usual, the highlight of the evening was the superb lively performance of the guest band, The Pentlands Ceilidh Band.

This trio gave a superb and varied programme which delighted the appreciative audience and generated sustained applause bringing a memorable evening of music to a rousing close.



The Pentlands Ceilidh band in full flow at Portree.



Eight-year-old Aimee Williams worked hard to beat goalie Ben Pollock during a recent fun day at Atlantis Leisure, Oban, organised by students of Argyll College in a fundraiser for Yorkhill Children's Foundation. Other popular attractions at the event included Body Zorbing, stalls and pin the tail on the rabbit. 15\_115atlantfun1

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**SYFG Project Ladies Night**  
Friday 18th May  
Palace Hotel  
7.30pm for 8pm  
Hair and Beauty Pampering  
Tasters from Heart and Soulfood  
Tickets available at the door  
£6.00 including comp glass of fizz  
Reg charity no SC000998

**To All Oban Residents aged 86yrs and older**  
Special Guest Invitation  
Free invitation to enjoy  
The Celebration of HM the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Lunch  
Sunday 3rd June  
Jubilee Big Lunch  
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Saturday 12th May > Nightclub with DJs  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 11pm-2am, £5 entry

Friday 11th May > Crooked Reel  
Markie Dans

Saturday 12th May > Brass Monkeys  
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Friday 18th May > Disco with DJ Stevo  
Markie Dans

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**Calum And Rory MacDonald The Band From Rockall**  
Founder members of Runrig, Calum and Rory, have collaborated on this Rockall project, an outcrop lying 300 miles west of mainland Scotland. The inspiration for the songs came from their childhood in the Western Isles. Growing up in the late 50s and 60s, rock 'n' roll and pop culture impacted on the Gaelic community.

**Duncan McCrone Colourblind**  
A diverse collection of songs from Glasgow born singer songwriter Duncan McCrone and co-writer and musical collaborator, Cy Jack. Some original songs, some traditional Scottish works and some very carefully chosen covers by top songwriters of the past and present. The list of contributors to this CD reads like a Who's Who of traditional and contemporary music.

**Gillie MacKenzie Griaies**  
First solo album from Gillie, whose music is notably influenced by the traditions and culture of the people of Lewis and from the Lothians. Some traditional and some self penned Scottish Gaelic songs, with a wee bit of English. Gillie was awarded the Mod God Medal for solo singing at the National Mod in Govan in 1990, which led to invitations to sing at various concerts and on television and radio programmes and to teach at Fèisean. Griaies is the Gaelic name for the village, Gress, where Gilly grew up, surrounded by lots of songs, stories and beautiful landscapes.

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

To enter, simply send us token two printed here along with token one printed last week, answer the question below, complete the entry form and post it to The Oban Times, RockNess Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by Monday, May 21, 2012.

**QUESTION:**  
At which famous loch does RockNess take place?  
a) Loch Awe b) Loch Lomond c) Loch Ness

Answer ..... Telephone.....  
Name ..... Mobile.....  
Address ..... Email .....

The Oban Times, RockNess Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.  
Entries must be received by Monday, May 21, 2012.

Don't forget to include your tokens!

Tick here if you would like to receive more information from RockNess  
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 If you would prefer not to receive information from us please tick here  
How frequently do you buy The Oban Times?  I am a subscriber  Every week  2-3 times a month  Once a month  1-2 times each season  Never

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. One entry per purchased copy. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. Entries must be received by Monday, May 21, 2012. Entrants must be aged 18 or over.

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# Business

**Business reporter:**  
**Steven Flanagan**  
 sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk  
 01631 568021



## Lochaber biomass specialist anticipates strong business growth

A FORT William based biomass heating company is expecting to reach £5million turnover this year after starting from scratch almost a decade ago. HW Energy is the UK's leading biomass specialist and expects strong business growth in the next year. Speaking about its success, HW Ener-

gy's managing director and co-founder of the business Bruno Berardelli said: 'We've completed nearly 200 biomass installs to date now across Scotland and we only expect this to increase with the introduction of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). As customers start to see the real

benefits of biomass and potential clients learn of the financial incentives on offer, we only expect this demand to grow.' The business has already won a number of industry accolades including the Construction News 'Specialist Award' and the Green Apple Environment Award. Mr Berardelli puts the

success firmly down to the hard work and dedication of his team - a 40 strong workforce which has recently been increased to manage growing demand for biomass energy. 'We only expect demand for biomass heating systems to increase, especially since the launch of the RHI last Novem-

ber, which now means clients not only save money on their fuel bills but now get paid for the energy they produce,' said Mr Berardelli. 'As such, biomass is now a very attractive investment for those customers who use a lot of energy, spend a lot on their fuel bills and have substantial buildings to heat.'

## Estate agency appoints commercial consultant

OBAN estate agency Bell Ingram has appointed its first commercial property consultant to market premises across Argyll and Lochaber.

Gregor King will take up the role of the company's first commercial property consultant, providing specialist commercial surveying advice from its fast growing Oban office.

With more than 25 years' experience, he will also support surveying firms with clients in Argyll, the Isles and Lochaber.

He said: 'My new role means I can develop this consultancy business to cover all aspects of commercial property, something that no-one else is offering in the Argyll area at the moment.'

'With sound, professional advice we can make, or save, businesses money - often by fairly simple and inexpensive means.'

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

Gregor is currently working on an extensive list of instructions, including several prime retail and hospitality developments in the centre of Oban and the Isle of Mull.

He is also involved in marketing a new development of small business units by M & K Macleod Ltd at Glenshellach Court, Glenshellach Business Park, Oban.

## Morham and Brotchie name new associate

A LONG-term employee of Oban-based chartered quantity surveyors Morham & Brotchie has been appointed as an associate within the practice.

James Workman has worked with the company since 1992, and has shown consistent progress from junior to senior surveyor over this period.

His expertise has developed through Quantity Surveying and CDM Co-ordination to include office management and IT responsibilities.

Principal surveyor Tommy McQuade said James would continue to provide high quality services in Rural Affordable Housing, Atlantic Rim Development and Community Trust Projects in particular.

Tommy said: 'I am absolutely delighted that James has accepted this position.'

'This is a key appointment for Morham & Brotchie and underlines our commitment to Argyll and the islands through



James Workman has been appointed as an associate at quantity surveyors Morham & Brotchie. 15\_119morham01

organic growth. It also confirms our commitment to improving the services we provide and to the continuity of service provision for our clients in the years ahead.'

## Scotland's first time buyers average 30

NEW figures from the Clydesdale Bank suggest the average age of Scotland's first time buyers is 30.

Yorkshire has the lowest average age, at 28, while the Welsh generally reach 36 before climbing on to the property ladder.

## Award winning fish finds favour at Tralee Bay

### Fish and Chip Quality Award

A RURAL Benderloch fish and chip shop with a loyal following from locals and visitors alike has been ranked as one of the UK's finest.

Tralee Bay Fish and Chips has been awarded the prestigious Fish and Chip Quality Award, becoming the first chippy in the Oban area to receive the accolade.

To qualify, each shop has to go through an inspection by a National Federation of Fish Friers (NFFF) Approved Assessor who assesses the shop's presentation, hygiene and cleanliness, staff training, equipment, frying and sales skills and most importantly the quality of the cooked product.

So high is the quality of fried fish from the popular shop, based at the Tralee Bay Holiday Park, that it scores as one of the best in the UK.

A NFFF spokesperson said: 'There are 240 things each chip shop is evaluated on, and they're allowed four negatives before they're ruled out. There are also certain categories where a single bad mark would rule them out from this award.'

'Tralee Bay Fish and Chips received no negative marks.

They are a really good shop, have done really well and have one of the best scores in the UK as a result.'

Owner Laura Shellcock said: 'Having been a 5-star award holder in the previous scheme run by Seafish, we are delighted to gain this prestigious Quality Award from the NFFF.'

'It is a great achievement for us all as it shows the customer just how committed we are to producing top quality fish and chips with great service.'

'This award sets the new benchmark for quality within the industry.'

**Confidence**

'It will signal to the consumer that they can buy with confidence where the award is displayed and it will encourage more outlets to raise their standards. Each Fish and Chip Quality Award is valid for two years and retention is dependent on standards being maintained as validated by NFFF officials and appointed assessors.'

The scheme is a way of rewarding and promoting shops that provide good quality products and high standards of hygiene, as well as friers who show a high level of competence.



Husband and wife team Laura and Richard Shellcock's Tralee Bay Fish and Chip Shop, near Benderloch, has been rated as one of the UK's best fish friers. 16\_119tralee01

## Highlands and Islands MSP claims rising postal charges will hit small businesses

A 30 PER cent hike in stamp prices will 'seriously disadvantage' small businesses.

That's the view of Highlands and Islands MSP Mike MacKenzie who believes the rise will force business away from first class mail. He said: 'The rise in the level of the basic first class letter rate from 46p to 60p, at

more than 30 per cent, represents a rise of around 10 times the current rate of inflation.

'This will mean, inevitably, that small businesses already struggling in the present repressive economic climate will be driven to use second class mail making them less competitive through no fault of their own.'

'This increase comes as Ofcom has indicated that there should be no cap on prices for most of the services that Royal Mail offer, including business post, bulk mail and larger packages and letters sent second class.'

'Large businesses, with considerable commercial clout, will never pay the full first class

mail price and will always get a better deal from Royal Mail and from alternative private mail providers.'

'Those are not options available to small businesses and so the ever widening gap will open yet further. Far from being 'all in this together' small businesses are being cast aside.'

## HIE hits all targets in 'highly productive year'

HIGHLANDS and Islands Enterprise's (HIE) has bucked the economy's trend after exceeding all of its targets in the 2011-12 financial year.

Figures show that forecasts for turnover of supported businesses, sales outside and overall jobs supported all exceeding targets.

HIE chairman Professor Lorne Crerar said: 'These results chart a highly productive year for HIE, especially against the backdrop of challenging economic conditions. Our investments are having positive impacts. HIE's account management approach enables clients to build lasting relationships with us and we are working closely with more than 400 businesses, 144 social enterprises and 50 communities. We are also developing some of the most ambitious projects the region has ever seen, designed to ensure we can be competitive in a global marketplace.'

The figures reveal a busy year for inward investment, particularly within the business services and life sciences sectors.

Approved financial support from HIE to existing and new investors is expected to generate more than 800 jobs with operations including Atos, Capita, Verter and Citizens Advice Direct. As well as working to bring new business to the area, HIE has supported more than 100 local firms and social enterprises with their ambitions to export. A total investment of £5.2m supporting internationalisation is forecast to generate an increase of £44m in turnover over the next three years. Among its principal achievements, HIE saw work start at some of the region's most ambitious infrastructure projects - the Inverness Campus, the European Marine Science Park in Argyll, Scrabster Harbour and the re-development of John O'Groats in Caithness.

Enabling the Highlands and Islands to become a digital region is a top priority. The agency is tendering for a commercial business partner to co-invest in a project to equip all areas with superfast broadband.



Staff at Ainsley Smith and Co welcome Jamie as its new partner. 16\_118ainsleysmith01

## Fish farming giant extends Loch Fyne water management programme

THE SCOTTISH Salmon Company (SSC) hopes to improve the water management of its operations at Loch Fyne thanks to a pioneering environmental programme.

SSC is extending its programme of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) to its Ardcastle site after successful trials at its Loch Roag site. IMTA exchanges nutrients in the water system giving potential benefits for the produce farmed in the marine environment. The project has been developed with Dunbeg's Scottish Association of Marine Science as part of the company's ongoing work to protect the local environment. This year, SSC also announced details of a pioneering initiative which will see Ballan wrasse, or 'cleaner fish', commercially farmed for use in salmon cages for the first time. While widely shown to reduce sea lice on salmon, this is one of the first full scale operations aiming to farm and deploy wrasse in Scotland.

Stewart McLelland, chief executive of SSC, said: 'The industry is growing and as new markets open up regulation and ever increasing environmental standards are driving important innovations. We want to be at the forefront of best practice, evolving new methods of husbandry that produce premium quality salmon. Both the IMTA and wrasse projects are important developments and we are confident of their success. SSC's strategy for 'single generation, single loch, synchronised fallow' has already won awards and we are constantly striving for environmental excellence.'

SSC's IMTA trials will be closely monitored and along with the progress of the wrasse project, the results will be shared with the industry.

## New business development director

THE PARENT company of Oban-based Dawson Energy has appointed Neil Tawse as its business development director. Mr Tawse joins the 3sun Group from Aker Subsea Ltd, where he held the position of vice president for the past two-and-a-half years.

## Oban accountancy firm forms new partnership

'I am really looking forward to this new challenge,' - Jamie Smith

OBAN accountancy firm Jean Ainsley and Co has this month become Ainsley Smith and Co after Jamie Smith was made a partner.

Originally from Appin, Jamie has worked with Jean Ainsley since 2003 after graduating from university with an accountancy degree.

In that time, the 35-year-old has become a vital part of the business and Jean felt it was only natural he become a partner.

While customers won't see too much of a change in the business, Jamie's new role as a partner means the company will be able to offer a far more robust service.

Jean said: 'We've worked together for a long time and we decided to move things forward so he was part

of the firm rather than an employee of the firm.'

'It's a really positive decision and I'm delighted to welcome Jamie as a partner of the firm.'

'Jamie will be more out and about with customers, visiting islands as well as some of our rural areas.'

'There won't be a huge change to the way we do things but we will certainly be stronger and more productive.'

Jamie said: 'I am really looking forward to this new challenge of developing the business.'

'The part of the job I enjoy most is getting out to meet clients and building relationships and that is something I want to do on a more regular basis.'

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# Farming

## Cattle hit record high at Oban

ALL CLASSES of cattle hit record highs at Oban Livestock Centre last week when an excellent ring-side of buyers were forward from Aberdeenshire, Newcastle and the Central Belt resulted in an excellent trade for both cattle and sheep sections.

Bullocks averaged 237p per kilo (+46p on the year) and sold to 278p per kilo for three 230kg Simmentals from Fernoch, Lochgilphead

and to £950 for a 400kg Limousin from D Buchanan, Achnaba, North Connel.

Heifers averaged 218.6p per kilo (+31p on the year) and sold to 265p per kilo for three 245kg Simmentals from Fernoch, Lochgilphead and to £900 for a 350kg Limousin from Ardachy, North Connel.

Over 30 Month cattle sold to 120p per kilo for a 420kg Luing cow from D C Lewis, Drimmin,

Ardnamurachan and to £950 for a 675kg Limousin Cow from R A Colthart, Kinlochlaichm Appin.

Breeding cattle sold to £1,100 for an in-calf Limousin from Messrs Poulton, Lochdar, Bunnassan.

Cast ewes and tups sold to a top of £116 for Texels from E MacGilvary, Barcaldine Home Farm, while hogs sold to a top of £80 for Suffolk from D Gilbert, Ardshehall Farm, Ardmaddy.

## Prime sheep trade slips back

DINGWALL Highland Marts Ltd sold 50 prime cattle and 684 prime sheep at Dingwall on Tuesday when sheep were back more than 15p per kilo.

Prime bullocks averaged 202.3p (+4.1p) and sold to 214p per kg twice for 630kg and 610kg Limousin crosses from Udale, Poyntzfield, and £1,481.90 for 730kg Charolais cross also from Udale. Prime heifers averaged 203.7p (+2.4p) and sold to 214p per kg for a 545kg Limousin cross from Udale, and £1,301.75 for a 635kg Limousin cross from Kinchyle Farm, Scainport, to John M. Munro Ltd., Dingwall.

Lambs averaged 169.5p (-15.1p) and sold to 188.1p per kg for 42kg Texel crosses from 8 Englishmuir, Bunchrew, and £81.80 for 47kg Cheviots from Ardivot Farm, Lossiemouth.

Blackfaces from Ardivot sold to 76.20.

## Simmental heifers sell to 308p per kilo at Dalmally

UNITED Auctions sold 347 cattle at their Annual May sale at Dalmally Auction Mart last Saturday.

A good entry of grazing cattle sold to a packed ringside of buyers.

Bullocks sold to 294pence per kilo for a pen of seven Limousin crosses from Garraron Farm and averaged 230.7p.

Heifers sold to 308pence per kilo for Simmental crosses from Keilator and averaged 209.7p.

## Breeding cattle in demand

UNITED Auctions hosted the Scottish Simmental Club annual show and sale of breeding cattle sponsored by Carrs Billington at Stirling on Monday when sold 469 breeding cattle.

Pen of 4 SimX bulling hfrs, under 15 months.  
1st Mr McAskill, Woodhall - £1300  
2nd Mr Short, Balquhadly - £960

Pen of 4 SimX bulling hfrs, over 15 months.  
1st Mr Houldy, Kirtleton - £1400  
2nd Mr Dyet, East Merkland - £1700

Quality breeding cattle remain in demand with heifers with heifer calves at foot selling to £3,500 for black Irish heifers from The Ross.

Corbiwood sold Limousin cross heifers and West Thomaston British Blue heifers to £3450.

Heifers with Bull Calves at foot also sold to £3,500 for British Blues from West Thomaston and to £3,300 for Limousins from the same home.

Cows with and bull calves at foot sold to £2,450 for Simmentals from Inverwick £2450 with the same home selling Simmental cows with heifer calves at foot to £2,900 and Continental crosses to £2,700 three times.

In-calf cows sold to £1,800 for Simmentals from Foot o' Green, with in-calf heifers topping at £1,600 for Aberdeen Angus crosses from Roughlands.

Simmental cross bulling heifers from Putechan sold to £1,760.

## Grazing cattle in demand at Tiree May Sale

UNITED Auctions held their annual May sale of all classes cattle and sheep at Tiree Auction Mart last Thursday.

Grazing cattle met a spirited demand and all classes sheep sold at rates comparing favourably to levels obtained at mainland centres.

Bullocks sold to 260pence per kilo for Limousin cross from Manna House and averaged 211.1p. Heifers sold to £900 for a Simmental cross from No6 Crossapol.

## Market reports

### DALMALLY United Auctions

**Bullocks**  
Aberdeen Angus X: £775 Knock-Dhu.  
Blonde D'Aquataine X: £695(3) Laggan Farms.  
Charolais X: £1065(2) Auchlyne Farm £1000 Largiemore £925 Brackley £915(3) Largiemore £900(2) Keil, Southend £865 Dunans £805 Couston Farm Co £750 Brackley £745 Tullochmhor.  
Limousin X: £1055 ,£1025(3), £915(6) & £905(5) Tiraghoil, Mull £835 Couston Farm Co £805(2) Garraron & Melfort Farms £795 Knock-Dhu £785 Tullochcan £775(2) Dall £765(3) Garraron & Melfort Farms £755 Knock Dhu & Tullochcan £745 Knock-Dhu(2) & Tullochcan £725 Tiraghoil(7) & Garraron & Melfort Farms(5) £700(2) Ben Lawers Farm.  
Simmental X: £945 & £905(3) Tiraghoil £845 Brackley £825(2) & £815 Knock-Dhu £795(4) Duallin £790 Dunans £785(2) Knock-Dhu £775(3) Tiraghoil £765 Keilator(3) & Tiraghoil £740(2) Brackley £725 Knock-Dhu(2), Keilator(8) & Pitcastle Estate £720(3) Dunans £715(4) & £710(2) Duallin £705 Colintrava Farm.  
**Heifers**  
Aberdeen Angus X: £705 - Colintrava Farm.  
Beef Shorthorn X: £670 & £635 - Glenmachrie.  
Blonde D'Aquataine X: £670(3) - Laggan Farms.  
Charolais X: £965(2) Auchlyne Farm £905 & £855 Largiemore £835(2) Couston Farm Co £800 Largiemore £785 & £755(2) Auchlyne Farm £740 Largiemore Farm £685(2) Colintrava Farm.  
Limousin X: £955 & £865 Balliemeanoch £770(9) & £745(5) Tiraghoil Farm, Mull £710 Craig Farm £695(4) Benlawers Farm.  
Luing X: £835 Strone Estate.  
Simmental X: £885 Ardachuple £875 Tiraghoil & Ardachuple £800(2) Keilator £770 & £765 Tiraghoil £720 Keilator £700 Duallin £690(2) Keilator £675 Shellfield.  
Prices per kilo  
Aberdeen Angus X: 211p Knock-Dhu.  
Blonde D'Aquataine X: 234p(3) Laggan Farms.  
Charolais X: £247 Tullochmhor 234p(2) Keil, Southend £230p Couston Farm Co £224p(2) & 221p Largiemore 220p(4) Auchlyne Farm 218p Brackley £216p Dunans 206p Brackley.  
Limousin X: 294p(7) & 269p(3) & 256p Garraron & Melfort Farms 251p(7) Tiraghoil 250p(5) Garraron & Melfort Farms 248p(2) Auch Estate 244p(2) Dall 243p(2) Auch Estate 242p(2) & 240p(2) Garraron & Melfort Farms 236p Craig Farm & Kingairloch Estate(2) 234p Dall Farm & Tiraghoil Farm(5) 233p(2) Ben Lawers Farm 231p Knock-Dhu(3) & Tiraghoil(3) 230p Dall, Tiraghoil(6) & Garraron & Melfort Farms 229p Tiraghoil Farm 228p(3) & 224p(2) Garraron & Melfort Farms 221p Tullochcan Farm 220p Couston Farm Co & Tullochcan Farm 219p(3), 214p & 212p(2) Knock-Dhu 212p(2) Kingairloch Estate 211p Tullochcan Farm 209p Knock-Dhu.  
Luing: 224p(2) Pitcastle Estate.  
Shorthorn X: 252p(2) Auch Estate.  
Simmental X: 278p(4) & 257p(8) Keilator Farm 238p(4) & 231p(2) Duallin 231p Ardachuple & Brackley(2) 229p Knock-Dhu(2) & Tiraghoil(3) 228p Dunans 225p Tiraghoil & Dunans(2) 224p(3) Keilator 219p Knock-Dhu(2) & Dunans(3) 217p(4) Duallin 216p Shellfield 214p(3) Tiraghoil 212p Knock-Dhu 210p Tiraghoil 209p(2) Knock-Dhu 206p Colintrava Farm & Brackley 202p Shellfield.  
**Heifers**  
Beef Shorthorn: 248p & 217p Glenmachrie.  
Blonde D'Aquataine X: 227p(2) & 206p(3) Laggan Farms.  
Charolais X: 222p(2) Tullochmhor 217p(2) Colintrava Farm 216p Auchlyne Farm 210p Couston Farm Co(2), Auchlyne Farm & Keil, Southend(4) 205p(2) Auchlyne Farm 204p, 202p & 200p Largiemore.  
Limousin X: 239p Garraron & Melfort Farms 229p Craig Farm 227p Kingairloch Estate 226p (6) & 215p(3) Garraron & Melfort Farms 214p Tiraghoil(5) & Tullochcan Farm 213p(2) Kingairloch Estate 212p Tiraghoil(9) & Dunans 211p Craig Farm & Ben Lawers Farm(4) 210p Kingairloch Estate & Garraron & Melfort Farms(3) 208p Tiraghoil(8), Keil, Garraron & Melfort Farms(2) 200p Craig Farm.  
Saler X: 206p Tullochmhor.  
Simmental X: 308p, 274p, 268p(2), 247p, 231p(3) & 223p(2) Keilator Farm 215p Laggan Farms 213p Shellfield 212p Tiraghoil & Dunans 207p Ardachuple Farm 205p & 201p Duncroisk 201p Shellfield & Musdale Farm.  
Cows with calves at foot  
£1180, £1050 & £1000 Morenish Farm.  
**Sheep**  
Hoggs  
£68.50 81 Borge, Barra £68 Larach Bhan Ewes  
£60 Tigh Na Mara, Barra £55 Luriginish £55 Shellfield £54 83 Borge, Barra.

### LOCHBOISDALE United Auctions

**Bullocks**  
Aberdeen Angus X: £790 11 Ormiclate £760 Karingeidha.  
Limousin X: £930 -15 Ormiclate £920-1 Ormiclate £910 Drimore Farm £870 11 Ormiclate £850 1 Ormiclate & 15 Ormiclate £830 1 Ormiclate.  
Simmental X: £795 328 North Boisdale £765 8 Milton.  
**Heifers**  
Charolais X: £720 Drimore Farm.  
Limousin X: £860 1 Airdhmuill.  
Simmental X: £790 1 Airdhmuill £730 325 North Boisdale.  
**Farrow cow**  
£1200 136 Stilliggary  
**Prices per kilo**  
**Bullocks**  
Aberdeen Angus X: 205p Karingeidha.  
Limousin X: 237p MacSweens Dunganichy Ltd & 1 Ormiclate 223p 11 Ormiclate 221p 15 Ormiclate 219p(2) MacSweens Dunganichy Ltd 218p-1 Ormiclate 209p(3) Drimore Farm 204p(2) 1 Ormiclate.  
Simmental X: 204p 328 North Boisdale & 1 Drimisdale 203p 10 Bornish 200p 1 Drimisdale.  
**Sheep**  
**Hoggs**  
£100 426 North Lochboisdale  
**Ewes**  
£76 409/410 Smerclate £70 284 Daliburgh £60 409/410 Smerclate, 426 North Boisdale & 284 Daliburgh.  
**TIREE United Auctions**  
**Bullocks**  
Limousin X: £955, £850, £840, £810(3) & £780 Clachan £740 Manna House.  
Simmental X: £900 Druimfhaioch.  
**Heifers**  
Limousin X: £900 6 Crossapol  
British Blue X: £745 & £650 6 Crossapol  
Simmental X: £630 & £520 Lochphuill.  
**Cows**  
£785 1 Kilkenneth £740 Clachan £705 Lochphuill.  
**Bulls**  
£1220 Lochphuill.  
**Prices per kilo**  
**Bullocks**  
Aberdeen Angus X: 225p Scarinish Farm.  
Limousin X: 260p Manna House 258p & 257p Mainroad 257p Manna House 248p Mainroad 214p & 211p(3) Clachan.  
Simmental X: 248p Manna House.  
**Heifers**  
Simmental X: 203p & 202p Lochphuill.  
**Sheep**  
**Hoggs**  
Texel X: £90 2 Kilkenneth & Druimfhaioch £88 Druimfhaioch £70 Heylipol Farm.  
Cross: £80 Ardmay  
**Widders**  
£93 Lochphuill £92 & £84 Croish.  
**Ewes**  
Suffolk X: £120 Heylipol Farm £89 Benview £86 3 Middleton & 4 Kilkenneth  
Texel X: £110 & £100 Heylipol Farm & Benview £100 Benview £86 Benview.  
Cheviot X: £93 Croish £90 Heylipol Farm £88 Vault.  
Cross: £80 - 1 Kilkenneth  
Mule: £86 - Benview  
Blackface: £70 - Benview  
Beltex: £80 - Heylipol Farm.  
**Ewes with lambs at foot**  
£124 & £96 Manna House  
**OBAN Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd**  
Bullock Calves  
£900 (twice) Achnacreebeg; £870 Tyree; £865 Achnacreebeg; £830 Tyree; £825 Fiddin; £775 Ardachy; £760 Fiddin.  
Bullock Calves - Prices Per Kg  
265p Ardachy; 259p Tyree; 258p Ardachy; 257p Shenavallie; 254p Aird & Ardachy; 249p Inshaig; 246p Stroneskar & Fiddin.  
Heifer Calves - Per Head  
£820 Achnaba & Aird; £780 Achnacreebeg; £650 Caolas & Fernoch; £630 Ballard; £620 Fiddin; £610 Shenavallie & Ardachy; £590 Aird & Balure of Shian.  
Heifer Calves - Per Kg  
262p Aird; 257p Ardachy; 241p Inshaig; 237p Aird; 233p Rossal; 226p Ardachy & Fiddin; 224p Balure of Shian.  
Hoggets  
Chev - £79 Annet; Suff - £74 No. 3 Balevullin; Tex - £76, £72 No. 3 Balevullin; £72 House of Keil; Chev x - £69 No. 3 Balevullin; BF - £64 No. 2 Barcaldine.  
Ewes and Tups  
Suff - £102 Barcaldine Home Farm; £96 Barranrioch; Tex - £97 Barcaldine Home Farm, £89 Drimmin; Suff - £88 Torbhilare; £86 Dalrannoch; Mule - £84 Culburi; £80 Drumvore; BF - £71 Rossal, £67 Tyree, £59 Clachan Farms.

## PROPERTY



**Drimvargie Terrace, Oban**  
Beautiful large three bedroom flat near to town centre

Large fully fitted kitchen with dining area. Original cornice in all rooms. Freshly decorated with new carpets throughout. Gas central heating. Great home or rental potential. Shared Green.

Offers in the region of **£140,000**

Tel: 07977783630

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Solicitors : Notaries : Estate Agents



**"Sith Mhoire"**  
59 Creag Bhan Village, Oban

- Spacious, beautifully presented semi detached property
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- Garden to front and rear enclosed garden. Detached Garage/Workshop, Large Private Driveway
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Offers in the region of **£165,000**

22 Argyll Square, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AT  
Tel: 01631 563158 : Fax: 01631 565459  
www.andersonbanks.co.uk



**Fernoeh Crescent, Lochgilphead**

A detached family home in one of the most sought after locations in Lochgilphead, with lovely views across Loch Fyne towards Arran and over the Knapdale Hills.

Offers in the region of **£250,000**

For further details contact **01546 600039**  
Full details at [www.homesaleonline.co.uk](http://www.homesaleonline.co.uk)

- Oil fired central heating throughout.
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- Generous front and rear gardens with lawns, two decked areas, summer house and children's play equipment.
- 4 bedrooms, master with ensuite, all with fitted wardrobes.
- Very spacious lounge with open fire.
- Large kitchen/dining room.

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**Glen Massan, Dunoon**  
Cottage set in approx. 20 acres of garden and grazing.

Offers Over **£230,000**

For more information contact **07747 033706**

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**Oban Times FARMING**

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British Patent No 2155526

- installed within hours - not days
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- no blackwork pit required
- exceedingly cost-effective
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- complete with hedges/ramp
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- available from 9ft wide increasing by 1ft to a maximum of 2ft wide as required - jump - width 8ft 6ins, Deer Grids also Available, Ring for a Quotation

**HOPKINS GRID SALES**  
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Tel/Fax: (01573) 450655 e-mail: [hopkinsgrids@googlegmail.com](mailto:hopkinsgrids@googlegmail.com)

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# Advertising Sales Executive

A great opportunity to work for the well established publishing group, The Oban Times, with products ranging from award winning newspapers to popular seasonal products.

Working in a friendly team environment from our modern office in Oban, our sales teams are encouraged to build on existing business relationships and forge new ones - over the phone and "out and about."

We want to work with eager, focused individuals whilst developing their skills to give them the confidence to succeed. Sales experience isn't essential - the right "can do" attitude is.

Full driving licence essential.

We offer:

- An excellent salary with opportunity to earn bonus
- On-going in-house training
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Please apply by email with C.V and covering letter to: [al@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:al@obantimes.co.uk)



# Argyllshire advertiser

Incorporating Campbeltown Courier

## SENIOR REPORTER

An enthusiastic, multi-skilled Senior Reporter is required to join weekly newspaper, the Argyllshire Advertiser, part of the award winning Oban Times newspaper group.

Joining the team at the Lochgilphead office, Mid Argyll, the successful candidate will have good leadership qualities, excellent communication skills, a great deal of energy and at least two years experience. A full driving licence is essential.

This is an exciting opportunity with excellent salary and benefits package.

To apply, please send a covering letter of application with CV to Christine MacBryde, Personnel Officer, Wyvex Media Ltd, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568 001. Email: [personnel@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:personnel@obantimes.co.uk)



## WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD RECRUITMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS



West Highland Housing Association provides a wide range of services within the Oban and Lorn area. We have over 700 properties and are presently on site with a further 35 on Mull and are going on site shortly with a further 50 outside Oban. It has a turnover of approximately £3m. We work in partnership with communities across Oban and Lorn, Argyll and Bute Council - as the strategic housing authority - the Scottish Government, NHS Highland and Highland and Islands Enterprise to deliver local and national priorities.

In addition we have two subsidiary companies that are looking at energy schemes and land development.

We currently wish to strengthen our boards, which oversee the strategic direction of the organisation, by recruiting new board members. We are particularly interested in recruiting individuals with substantial business, financial experience and/or policy development. However individuals with an active interest in improving the homes and lives of those living in the Oban and Lorn will also be welcomed. Above all we are looking for fair and open minded individuals who want to utilise their experience and skills in making a difference for housing and communities.

The position is not remunerated, but expenses are payable. A commitment to attend meetings approximately every 6 weeks is required. The initial appointment is from now until the AGM in late August, and then for re-appointment every 3 years, at the discretion of the Board.

At this stage the Association want to hear from people who previously have not been involved with the Association.

To register your interest please contact May Tosh on 01631 566451 or email [may@westhighlandha.co.uk](mailto:may@westhighlandha.co.uk)

### SUPPORT WORKER REQUIRED FOR ADULT (MALE)

16 hours variable Rural location Must have own transport Apply to: Box No. 102, Campbeltown Courier, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, PA28 6AE.

### DISTRIBUTORS

Deya requires Temporary Distributors to deliver the new Yellow Pages in the local area. A car is required.

For more information and to apply online, please go to:

[www.deya.co.uk/jobs](http://www.deya.co.uk/jobs)

Alternatively call us (24 hours) on:

0118 989 9909 / 0800 298 7101



### Oban Times RECRUITMENT



### Project Administrator

Fixed Term appointment for 6 months

Salary £19,376 - £22,326 per annum

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

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

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

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

The Prince's Trust in Greenock is recruiting for a:

### Bosun/Driver

Salary: £20,300 - £21,430 per annum, Band 5

For further information about this role and to submit an application form, please visit [www.princes-trust.org.uk/jobs](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/jobs)

Closing date for applications is 18 May 2012.



“ The Oban Times is purchased by 84% of all households in Oban making it the 7th largest selling weekly, paid for, newspaper in Scotland. Our Lochaber Edition outsells any other newspaper in rural Lochaber with a circulation of \*4,745 giving a readership each week of \*\*12,896. ”

SOURCE: \*Audit period: Jan 2009 - Dec 2009 \*\*Ageex data as at 01/10/2011



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## PUBLIC NOTICES



To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

### PLANNING

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

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00384/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank.	Land East of Millbrae Benderloch Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
12/00703/PP	Erection of single storey rear extension and formation of adjoining secure play area.	Park Primary School Kerra Terrace Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5AU	Oban Area Office
12/00876/PP	Alterations and extensions to dwellinghouse	Lagganbeg House Kilmiver Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4UU	Sub Post Office Kilmelford

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00921/PP	Change of use of dwellinghouse (Class 9) to guesthouse/bed and breakfast (Class 7)	Garragh Mhor Ellenabeich Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4RF	Sub Post Office Balvicar
12/00947/PP	Erection of 1 metre high slate wall with wrought iron gate.	32 Ellenabeich Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4RQ	Sub Post Office Balvicar
12/00950/LIB	Erection of 1 metre high slate wall with wrought iron gate.	32 Ellenabeich Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4RQ	Sub Post Office Balvicar

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

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00812/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	6 Livingstone Way Port Ellen Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7EP	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
12/01009/PP	Change of use of doctors surgery to dwellinghouse	Windsor Main Street Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7JH	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
12/00970/PP	Installation of 10 solar roof panels (retrospective).	1 Main Street Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA48 7TX	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

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

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

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

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) and, where given, the alternative location(s).

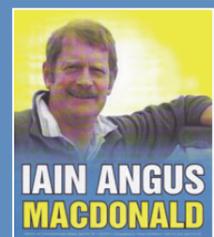
Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
12/01165/FUL	Land 450M NE of Coroghan Barn Isle of Barra	Erection of telecommunications mast for Broadband	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
12/01244/FUL	Greenwood Ardslingish Acharacle PH36 4JG	Erection of new sun lounge	(14 days)
12/01461/FUL	Land To North of Westering Acharacle Acharacle	Erection of house	(14 days)
12/01544/FUL	Ferry Cottage Old Ferry Road North Ballachulish Quich, Fort William PH33 6SA	Alteration and extension to house	(14 days)
12/01627/PIP	Site 80M West of The Rowans Boharrin Roy Bridge	Erection of house	(14 days)
12/01633/FUL	Site 280M West of Grigodale Kilchoan	Erection of house	(14 days)
12/01644/PIP	Land 35M SE of MacEachen & Carr Boat Builders Toigal Morar	Erection of house	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

### An Comunn Gaidhealach Meur Chruachain (Cruachan Branch)

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



IAIN ANGUS MACDONALD

INDEPENDENT  
Iain Angus thanks ward 5 Oban and North Lorn for your votes and trust in me.  
Contact details will follow next week.

### CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

Applicant, Croft, Extent/ Purpose, Case number

Dr & Mrs I McKee  
51 Ormsaigbeg, Ardnamurchan & Sunart  
0.003 ha - Amenity ground  
4.86.38284

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 14 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk



69% of the business community read the regional press



### JIM MARTIN SUPPLIES OFFICE PERSON

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

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

Salary to be discussed, depending on experience.

Applications in writing with CV to: Jim Martin, J.M.S., 109 - 119 Longrow, Campbeltown, PA28 6EX. Tel: 01586 550066/77 [jimmartin50@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jimmartin50@yahoo.co.uk)

### Ben Nevis Distillery Shift Operator

To complement our team, we are seeking an enthusiastic individual to help produce our Single Malt Scotch Whisky.

To be considered for this position, the successful applicant will have had previous experience of working on shift in a continuous process operation. You will be a team player but also capable of working on your own initiative. The position requires a confident individual with good communication skills and an excellent work ethic. Candidates who do not have a distilling background but possess the skills, experience and personal attributes above will be offered full training.

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS MAY 25**  
Please apply with full C.V. and covering letter to: Stuart Robertson, Distillery Manager, Ben Nevis Distillery, Lochybridge, Fort William, PH33 6TJ

### Practice Nurse Vacancy

PART TIME PERMANENT + PART-TIME MATERNITY COVER  
3 DAYS (22 hrs) + 2 DAYS (16 hrs) PER WEEK  
Closing date: 15/05/2012

Due to retirement TOBERMORY MEDICAL PRACTICE is seeking to employ a PRACTICE NURSE (s). Initially the job will be full time (38 hours) to cover the vacant post and a maternity leave.

For further information please telephone 01688 302013 or email [joanne.macphail@nhs.net](mailto:joanne.macphail@nhs.net)

Please send your CV along with a covering letter to: Mrs Joanne MacPhail, Practice Manager, Tobermory Medical Practice, Rockfield Road, Tobermory, PA75 6PN

### MORHAM & BROTCHEIE Chartered Quantity Surveyors

Leading Quantity Surveying & Valuation Practice require the following staff

### Quantity Surveyor

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

You should have good professional or educational qualifications or be willing to work towards appropriate qualifications and have first class interpersonal and IT skills. You should be well organised and be capable of delivering quality outcomes as required while managing competing priorities. This is an excellent career opportunity for which an appropriate remuneration package is being offered for negotiation. A full driving licence is essential.

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

### DUN OLLAIGH Taigh Bliadhn' a' Phrionnsa

Oifigeir Gàidhlig Ionnsachaidh agus Thachartasan  
17.5 uairean gach seachdain, air a libhrigeadh gu subailte. £20,000 pro rata.

Cùmhant seasmhach gu ruige Samhain 2013.

Fileantach no neach-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig aig fe adhartach. Bu chòir do dh'fhoghlam no eòlas thaisbean-tasgaidh/cèlain, agus eòlas math air eachdraidh ionadail a bhith agad. Thathar ag iarraidh sgilean conaltraidh agus eagrachaidh air leth.

Faicibh [www.dunollie.org/vacancies](http://www.dunollie.org/vacancies) airson tuairisgeul obrach slàn. Cuiribh a-staigh ann am Beurla gu [info@dunollie.org](mailto:info@dunollie.org): 25 Cèitean.



### PCV Driver

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

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

Personnel Department  
West Coast Motors  
Benmhor  
Campbeltown  
Argyll PA28 6DN  
or complete our online application form at [www.westcoastmotors.co.uk](http://www.westcoastmotors.co.uk)

# FOR EVERYTHING BMW.

BMW 116i Sport 5-door

**£289** deposit    **£289** per month

- 17" light alloy wheels • Bluetooth hands-free facility
- Start/Stop button with keyless engine start
- Drive Performance Control • iDrive controller



BMW 116i Sport 5-door - representative example

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



BMW 118d Exclusive Edition Coupé

**£299** deposit    **£299** per month

- 17" Star spoke alloy wheels • Bluetooth Handsfree with USB audio interface
- Boston Leather upholstery • Chromeline exterior trim • BMW Professional Radio



BMW Z4 sDrive20i SE Roadster

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Offer available on selected BMW 1 Series 5-door, 1 Series Coupe and Z4 models ordered between 1 April and 30 June 2012 and registered by 31 July 2012, subject to availability. Representative finance example is based on a BMW Select agreement for the models pictured, a 116i Sport 5-door, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 5.7p per mile; a 118d Coupé Exclusive Edition, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 5.55p per mile; and a Z4 sDrive20i M Sport Roadster, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 7.8p per mile. \*On the road cash prices are based on manufacturer's recommended retail price and includes 3 year BMW Dealer Warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months' road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. ^Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges may be payable if you return the vehicle. Prices are correct at time of publication and are subject to change without notice. Retail customers only. Finance is subject to credit acceptance and available to over 18s in the UK only (excluding the Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services (BMW FS). Whilst we have close links with BMW FS and commonly introduce customers to BMW FS, we do not work exclusively with BMW FS. Offer available on BMW Approved Used Cars purchased between 4-25 May 2012. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. ^3 years/30,000 miles, whichever comes first. Covers routine manufacturer servicing only. Service must be undertaken by Douglas Park Ltd in accordance with manufacturer's servicing schedule. Maximum of 3 services. Subject to availability, BMW EfficientDynamics reduces BMW emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the new model range and available in some BMW Approved Used Cars registered after March 2007. Please contact us for an accurate mileage on advertised vehicles.

# The Oban Times

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PERSONALS

25th Wedding Anniversary Celebration Caroline and Michael Grace recently celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary in style by hosting a party for family and friends at the Isle of Mull Rugby Club at Garmony. Donations were requested for Multiple Sclerosis Society Scotland in place of gifts and £700 was raised for this worthwhile cause. Caroline and Michael would like to thank everyone who helped with setting up, food preparation and for all the kind wishes, cards and donations. A special thanks to Ludge for transporting the guests to and from the Rugby Club with his usual patience and good humour. Thanks also to Alistair, Ross, Andrew and Alan for their excellent musical entertainment. A truly memorable evening!

Happy 21st Birthday Sheoban Love from your family and friends xx

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**BIRTHS**

**MACLEAN** - To Colin and Lorna, a son, Donnie James, born December 1, 2011 at Dr Grays, Elgin, a brother for Harris and Libby.



**SPREADBURY/KELSO**

Charles and Hazel are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Lucie, on Monday, April 30, 2012, a little sister for Charlie, Alyssa and Aimee. Special thanks to all at Oban Maternity, especially to Elaine and Eilidh for making sure Lucie arrived safe and sound.

**MARRIAGES**



**FUDGE - MACNICOL**

The wedding took place between Gareth and Sheila on May 5, 2012. A magical day.

**DEATHS**

**CAMERON** - Carol Margaret (née Moore), formerly of Kilmelford died peacefully surrounded by family on May 4, 2012. Daughter of John, sister of Linda, mother of Laura, granny of Craig, wife of Said and aunt of John and Peter. Funeral service at Cardross Crematorium on Friday, May 11 at 2.15pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired, donations to Vale of Leven Cancer Unit.

**JACKSON** - Peacefully, after a long illness, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead on May 5 2012, Margaret Johnson Jackson, (née Cameron), in her 82nd year, of Willowbank, Pier Road, Tarbert, beloved wife of the late Neil Jackson, and much loved mum of Neil and the late Shona. A dear sister, aunt and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral Service will be held at Cardross Crematorium on Friday, May 11 at 11.15am, followed by a memorial service at Tarbert Free Church, at 3.00pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Tarbert Nursing Aid.

**MACCORQUODALE** - Peacefully, at North Argyll House, Oban, on Wednesday, May 2, 2012, in her 87th year, Alice MacCorquodale, (née Dickson), formerly of Dunbeg and Millpark Avenue, Oban, much loved mum of Ronnie and Mairi, devoted granny to her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**MACCOWAN** - St Abbs (formerly Oban) Ian, at BGH on April 11, 2012, following a short illness, husband of the late Agnes, dear father, grandfather and great grandfather. Thanks to all staff at BGH, Eyemouth and Coldingham Health Centres. Paramedics, friends, neighbours and David Martin Funeral Directors. Special thanks to Pastor Stephen Bender and congregation at Eyemouth Free Baptist Church. Interred Eyemouth Cemetery 16/4/2012.

**MACMILLAN** - Peacefully, at the Campbelltown Hospital, on May 2, 2012, Isabella Morrison (Bella), in her 94th year, Westering Home, Killeonan, dearly beloved wife of the late Neil MacMillan, much loved mother of Dugald, Ishbel and Neil and a loving and much loved granny and great granny. At Bella's request the funeral will be private.

**ROBERTS** - Peacefully at the Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch, on Wednesday May 2, 2012, in her 81st year, Marita (née MacEachen), much loved mum of Catherine, Christine and the late David, a loving mother-in-law, aunt, granny and friend. Sorely missed.

**RUSSELL** - Martin Donald - taken to meet his Maker, on May 1, 2012, in his 28th year, a loving son, brother, uncle, nephew and friend.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

**GULLY** - Fiona Margaret (née Mackenzie). A service of thanksgiving for the life of Fiona will be held at 12:30 pm this Friday at St. John's Cathedral in Oban, and a wake afterwards at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**BUCHANAN** - Jim and family would like to thank all who attended the funeral service and for all kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards and donations received during their recent sad loss of Irene. Thanks also to local ambulance crew and staff at Ayr Hospital for care and attention, to Meg and Alex for help and support and J & J Lindsay for funeral arrangements and the Rev Ian McLachlan for spiritual comfort. Wheatfield Road, Girvan.

**CAMPBELL** - Helen. Following the sudden and tragic death of Helen Campbell on March 15, 2012, I would like to thank everyone for their support and kind words during this terribly difficult time. Those that knew and met Helen were instantly touched by her cheerful, happy nature and her infectious personality. Ever thoughtful towards others and never did she put herself first. Her kindness was so abundant, it is impossible to put into words. Unfortunately Helen became very ill in early January, being admitted to the Belford Hospital for 5 days. After successful treatment and being discharged from hospital, Helen's health soon began to seriously deteriorate. However, despite endless attempts to have her deteriorating condition diagnosed and treated she was given no short term recovery prospects and even resorted to homeopathic medicine. Helen truly believed that she was never going to recover and would soon become a burden to those she loved so dearly. Heartbreakingly she took the decision to end it all, once again, thinking of others and not herself. Following the post mortem, we now know that Helen was displaying and suffering from a very serious heart condition, rendering her unbearably ill. This piece has been written for all who knew and loved Helen and deserve an explanation. She will be forever missed and loved, she will surely be cared for now, and may she rest in peace. - Douglas Lamont (Cookie).

**CAMPBELL** - The family of the late Neil Campbell would like to thank neighbours, friends and relatives for all their flowers, cards, visits, phone calls and support following their recent sad loss. Thanks to Dr Munro & Jan for their wonderful & compassionate care towards our Dad at the time of his passing. And to Dr Astill and all at Bunessan Surgery for the excellent care he has received in recent years. Sincere thanks to John Wagstaff for a very moving and heartfelt service. To Neil for piping and Alasdair for the Gaelic singing. Thanks to the Argyll Arms Hotel, and to Linda, Elizabeth and Emily for the fantastic spread of food. Also, to John and Iain for their wonderful tributes at the hotel. Lastly thanks to the huge crowd of people that came from near and far to pay their last respects to our Dad. He would have been delighted with his send off, especially seeing so many with a dram in their hand! Slainte Mhath!

**MACCORMICK** - The family of the late Morag would like to thank everyone for the kind expressions of sympathy received since their sad loss. Thanks to Rev Linda Pollock for funeral service, Falkirk Cop Funeral Care and Iain MacDougall for professional services, Argyll Arms Hotel for catering and to all who paid their respects at church and graveside.

**MACNEILL** - Hughie and the family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy shown at the sad loss of Annie. The support has been greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Tweeddale surgery for the kindness and care shown to Annie and the family, to Ewen and staff at McLellan and Co. and to Rev Dr Varvell for a comforting service.

**RAE** - Chrissie, Angus and Lindsay would like to thank all neighbours and friends for the love and support extended to us in so many ways. Thank you to all who came from near and far to pay their respects at the church and graveyard. A special thank you to Rev Moira Herkes, to Tom MacCallum for music, the session clerk and elders of Duror Parish Church for the lovely service to celebrate Bill's long life. Thanks also to Mike McFall, funeral directors, for efficient and sensitive handling of arrangements. Shiona at MacDonald Brothers for the flowers and the Holytree Hotel for their welcome and refreshments. A thank you seems inadequate for the Ballachulish Medical

Centre, Doctors Calder and Wilmington, Meg the practice nurse, reception staff and district nurses. Your loving care over the last difficult six months will never be forgotten. Thanks to Macmillan nurses Michelle and Jane for your support and visits which Bill enjoyed so much, last but not means least, a big thank you to his carers, Mary, Angela and Shona, you are special. The sum of £700 was collected at the church for the Ballachulish Medical Centre and the Macmillan nurses.

**MEMORIALS**

**BRAIDWOOD** - Loving memories of our beloved sons and brothers John-Daniel May 14, 2003, aged 21 and Jason John February 22, 2007, aged 34. Dearly loved and missed always.

- From all the family.  
**MACCORMICK** - In loving memory of our dear sister, Hersey who died on May 18, 1986 and Nan who died on May 18, 2006. Also loved ones gone before. Lovingly remembered.

- Inserted by their sister and brother and their families.  
**MACCRIMMON** - Treasured memories of my sister Jean, who passed away on May 13, 2011. Think about you every day. - Mairi.

**MACDONALD** - Treasured memories of a wife and mother Marilyn (MacArthur), who passed away May 10, 1998. Forever in our hearts. Always in our thoughts.

- Billy, Morven, William and Andrea.  
**MACDOUGALL** - In loving memory of Dugald a loving husband, dad and pop. Always in our thoughts.

- Emma and Family  
**MACDOUGALL** - In loving memory of Dougie a loving and caring dad and pop. Dearly missed.

- Shona, Jamie and Hazel  
**MACKENZIE** - Cherished memories of my beloved partner Donald John, died May 8, 2009.

I have lost my soul companion  
A life linked to my own  
You're still mine to remember  
A partner proud to own  
Sadly missed.

- Morag Ann, Bayview, Morar.  
**MACLEOD** - In loving memory of a dear mum, mother-in-law, gran and great-gran Margaret (Rita) who died May 10, 2005. Always in our thoughts.

- Sandra, Denis and family.  
**MACPHEE** - In loving memory of our father, Alexander (Sandy), who died at his home, Coire-Leis, Camaghael on May 11, 1974.

A beautiful memory dearer than gold  
Of the dad we loved  
And always will  
We miss you dad.

- Your loving daughter, Mary and family and son Alex and family.  
**MARSHALL** - In loving memory of my dearest wife Betty who passed away on May 11, 2008. Although we cannot see you

It's plain that you are still here  
For every day your memory  
Makes all our actions clear  
inserted by Steve

**MILLER** - In loving memory of my dear husband Peter, died May 13, 2008. Time is moving swiftly by Love and memories never die.

- Your loving wife Betty, son George, papa to Carla and Rebecca.

**MILLER** - Loving dad and papa  
A golden heart stopped beating  
Hard working hands at rest  
God broke my heart  
To prove to me he only takes the best.

- Isobel, Cammy and Jacqui.  
**MILLER** - In loving memory of Peter. 4 ever in our thoughts Miss you always Papa - Love Kirsty, Clinton, Shannon and Ayden.

**MILLER** - Gone but will never be forgotten Grand daughter Joleen Great PaPa to Alanna xx  
**STEELE** - Loving memories of our dad Ian, who died May 9, 1984. - Morag and Alan.

**STEPHEN** - In loving memory of our dear dad and papa, William (Bill), who died May 13, 1987. Quietly today your memory we treasure  
Missing you always  
Forgetting you never.  
Love always.

- George, Derek, William, Katie, Fiona and families.  
**WATT** - In loving memory of our mother Mary Watt (Mamie), who died May 12, 1984.

Always in our thoughts  
Forever in our hearts.  
- Catherine and family, Tomberny.  
- Arthur, Sheena and family, Alexandria.

**Thought for the Week**

But they that wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

We want to renew and gain new strength. We want to mount up with wings like eagles. We want to walk through our problems and not become faint.

But how many of us really know how to do these things? How many of us actually experience what this verse is talking about?

How often do we feel really down, defeated, feel there is no where to turn?

In order for us to renew and gain new strength, to mount up with eagle's wings, to run and not get weary, to walk and not become faint, something must first happen. We must do something in order for the strength in this verse to come to pass in our lives. So what is it that we need to do? What is the key that unlocks the strength in this verse? How do we obtain this strength that we need to live from day to day? It is really so simple we wait on the Lord.

So how exactly do we "wait" upon the Lord?

The best analogy that I can think of is the one we have been using of the rope. A rope is made up of many strands and so is our relationship with God. The more "strands" that we weave into our relationship with God, the more strength He gives to us.

Let's look at some more strands that make up this rope. Keep your focus on God; Study the Bible daily; Pray daily; Attend church regularly; Learn from Christian friends; Tell others about your faith in Jesus Christ.

I pray for the day when we all mount up with wings like eagles.

Bill Harvey, Elder Church of Scotland

**Weekend of fun ahead at Taynuilt**

A WEEKEND of fun for all the family is on offer, thanks to Taynuilt Churches Together.

Starting at 4pm on Saturday, the afternoon starts with a fancy dress wheelbarrow race, with prizes for the quickest time, best dressed and wheelbarrow.

Other activities on the Saturday include face painting, hoop races and twister for the kids, while adults can take part in football obstacle courses, horseshoe throwing and boules. A barbecue and concert follows that evening.

Following Sunday morning services at The Visitation and Muckairn Parish Church, there will be a soup and sandwich lunch at 1pm, followed by a Eucumenical service, all at the Village Hall.

**Churches unite at Kilmelford**

KILMELFORD was the setting for a United Service of churches recently.

The group of churches which comprise Nether Lorn Church of Scotland met at Kilmelford Church last Sunday.

**St Paul's cater for bike enthusiasts**

ST PAUL'S Episcopal Church Kinlochleven raised £710 for church funds by catering for followers of the Pre - 65 Motor Cycle Trials last week.

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**ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES**

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**  
Campbell Street Church  
Sunday 13 May 2012  
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available  
Rev. Archie McPhail  
MA, MTh  
(01631) 567076  
All welcome

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 13 May 2012  
Rogation Sunday  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Communion.....08.00  
Sung Eucharist.....10.15  
Sunday School and Creche  
Loop System  
Large Print Hymn Books  
All Welcome  
St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
Holy Communion.....11.00  
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona  
Holy Eucharist.....08.00  
Evensong.....20.15  
Holy Eucharist.....  
.....Wed 16 May 14.30  
Advance Notice  
Thursday 17 May 2012  
Ascension Day  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Eucharist.....19.30  
St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
Holy Communion.....19.00

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**Certificates presented to Oban's HOPE Kitchen**

Majors John and Joan Swan of the Salvation Army presented food hygiene certificates to volunteers at Oban's HOPE Kitchen, which provides food and fellowship to anyone who is affected by poverty, homelessness, mental health problems of loneliness. The charity provides an evening meal on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings from 7pm - 9pm and drop-in sessions on Monday and Friday afternoons from the Salvation Army Church in Stevenson Street. 15\_119hope01

**Eilidh makes a difference in Nairobi**

Oban girl uses her country experience in Malawi to help children in Kenya



Part of Eilidh's work with SMAK is to help look after young mothers' children, a simple yet essential service.

HAVING 'popped off' to Nairobi for six months, Oban's Eilidh Campbell is helping single mothers combat poverty and disease - dodging grenades on the way.

While Eilidh had previously spent 18 months in Malawi with local charity, Mary's Meals, her latest African trip to volunteer with Single Mothers' Association Kenya (SMAK) has been an eye-opener.

As expected, weather, facilities and living conditions all differ vastly from what is on offer in Scotland, but Eilidh did have a brush with conflict after four grenades were detonated in an area she had passed through less than two hours previously.

It was a shock to the system, but Eilidh hasn't let the experience put her off her charitable work, and she remains committed to helping single mothers as much as possible.

She said: 'I'm living with a Kenyan family in Nairobi who are very kind and welcoming and have taught me to make Kenyan food like chapattis and proper chai tea.'

'They keep telling me Scottish people are 'strong' and 'very good fighters'. Not sure what to say to that!

'Living in Nairobi is a bit of a contrast to Oban, it's hectic and polluted and, there being few white people in the area I live and work in, I get a lot of attention from people shouting "mzungu" - Swahili for white person - or calling me random names such as Jane or Joyce.

'If people in Argyll think we suffer with the roads, try spending a day driving around Nairobi. Many of the roads in the city are dirt tracks and are covered in potholes which the matatus - minibuses - charge over whilst overflowing with people.

'On the evening of Saturday, March 12, four grenades were thrown out of a car window towards Machakos Country Bus Station in Nairobi - around an hour and a half after we had driven past the station on our way home from town.

'At least six people were killed and many injured. The next morning we got up unnaturally early for a Sunday and went to catch a bus to Western Kenya from the scene of the attack.'

Having seen the good work of SMAK does - lending her own considerable contribution along the way - Eilidh is hoping to make the charity even more effective, by helping raise £2,000 for the cause.

Doing so would see SMAK complete the Global Giving Foundation's Open Challenge.

Bonawe's Eilidh said: 'In Nairobi there are so many charities and non-government organisations that it can be difficult to stand out from the crowd.'

'SMAK has so much potential to help the community. Activities include HIV testing and counselling, an internet café where young people can also receive IT lessons, providing a safe meeting place for young people after school and the daycare, which we are currently trying to fundraise for.'

'Since I arrived in January I have helped with communications, setting up a blog and Facebook page and have also started fundraising.'

'We have until the end of April

to raise £2,000 in order to gain a permanent spot on Global Giving, so we would really appreciate any small donation.

'If we meet this target, we will be given a permanent spot on Global Giving's website, where we have the potential to benefit from corporate relationships, exposure to a new supporter network, and access to online fundraising tools.'

SMAK does not currently have an online fundraising platform, so a permanent page on Global Giving would be a big boost to the charity, Eilidh added.

To donate SMAK and help it towards its £2,000 target, log on to www.globalgiving.co.uk/pr/10300/proj10201a.html.

Eilidh's blog, Out of Oban, can be found at eilidhkenya.blogspot.co.uk.



Eilidh got a reminder of home as the Kenyan rainy season started this week, just when she was taking five-year-old SMAK youngster, Dan, into town.

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# Teams are up for Macaulay challenge

## Results

**Saturday 28 April 2012**  
**Orion Group Premiership**  
 Newtonmore 3 Fort William 0  
 Glenurquhart 3 Kingussie 3  
 Kilmallie 2 Kinlochshiel 1  
 Kyles 2 Lovat 2  
 Inveraray 1 Bute 0

## Marine Harvest

**North Division 2**  
 Fort William 2 Newtonmore 1  
 Kingussie 3 Glenurquhart 3  
 Kinlochshiel 2 Skye 2  
 Lovat 0 Aberdeen Uni 1

## Marine Harvest

**North Division 3**  
 Beaulieu w/o Kilmallie  
 Boleskine 7 Lewis Camanachd 1  
 Lochbroom 1 Strathspey 0  
 Inverness 3 Strathglass 2

## Marine Harvest

**South Division 1**  
 Strachur 0 Glenorchy 2

## Marine Harvest

**South Division 2**  
 Inveraray 1 Ballachulish 2  
 Ardnamurchan 10 Aberdour 3  
 Bute 0 Kyles Athletic 1  
 Col Glen 0 Lochside Rovers 8  
 GMA 1 Tayforth 4

## Scottish Hydro

**Camanachd Cup**  
 GMA 4 Oban Camanachd 2  
 Oban Celtic 1 Beaulieu 3  
 Skye 5 Caberfeidh 2  
 Strathglass 5 Aberdour 2  
 Lochaber 8 Lochcarron 0  
 Kilmory 3 Taynuilt 2

## Strathdearn Cup

Glenarry 3 Caberfeidh 1

## Fixtures

**Saturday 12 May 2012**  
 (Throw-ups 2.30 unless stated)

## Artemis Macaulay Cup

**1st Round**  
 Oban Celtic v Bute  
 Robert Baxter  
 Glenorchy v Oban camanachd  
 Duncan Kelly  
 Inveraray v Kyles Athletic  
 Ted MacDonald 3pm  
 Taynuilt v GMA  
 Billy Wotherspoon  
 Glenurquhart v Kilmallie  
 Evan MacRae 3pm  
 Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore  
 Graham Cameron 12 noon  
 Lochaber v Kingussie  
 Desk Cameron  
 Lovat v Fort William  
 Graham Irving 3pm

## Bullough Cup

**1st Round**  
 Inveraray v Kyles Athletic  
 Gus Campbell 12 noon  
 Bute v Aberdour  
 Duncan Kerr  
 Tayforth v ColGlen  
 Eric Morrison

## Strathdearn Cup

**2nd Round**  
 Kinlochshiel v Glenarry  
 John Macleod 3pm  
 Lochcarron v Kilmallie  
 John Angus Gillies 12 noon  
 Beaulieu v Lochaber  
 Neil Ferguson 12 noon  
 Skye v Kingussie  
 Daniel MacRae  
 Lochbroom v Fort William  
 Kevin Cheesemen  
 Lovat v Aberdeen Uni  
 Robert Morrison 12 noon  
 Boleskine v Inverness  
 Ronnie Campbell  
 Glenurquhart v Strathglass  
 Graeme Irvine 12 noon

## Marine Harvest

**North Division 1**  
 Beaulieu v Caberfeidh  
 Innes Wood 3pm  
 Lochcarron v Skye  
 Callum Duff 3pm  
 Inverness v Strathglass  
 John Matheson

## Marine Harvest

**South Division 1**  
 Strachur v Kilmory  
 George O'Tourke

## Marine Harvest

**North Division 3**  
 Strathspey v Caberfeidh  
 John Sloggie

## Marine Harvest

**South Division 2**  
 Ballachulish v GMA  
 Colin MacDonald  
 at Black Parks, Fort William  
 Lochside Rovers v Ardnamurchan  
 Lachie Wvrs

MANY of the 16 team taking part in this weekend's first round of this season's Artemis Macaulay Cup are hoping that a break from league shinty will see teams rediscover their form.

**BUTE** manager Barry Martin is hoping this weekend's cup tie against Oban Celtic will offer an opportunity to put a recent run of bad results behind them.

His side has only picked up three points in their opening eight Premier league games of the season, with Saturday's 1-0 defeat at the hands of Inveraray leaving them tied on points at the bottom with Kilmallie and three points adrift of third bottom Inveraray.

While he admits he is disappointed by his team's result against Inveraray, he's hopeful Saturday's trip to Mossfield will have a more positive outcome.

He said: 'I would have liked to get something out of the Inveraray game last Saturday, and now there's a bit of a gap forming but we've only played two home games so far so we've got a run of them to come.'

'We had some good results against Oban Celtic last season, but we can't take that for granted in the cup. They're doing not too bad just now and we'll have to play well.'

'We've got a good defence - we don't lose many goals and our scorers are always very close. We just have to start scoring.'

He's hoping a few goals against Oban Celtic will help boost the confidence of his forwards.

'This weekend we're playing, - no disrespect to Oban Celtic - a lesser team and hopefully we'll be able to put in a decent scoreline.'

**OBAN CELTIC** go into this Saturday's fixture on the back of a Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup exit at the hands of Beaulieu.

'It was always going to be tough,' said Celtic's manager Davy Hamilton after watching his side go down 3-1 to Beaulieu at Mossfield. He is proud of his team though and praised their fighting spirit ahead what he expects will be another tough test.

'It will be a hard game,' he said. 'They've not been firing on all cylinders but they are a big, physical team, which will probably help them get around us.'

'You can get around that by quickness but it will be difficult. Again, we've got the match at Mossfield which is a good surface and it'll be an open game. We'll just have to knuckle down

and if we show the effort we did on Saturday there's no reason we can't equip ourselves well.'

'If we'd taken a couple of the chances we had we could have won the game.'

'I'm quite pleased with the boys - they were unfortunate not to win.'

Having played out two tense cup ties against Oban Camanachd already this year, **GLENORCHY** manager, Allan MacKechnie is hoping his side can edge out their South Division One rivals on Macaulay Cup duty on Saturday.

His team go into the tie on the back of a fine 2-0 win over Strachur last weekend, but has warned his players the visiting Camanachd side will be hurting after suffering a 4-2 defeat at the hands of Glasgow Mid Argyll.

However, history tells him this weekend's encounter will be close, with March's Scottish Cup tie resulting in two nil-nil draws before the Oban side won in extra time in the replay.

'We've got nothing to fear,' said Allan. 'In the first of those games, we deserved to win. In the second, they did, so it'll be a tight game.'

'I'm hoping we manage to swing it round this time.'

John Surtain delivered his manager a timely boost by scoring in Saturday's comfortable 2-0 win over Strachur, a match hastily arranged after the fixture was accidentally left off the league's card. Lorne Brown netted the other in a match the visitors dominated from start to finish.

Meanwhile, James Livingstone and Keiran MacKay are continuing their recoveries from injury.

Allan said: 'John was out for a long time with a hamstring but he's played the last couple of games and is running into a bit of form.'

'But that's three that's been missing for one reason or another and they're coming back now. Hopefully, that will mean people will be pushing for places and showing us what they can do.'

**OBAN CAMANACHD** co-manager, Andrew Pearson, says his players must improve their attitude if they are to knock Glenorchy out of the Macaulay Cup.

His team was demolished by

## SHINTY

by Glasgow Mid Argyll on Camanachd Cup duty last Saturday in a performance he described as 'absolutely terrible,' but he still believes his players have what it takes to clinch success in the competition if they play to their potential.

He said: 'If they perform the way they can they could beat just about anybody. We've seen it in training, it's just getting them to do it week in, week out.'

'Even if we have to make changes, they still should play better than they did on Saturday.'

'It wouldn't bother me so much if they put in the effort but that was one of the worst performances I've seen from them. Hopefully they can pick themselves back up.'

Missing last week were Scott MacMillan, Ian 'Scally' MacMillan and Malcolm Clark, while Ally Dunn also missed out. All four are back for Camanachd for this weekend's tie, but their absence was sorely felt against Glasgow Mid Argyll.

'They were the better side. We scored one quick goal from a free hit when they were still arguing but they were by far the better team.'

'I just don't understand how we can play so bad after playing so well against Strathglass the previous week.'

'It's something we'll be talking about in training this week.'

**GLENURQUHART** will play host to Kilmallie in the first round of the cup at Blairbeg Park on Saturday.

The premiers sides met in the league on the opening day of the season, with Glen coming from 2-1 down to win 3-2 with a late goal from Eddie Tembo.

**KILMALLIE**, picked up their first league win of the season against Kinlochshiel last weekend - now the challenge will be to transfer that level of performance to the Macaulay.

Kilmallie's cause will be aided by the return of forward Michael Rodger from suspension and Martin Stewart from a holiday, but the priceless victory over Kinlochshiel came at a price.

Peter Carmichael sustained a nasty blow to his foot and had to leave the field, while Stevie MacAllister took a knock on his injured leg and also had to depart the action.

Kilmallie chairman Hugh MacIntyre said: 'We won't know until Friday how they are and we won't make a decision until then.'

He added: 'Glenurquhart are a good team. In recent games they have beaten us, and we have beaten them, so it will be tough.'

**KINGUSSIE** will be keen to avoid a slip up in the Macaulay Cup when they visit Spean Bridge to take on unbeaten north division one side Lochaber.

Kings assistant Jimmy Gow told *The Oban Times* he has well aware the threat Lochaber could pose to his side.

He said: 'It'll be a hard game, they're going really well and Shaun Nicolson is scoring goals for fun at the moment.'

'I haven't seen them at all this year but they're doing great and we won't be taking them lightly.'

'I think we'll have everyone available, we're getting back to pretty much full strength.'

Kingussie fought out a 3-3 draw with in-form Glenurquhart at Blairbeg Park last weekend.

Ronald Ross scored twice with Martin Dallas grabbing Kings other goal.

Gow said: 'I think it was a fair result, both sides would probably say the same thing. Glenurquhart probably had the better of the first half, although we could have been a couple up before they scored. And we played a bit better in the second half.'

**LOCHABER** manager Michael Delaney insists his side will be the underdogs against Kingussie.

The Spean Bridge side are flying at the top of north division one but Delaney said that Kingussie were still favourites for the game.

He said: 'We're definitely the underdogs. Kingussie are a hard team to play against. They didn't get off to the best start but they're flying now.'

'Since Ronald Ross has come back into the side he's given them a bit of confidence - not just with the goals but with his all round play.'

'It will be an interesting game because it'll let us see where we are in the scheme of things.'

Lochaber thrashed Lochcarron 8-0 in the first round of the Camanachd Cup last weekend. Zands Ferguson opened the scoring in the first 60 seconds, and two goals from Scott Paterson made the half time score 3-0.

Lochaber ran riot in the second 45, with Paterson grabbing two more to complete his hat trick, Stuart Callison getting a brace and Ryan Toal adding a goal. Ferguson rounded off the scoring with a strike in the last minute.

**NEWTONMORE** manager Norman MacArthur is expecting a much improved performance when they take on Kinlochshiel.

'More defeated Fort William 3-0 at The Eilan last weekend, but despite the scoreline, their manager was far from pleased with how his team played.'

He said: 'I thought we were terrible.'



Bute's John Whitelaw is caught between Inveraray's Douglas Dando and Ruriadh Graham. Picture John MacTavish

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Inveraray defender Allan MacDonald clears the ball as the home side hold onto their slim lead to take both league points against Bute at the Winterton. Picture John MacTavish

'That's the worst I've seen Newtonmore play for about two years. We just didn't play well at all, but Fort William had a very young side out.'

'It was good we still got the win but it's more satisfying when we play better, even if we only win 1-0.'

'But we got the two points at least, and that was the objective.'

The premiers leaders should have a full squad available for this Saturday's game against 'Sheil. The teams met in March with 'More winning a hard fought game 4-2.'

MacArthur said: 'I'm expecting a really hard game. They're a really good side if they've got everyone fit and playing.'

**KINLOCHSHIEL** will look to the young MacRae brothers Duncan 'Ach' and Oliver, with both likely to feature.

The teenagers, aged 18 and 16 respectively, have proved invaluable to coach Johnston Gill as he seeks to juggle his limited squad in the face of injuries to key players.

Gill is acutely aware of the type of challenge Newtonmore will present to his youthful team - but is relishing the chance to take on shinty's best.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We will need our players to be at their very best on Saturday if we are to have any chance of getting a result.'

'The question is - how do you stop Newtonmore? I don't think there are many teams that are going to do that this year. They are definitely the team to beat.'

'We are kind of up and down with injuries and have not been able to play a settled team for a few weeks.'

'Duncan 'Ach' has really made a place for himself in the team and although Oliver is only 16, he has been a big plus for us as well. He will be in contention against Newtonmore.'

at Black Parks last time they were really dangerous, although we came into our own in the second half. It was a tight game and I would expect the same again.'

Lovat are now the biggest challengers to Orion Group Premiership leaders Newtonmore after Lewis Tawse and Greg Matheson strikes secured the draw at Kyles.

Artemis Macaulay Cup holders **KYLES ATHLETIC** will travel to the Winterton Park, Inveraray for the remaining first round Macaulay Cup tie in the knowledge that they will face an **INVERARAY** team which has its sights on the Macaulay Final in Oban in August.

In a stop-start season, Kyles have struggled to find the consistency they enjoyed last year and may find Inveraray one of their biggest hurdles in maintaining their grip on the trophy.

Away from Macaulay Cup action, **SKYE** Camanachd return to league duty against local rivals Lochcarron this weekend after overcoming Caberfeidh 5-2 in their Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup first round tie at Pairc nan Laoch on Saturday.

Coach Willie MacRae is expecting Iain Nicolson and Shaun Hedley to be available after missing the cup clash, but Gillesbuig MacDonald's dislocated finger could keep him out of the sidelines for another week.

Chris Rose made an impressive debut against Cabers, but MacRae may ask him to return to second team duty on Saturday for Skye's Strathdearn Cup second round tie against Kingussie.

Rose - who recently returned to shinty after playing football for several years - looks to have the makings of a fine first team player.

'He's fit and strong and coming on all the time,' Macrae said. 'But the second team have a big game against Kingussie and I will possibly leave him out - but that depends if the boys are back from injury.'

He added: 'Derby games are always very tight and everybody raises their game that we bit - but we want to keep on Lochaber's coat tails.'

Neil MacVicar gave Skye the lead against Caberfeidh, but the visitors edged 2-1 ahead before Jordan Murchison levelled early in the second half.

Further goals from MacVicar, Danny Morrison and Murchison ensured the Skymen's passage into the next round.

**LOCHCARRON** will be looking to bounce back from last weekend's humbling against Lochaber in the Camanachd Cup when they travel to near neighbours Skye.

Andrew MacKenzie's side have had a tough start to the season, only picking up one win from their first six league games.

MacKenzie told *The Oban Times* he was focusing on bringing through younger players and building a squad for next season.

Lochcarron conceded in the opening minute last Saturday and found themselves 3-0 down by half time. A free scoring Lochaber side racked up another five goals in the second half at Spean Bridge.

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## League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	8	6	1	1	32	12	13

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**GOLF**

**Tobermory Golf Club**

Mens and Juniors Trophy-1st Ross MacCrone and Ewan MacCrone net 66.5, 2nd William MacCrone and John Weir net 73.5, 3rd Lewis Brown and Graham Brown net 73.5.  
Mens May Medal-1st Mike Campbell 88-21-67, 2nd John Weir 81-12-69, 3rd Paul Brown 81-12-69.  
Junior May Medal-1st William MacCrone 67-09-58, 2nd Ross MacCrone 81-20-61, 3rd Lewis Wilshire 75-11-64

Ladies section-May Medal 1st, Margaret Ingram 96-24-72, 2nd Catherine Ann MacCrone 108-25-83  
May 9 hole Stableford 1st Doris Hargreaves, 2nd Rosalind Reid, Gillian Wilshire.

**Islay Golf Club**

Summer League week 1  
1st Alistair Thomson 40pts  
2nd Place Paul Cairns 39pts  
3rd Place Andrew Bauld 39pts  
May Medal  
1st Charles Holyoake 72 - 5 = 67  
2nd Ian Beck 95 - 27 = 68  
3rd Iain MacCuaig 75 - 6 - 69  
Css 71

**YOUTH FOOTBALL**

**Saints youths - results and fixtures**

LAST week's results: Thursday: Blair Thistle 4, Under 13s 2; Sunday: Antonine 3, Under 13s 1; Under 14s no game; League Cup semi final Under 15s 1, Allander Colts 2; Under 16s 0, Lenzie Youth 4.  
Next week's fixtures: Under 13s v Riverside; Castle Rock v Under 14s; Milngavie v Under 15s; Argyll Athletic v Under 16s.

## Isle of Mull emerge victorious at annual Lochaber Sevens

**RALLYING**

FOLLOWING their success at the Highland RFC's Rugby Sevens tournament, Isle of Mull Rugby Football Club added the Lochaber Sevens title to their season's honours.

Teams from across the north of Scotland travelled to Banavie for Lochaber Rugby Club's annual sevens tournament last Saturday.

A large crowd of spectators were treated to an afternoon of fast paced rugby with Mull RFC underlining why they were dubbed as early favourites.

The host team was not to be discounted too easily as they beat a very useful Aberdeenshire side 17-5, but the final was to be contested by Mull and Lochaber.

There was only won converted try between the sides at half time in a close run affair. But Mull, upped the pace and ran out worthy winners 21-7 at the end of an energy sapping tie.

After the games many of the players and spectators enjoyed live music and refreshments in the clubhouse.

Lochaber club member Stewart Sandison told *The Oban Times*: 'Special mention must go to the Lochaber youngsters who all performed way above their years, and to Robin Morgan who was competing in allegedly his 32nd consecutive Lochaber Sevens - surely a record that will be hard to beat!  
'Thanks also to our sponsors MacPhee and Partners and to all the volunteers that contributed to making the day a success.'



The winning Mull side celebrate their victory after Saturday's Lochaber Rugby Club Sevens tournament at Banavie

**Fort William at end of poor season**

FORT William FC ended their home season with two defeats in three days, losing 3-0 to Inverurie Locos on Saturday and 1-0 to Formartine United on bank holiday Monday, to finish firmly at the foot of the Highland League.

The Lochaber men will play their final game of a season to forget away to Formartine tomorrow (Friday), knowing even

**FOOTBALL**

a win would not be enough to catch second-bottom Strathspye Thistle, who sit four points ahead.

Manager Danny Conlon told *The Oban Times*: 'I'm just glad to see the end of the season.'

'It's been a long hard one for me.'

## Trophy and league competitions get underway at Oban Bowling Club



Donald MacLean and Janice Fraser won the Dalriada Trophy for two bowl pairs at Oban Bowling Club last Sunday

**BOWLING**

WITH the bowling season now well under way, the first ladies and gents league matches at Oban Bowling Club have been played.

Oban ladies have been triumphant against Ardrishaig who can only field two teams.

Oban has 15 points to Ardrishaig's 3 points.

The Oban gents team have also been victorious against Ardrishaig, 13.5 points to 10.5.

Oban Bowling Club also hosted the Caledonia Cup on Sunday, April 29, the first of the club competitions on the green.

There was a good turn out and after lot of good games, a tense final was played by the teams of Sandy Carr and Donnie Douglas against Sandra Grieve and Jimmy MacGregor.

Sandra and Jimmie were the winners.

Last Sunday, May 6, the competition was the Dalriada Trophy a two bowl pairs.

With the sun shining and the green running fast it made for a lot of good games.

In the final were the teams of Donald MacLean and Janice Fraser against Margaret MacLean and Norrie Ethereson, and despite Norrie and Margaret getting a good lead they were overtaken and beaten by Donald and Janice.

## Saints league title hopes take a dent

**Scottish Amateur League Premier Division Oban Saints 0 Postal United 2**

POSTAL United were the visitors to Glencruitten for this vital match between the teams sitting in first and second place in the premier division, with the winners being installed as favourites to win the league title this season but unfortunately for the Oban side it was the Glasgow outfit who came out on top in a close encounter which saw Saints go down to ten men when Willie Gemmill was shown the red card by referee John Scott in the dying minutes of the game.

The normally excellent playing surface at Glencruitten was showing signs of wear and tear after a hard season where it has been played on more than in previous years, and the lack of rain in recent weeks has made it hard and bumpy.

**Potent**  
Saints were down to the bare bones of a squad with no less than five players unavailable for various reasons, but the Oban side gave a good account of themselves against a very good Postal outfit, although the normally potent strike force were a bit subdued against the no-nonsense Postal defenders. The first half was played at a

cracking pace, but free flowing football was a premium as both defences just wanted to clear their lines, realising this was a big, big game for both clubs with plenty at stake.

An accidental clash in the 14th minute resulted in Jamie Graham and Paul O'Brien requiring attention with the Postal player later being taken to hospital, but thankfully he was ok and released shortly after.

Both teams were going at it hammer and tongs, but the goalkeepers weren't seriously tested although Gary Hughes had a shot go narrowly past the Saints' upright.

The first real chance of the game fell to Donald Campbell when he was sent clear, but the Saints top scorer had to stretch for the ball and his shot was easily saved by Postal netminder Tom Hollis.

Chances were few and far between in the first 45 minutes with the teams evenly matched as referee John Scott, who had a god game blew for half time.

Saints defender Jamie Graham who had been involved in the clash earlier in the game couldn't resume after half time, his place being taken by Dene Cassells. This was a blow for the home side as Jamie had been playing well.

**FOOTBALL**

The second half was much like the first with both teams going at each other right from the off and Saints had a great chance to take the lead in the 71st minute but Craig MacEwan headed over the bar from six yards after a pin-point cross from Willie Gemmill.

Play was stopped again in the 57th minute for an accidental head clash with Alex Craik and Gary Hughes needing to be bandaged up.

**Foothold**  
The visitors were starting to gain a foothold as the half progressed and they took the lead in the 77th minute when they were awarded a corner. The ball was swung into the box and Michael Anderson got to the ball before Dene Cassells to head home from close range.

This reversal seemed to knock the stuffing from the Oban side as Postal pushed hard for another goal that would surely kill the game off.

All credit to Saints though, they battled away gamely and the visiting goal lead a charmed life on a couple of occasions as the ball bounced around in the Postal penalty box and only some brave defending denied the Oban lads a goal.

With five minutes left Postal scored the killer goal when a

**FOOTBALL**

ball was played over the head of Chris Graham to the unmarked Willie MacArthur who drilled a well played shot past a helpless Graham Douglas to make the score 2-0.

The final chance of the game fell to Ross Maitland, but the Saints player failed to connect properly and a good chance was missed. The visitors ran down the clock to win a hard-fought game which now must make them favourites to win the league title this season.

Manager Iain Jackson was bitterly disappointed: He said: 'This was always going to be a tough game as Postal are a good side and are undefeated in the league so far. We had a couple of good chances which at this level you've got to take and I'm disappointed in both the goals we lost. However, it's not over yet as there are still a few difficult games for the title contenders to play and we'll be battling hard right till the end.'

Saints travelled to take on Kilbowie Union last night and on Saturday face another tough game against last year's champions Aikenhead Thistle. The match will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.

**Lochaber's first female boxer makes debut appearance**

A KINLOCHLEVEN schoolgirl made a piece of boxing history recently when she became Lochaber's first female boxer.

Danielle Campbell, of Nether Lochaber Claymores, took on

**BOXING**

Rebekka Taylor of Insch ABC in Huntly in an exhibition match. There was a big weight difference between the two 14-year-olds but Danielle gave as good as she got until the referee stopped the fight in the second round due to the Kinlochleven fighter suffering a bleeding nose.

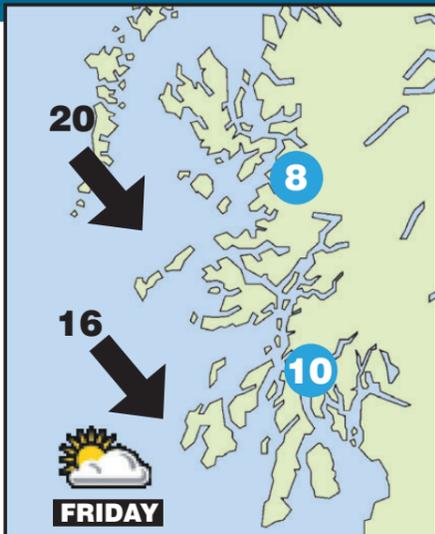
## Weather

**Thursday** Grey and overcast  
Winds light north-easterly  
Temperatures 2°C to 12°C

**Friday** Sunshine and light showers  
Winds moderate north north-westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.

**Weekend** Sunny intervals and showers  
**Outlook** Winds light west - southwesterly  
Temperatures 6°C to 12°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Calm  
Kennacraig to Islay Calm



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, May 10, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	08.19	3.4	14.52	0.8	20.47	3.6
Thur	02.34	0.7	08.19	3.4	14.52	0.8	20.47
Fri	03.27	0.9	09.08	3.1	15.45	1.0	21.42
Sat	04.25	1.2	10.08	2.9	16.43	1.2	22.50
Sun	05.29	1.4	11.42	2.7	17.49	1.4	** ** *
Mon	00.23	3.0	06.41	1.6	13.23	2.7	19.05
Tues	01.43	3.0	07.57	1.6	14.25	2.8	20.20
Wed	02.39	3.1	08.56	1.5	15.04	3.0	21.19

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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# **The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.**

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8094

Thursday 10 May, 2012

www.obantimes.co.uk

77 pence

**FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION**

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# ROCKNESS

8th - 10th June 2012



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### Jobs fear as Uist building firm goes into administration

A CONSTRUCTION firm which was formed on South Uist 35 years ago has gone into administration, threatening the jobs of its 277 employees across Scotland.

UBC Group, formerly Uist Builders (Construction) Limited, has offices in Daliburgh, Stornoway, Inverness, Glasgow and Tayside.

Zolfo Cooper has been appointed administrators for the building and civil engineering firm. The company's contracts include building affordable housing and marine engineering projects.

Stòras Uibhist chairman Huw Francis told *The Oban Times* the news was 'hugely disappointing'. He said: 'They've been a good employer over the years and it's going to be a big blow to lose those jobs from the island. It's difficult economic times just now and these things can't be helped.'

UBC managing director Seumas Pedrana said it was a 'very sad day' and the company had looked at every possible option to avoid administration.

### Belhaven care plan wins MSP's backing

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson is backing proposals to transform the mothballed Belhaven Ward in Fort William into a respite care service centre.

Crossroads Caring Scotland (Lochaber) wants NHS Highland to consider a partnership deal to re-open the ward, which once housed 23 beds for the frail elderly undergoing rehabilitation or assessment.

Mr Thompson urged 'a positive response' to the plan.

A health board spokesperson said: 'NHS Highland can confirm we have received a letter from Dave Thompson and we will be responding to him shortly.'

### NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004



# Sea wall safety ladder warning

TWO MEN in a boat failed in a dramatic rescue bid off Fort William - to find a woman's purse containing her entire £80 weekly allowance.

And the Saturday morning incident at the West End car park prompted her father to warn lives could be lost unless a rusting ladder on the sea wall is repaired.

Local woman Michelle Burgess and daughter Bethany were sitting on the wall when her purse slipped out of her fleece pocket and fell into the sea.

Michelle's dad Bob Burgess arrived with wife Wilma to pick them up for a shopping trip to Oban - just in time to see the purse sinking under the waves. Two staff in an inflatable boat from the nearby Crannog restaurant arrived at the scene after an onlooker phoned them.

Bob directed operations from above, but the half-hour search

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by STEPHEN NORRIS [snorris@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:snorris@obantimes.co.uk)

with a grab proved fruitless. The grandfather, who is a carer for Wilma and retires as a plumber next Saturday when he turns 65, was unable to reach the badly corroded ladder - which he claims is a safety hazard.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The nearest ladder had two or three rungs missing at the bottom and the Crannog guys said it didn't look safe.'

'These ladders don't go all the way to the top of the wall or handrail, so they are difficult and dangerous to get onto.'

'I think the council should repair or replace these ladders before a fatal accident happens. For a split second you are not holding onto anything at the top.

The tides are very strong and if anyone was to tumble in you would have a hell of a job getting down to help.'

Bob added: 'I consoled my daughter by saying it could have been worse - it could have been Bethany who fell in.'

'She had a full week's benefit money in it to buy herself and her daughter some clothes.'

Newly re-elected Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Brian Murphy pledged to investigate.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I would need to take a look at it and get our guys to check it out to see what state of repair it is in and take it from there.'

'The ladder should be there for a purpose and in the event of somebody falling in the water and being unable to access it, I would certainly want to see it repaired - if that is the purpose it is intended for.'

### Deal struck on council administration

THE SNP has struck a deal with the Liberal Democrats and Labour to form the new Highland Council administration following a day of tense negotiations in Inverness on Tuesday.

It also emerged SNP group leader Drew Hendry will be the new council leader. Independent councillors made up the largest group following

last week's elections, with 36 out of 80 elected members. The new coalition will have 44 councillors. Ross-shire councillor Isabelle Campbell made a controversial decision to defect from the Lib Dems to the Independents the day after the results were announced.

See the full council election roundup on page 7.

### Motorcyclist dies in horror crash

A MOTORCYCLIST was killed in a horror crash on the A82 three miles west of Spean Bridge of Tuesday morning.

Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT) competitors were caught up in the ensuing chaos as huge traffic jams built up either side of the scene.

Police closed the road for four hours after the 10am accident, which also involved a car.

SSDT riders heading for competition sections further up the Great Glen were rerouted

via Gairloch so the event could continue.

The road blockage heaped further misery on motorists already faced with lengthy delays caused by upgrading works at the Lochybridge roundabout.

A82 Partnership spokesman Stewart MacLean said: 'Following the tragic fatal accident, the full impact of the decision to allow the roadworks to take place at Lochybridge during May has been highlighted.'

As *The Oban Times* went to

press police had not named the victim. SSDT organiser Mairi Jenkins reported on Facebook that the motorcyclist was not a competitor.

Meanwhile on Sunday afternoon, crowds packed Fort William High Street to see the 275-strong field ride through the pedestrianised thoroughfare.

After day two, two riders remained pointless - Jordi Pascuet and five-time winner Dougie Lampkin. Reigning champ James Dabhill was in fourth.



Fort man Bob Burgess shows the rusting ladder at the spot his daughter lost her money. 20\_f19ladder01

### New furniture shop to open in Caol

LOCHABER's retail sector has received a boost with news that Inverness firm Blackbridge Furnishings is to open an outlet in Caol.

The company, which supplies solid pine, ash, birch and oak furniture, had been looking to expand to the Fort William area for some time. The store, in the former Nevisprint premises on Caol Industrial Estate, is scheduled to open at the end of this month. New manager Iain Kenney told *The Oban Times* four people would be employed initially. Three more staff could be needed if the business performs as expected.

He added: 'It's another outpost to serve our existing customers and grow the business.'

'We have a good customer base over here. We have noticed a lot of people from Lochaber and the islands coming to our Inverness store.'

### Careless driving caused head-on crash

A MAN whose careless driving caused a head-on crash on the A830 Road to the Isles has been fined £360 and given eight penalty points.

Jason MacLean, of 2 Templeview, Croyard Road, Beaulieu, pled guilty to driving without due care and attention at Callop railway bridge on November 26.

The 36-year-old admitted driving at excessive speed, crossing the road and colliding with another car. The passenger in the other car suffered a broken sternum and spent two nights in hospital. Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

### Drunk who swore at ambulance workers fined £360

A MAN who drunkenly shouted and swore at two ambulance workers in Kinlochleven has been fined £360.

Andrew Thomson, of 6 Castledyke Road, Carstairs, pled guilty to assaulting, obstructing or hindering the men by striking the ambulance on Leven Road on October 29.

The 25-year-old called 999 at 5am when his friend fell and injured himself after a night out in the village. Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

### Defendant found with three different drugs

A FORT William man found in possession of three different drugs after a police search has been sentenced to two weeks in prison.

Gary MacKinnon, of 3 Maryburgh Court, was taken into police custody in relation to a separate matter on November 22.

He was searched and officers

found 38 tablets of class 'C' drug Buprenorphine and 0.8grammes of class 'B' drug dihydrocodeine.

### Painkillers

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said the drugs were powerful painkillers.

He said: 'He was using the drugs to help him stay off heroin. He is now off the heroin, exercising regularly and is completely drug-free.'

Police also found 0.1grammes of heroin in the 39-year-old's possession at Fort William Police Station, with a street value of around £10.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined MacKinnon £450 but Mr Kennedy asked for the equivalent prison time in place of the fine.

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**Vango** **Forestry Commission** **The Highland Council**

# Slashing teenager's throat sees man jailed for three years eight months

A FORMER Kinlochleven man who slashed a teenager's throat with a knife in the village has been jailed for three years and eight months.

Andrew Thomson was found guilty of the attack on a majority verdict by a 15-person jury after a five day trial at Fort William Sheriff Court in February.

Thomson, a chef at the Glasgow Hilton Hotel, had denied assaulting John Fleming by striking him on the neck with a knife to his injury, permanent disfigurement and endangerment of his life at 13 Glendale Road in the early hours of February 5 2011.

By RICHARD HADDOCK [rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk)

Mr Fleming's wound required four stitches, leaving him with a visible four-centimetre scar.

Sentencing the 28-year-old, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'Although the injury itself was superficial, the position of it made it potentially life-threatening.'

'Any attack involving the use of a weapon has to be taken seriously by the court. This was premeditated and involved the use of a knife. There is only one sentence I can impose and that is one of custody.'

Thomson's father and brothers sat in the public galleries and shook their heads in disbelief as Sheriff Small delivered his verdict.

The trial heard Thomson got into an argument with Mr Fleming, who was 17 at the time of the incident, during a party. He left the house only to return 30 minutes later and challenge Mr Fleming to a fight.

Thomson admitted punching the teenager on the face before being knocked to the ground and leaving the property.

The jury heard Mr Fleming did not realise he had been injured until after Thomson left. They

were shown several pictures of the stairwell where the fight took place which was covered in blood.

A police search the following day found a knife blade at the scene of the fight and the handle several feet away, although no blood was found on the blade or on any of Thomson's clothing.

Thomson, of 426 Dyke Road, Knightswood, Glasgow, was sentenced to three-and-a-half years for the attack, and was ordered to spend an additional 60 days in custody after admitting breaking his bail conditions by visiting Kinlochleven in March.

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## PUKKA-PIES

**Harris beach in world's top seven**

A HARRIS beach famed for its sweeping white sands has been named as one of the world's top seven in a global publication.

Travel magazine said Luskentyre, west of Tarbert, had 'Caribbean-white sand and Maldives-blue sea'.

The mag also rated the A82/A87 route from Glencoe to Skye as among the best on the planet.

In its favourite meals section, Travel also listed the Three Chimneys on Skye as world-class.

**Community action grants up for grabs**

COMMUNITY groups in the West Highlands running projects to do with managing and enjoying nature are being invited to apply for a new community action grant.

Scottish Natural Heritage is offering awards of between £1,000 and £20,000 for short term schemes of 12 months or less.

Grants are focused on getting more people involved in outdoor recreation, volunteering and outdoor learning.

Other qualifying criteria include improving habitats, recording species and protecting landscapes.

SNH started considering applications on Tuesday. For more information see www.snh.gov.uk.

**Get help and meet the funders'**

THE COMHAIRLE is to host three evening 'Meet the Funder' events across the Outer Hebrides later this month.

Representatives from the BIG Lottery, Community Energy Scotland and Children In Need will be among those meeting local groups to discuss community-based projects potentially eligible for funding.

The events at Barvas and Bruce Community Centre on May 22, in Balivanich Community Centre on May 23 and at Castlebay Community Centre on May 24 run from 12pm to 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and refreshments will be provided.

**Outer Hebrides celebrate Scottish Biodiversity Week**

SCOTTISH Biodiversity Week 2012 is being celebrated in the Outer Hebrides later this month. The comhairle and local groups have organised a full programme of nature-related events and activities from May 19-27 under the theme 'Biodiversity is Life - Biodiversity is Our Life'.

For full details visit www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/safeguarding-biodiversity/events or pick up a leaflet from council offices in Stornoway, Tarbert or Balivanich.



One of the WW2 mortar rounds found on the Singing Sands last week.

**Bomb squad kept busy on Singing Sands**

Dozens of World War II mortar rounds blown up on beach

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

DOZENS of World War II mortar rounds were uncovered and blown up by specialist Navy bomb disposal teams on a beach in north Ardnamurchan.

The exercise over dunes at Kentra near Ardtoe, known locally as the Singing Sands, took place over five days last week.

The operation followed a similar exercise on January 24, when a specialist team from Faslane exploded 14 mortars discovered by Salen coastguard team member Tom Jackson.

Winter storms in December redistributed huge amounts of sand along the scenic beach, exposing shells used during training manoeuvres for the 1944 D-Day landings in Normandy.

Despite their remote location, the Singing Sands are becoming increasingly popular with visitors over spring and summer.

Amid fears that more live shells could be present and pose a serious risk to public safety, the Northern Diving Group of the Royal Navy, better known as the Bomb Squad, moved into Salen last Monday.

The expert detachment carried out a week-long search of the area assisted by coastguards from Mallaig, Salen and Kilchoan.

Spearheading the hunt was Lieutenant Justin Wong on secondment from the Royal Canadian Navy.

Altogether nearly 50 items of mainly live ordnance were found and were dealt with the same

day by placing them in a hole in the sand, attaching detonators and exploding them after the coastguard teams had cordoned off the area.

The team from Faslane and their coastguard helpers had a spell of excellent weather for the job, according to coastguard sector manager for Lochaber, Phil Wren.

He told The Oban Times: 'Most of the shells were still live, which was the frightening thing.'

'If anyone sees anything that looks like a shell, especially if it has got fins on it, stay well clear and call the coastguard on 999.'

The coastguard and Navy take responsibility for any ordnance found on the shoreline. Police and the Army handle munitions found inland.

**Slow broadband speeds back in the spotlight**

SLOW broadband speeds in Lochaber are back under the spotlight in the wake of last week's council elections.

Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson, one of five Lochaber councillors re-elected, is to write to the chief executive officer of BT Ian Livingston after receiving numerous complaints from voters in Caol.

Cllr Henderson is furious that businesses and households in the village - only two miles across the River Lochy from Fort William - are being handicapped by broadband speeds up to 20 times slower than in the town centre.

Because broadband connections rely on the existing inefficient copper cable network, transmission speeds rapidly decline even over short distances.

The provost told The Oban

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Times: 'When I was canvassing in Caol the subject of very poor broadband speeds was brought up on more than one occasion.'

'I duly contacted BT and...they say that Caol is too far away from the Fort William exchange. This is crazy, as one [town] can see the other, but the old style copper cable obviously goes by Lochybridge and then round to Caol, instead of crossing the Lochy at a suitable point for Caol.'

'If ever this was evidence that we need a trunk link road extension to the A830 via Caol to Fort William with modern communication adjacent this is it.'

'How can we expect to develop business on speeds of only 0.5

megabytes per second in Caol and Corpach?'

'Fort William can get up to 20Mbps, but realistically gets about 10Mbps. I will be writing to the chief executive of BT asking when they intend to upgrade this obsolete system. Residents of Caol are paying the same cost for an inferior service.'

Louise Humphrey, Head of Scottish Affairs - BT Scotland, said: 'Caol is part of the Fort William exchange which has recently been enabled/upgraded which means that it can now provide speeds of up to 20Mbps.'

'However, because the service is delivered over the existing copper network it is distance limited - the further people are from the exchange in terms of cable length the slower the speed.'

**Fort William man denies speeding at 67mph through town**

A FORT William man has denied driving at speeds of up to 67mph in the town and hitting and injuring a cyclist, leading to his right leg being amputated.

Graham Douglas, aged 28, of 12b Linnhe Buildings, pled not guilty to driving dangerously and at grossly excessive speed on Lundavra

Road and colliding with Andrew MacLeod, who was on a mountain bike, severely injuring and permanently disfiguring him.

The alleged incident happened on March 7, 2011. Nineteen witnesses are due to give evidence at the trial, which will be held in Fort William Sheriff Court on Monday May 21.



Councillor Allan Henderson: demanding improved broadband speeds for Caol. 20\_119parade03

**Islanders 'shocked and stunned' by death of GP**

RESIDENTS on the Small Isles are struggling to come to terms with the loss of popular local GP Rachel Weldon, who took her own life last Wednesday.

The body of Dr Weldon, who was aged 54, was found at her home on Eigg last Wednesday.

The GP and her husband Eric had lived on the island for 12 years and watched Eigg thrive as plans to generate its own electricity from renewable sources came to fruition.

One islander, who asked not to be named because of the sensitivities involved, summed up local feelings.

She told The Oban Times: 'Everybody here is shocked and stunned. People are still trying to come to terms with what has happened.'

'She was a great doctor and will be sorely missed. It's really painful, altogether. That's all I can say, really.'

Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson extended his condolences to the family and local community.

He told The Oban Times: 'I did not know the doctor well but nonetheless I was extremely

saddened to hear of her untimely passing.'

'Being a small tightly knit community this has a huge effect on the whole island of Eigg and the neighbouring islands.'

'Dr Rachel was very well spoken of in the Small Isles providing a vital service in the health chain.'

An NHS Highland spokesperson said the health board was 'deeply saddened' at the news.

Four weeks ago Dr Weldon was banned from driving for 14 months at Fort William Sheriff Court after being found to be more than twice the drink drive limit near Caol shopping centre.

Her solicitor Stephen Kennedy said at the time Dr Weldon 'very much regretted' the incident.

A GMC spokesperson said Dr Weldon had informed them about the conviction and was still fully registered with a licence to practice.

A Northern Constabulary spokesperson said police in Fort William are continuing to make enquiries into the death.

A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal at Fort William.



**Kyle firefighters raise £3,000 for charity**

A presentation was held in Kyle Fire Station last Thursday night to hand over cheques to Macmillan Cancer Support, Crossroads Care and the Special Care Baby Unit at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, who each received £1,000. The money was raised at dances, ceilidhs and an annual raft race, all organised by Kyle fire crew over past months. Crew manager Michael Henderson told The Oban Times: 'A big thank you to all that supported these events.'

**Teenager told police he stole car and drove it into ditch so he would be sent to prison**

A HOMELESS teenager who stole a car in Caol and drove it into a ditch told police he did it so he would be put in prison.

Donald MacPhee was jailed for four months, fined £400 and disqualified from driving for two years after pleading guilty to getting into the Volkswagen Polo on St John's Road and driving it without the owner's consent at around 3.15am on April 8.

The 19-year-old admitted driving without

due care and attention for only a few hundred yards before colliding with a signpost and crashing into a ditch at the side of the A830 at Blar Mhor, damaging the car.

After the crash he approached two police officers and admitted his guilt, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'He was soaking wet, covered in mud and with injuries consistent with being involved in a collision. He was asked at one

point why he did this and he replied 'Because I want to go to jail.'

MacPhee also pled guilty to failing to give two breath specimens at Fort William Police Station, driving without a licence and driving without insurance. Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said: 'He has no income, no savings and no accommodation. He felt he had lost his way and he felt unwanted by his friends and family.'

**School vandal given chance by sheriff**

A TEENAGER who broke in to Fort William Primary School on two separate occasions last year causing more than £1,600 of damage has been 'given a chance to compensate' by a sheriff.

Jacob Payne pled guilty to forcing entry to the school, smashing its windows, setting fire to a painting inside and stealing a quantity of money on September 28.

The 16-year-old also admitted breaking into the school on April 20 and forcing open a lockfast canteen and stealing cash, including pupils' lunch money.

Compensate

Deferring sentence for nine months for good behaviour, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I want you to go back to the school and ask if there is anything you

can do to compensate, whether that is cleaning or something else.'

'You are still very young. You've been given a chance here Mr Payne - I hope you can take it.'

Fiscal Alison Wylie said the damage caused totalled £1,650. She also said there was a 'substantial amount of mess' following the second break-in, which

meant the school was unable to open on September 29.

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said Payne, of 2 Brown Court, Fort William, had been accompanied by other children during the break-ins.

Role

He said: 'Mr Payne claims he actually put the fire out before he left the building, but he has to accept his role in all of this.'

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Police files

A 16-FOOT green canoe and a quantity of watersports equipment were stolen from a secure compound at West Harbour, Ballachulish overnight on Friday May 4.

On the same night a grey dinghy with a Suzuki outboard engine was stolen from the jetty at Salen. The dinghy may have been removed with use of a trailer.

THREE mountain bikes have been stolen from outside houses in the greater Fort William area in recent weeks. A black and grey Trek mountain bike was stolen from a house on Blar Mhor Road, Caol overnight on Friday May 4. A black and grey specialised Hard Rock bike with green pedals was stolen from a house in Mamore Crescent during the early hours of Monday April 30. Police are still looking to recover a black Kona Lana bike which was removed from outside a house in Claggan in March.

A QUANTITY of metal fencing panels were stolen from a yard on Station Road, Spean Bridge sometime between Thursday May 3 and Friday May 4. Police said a van would have been required to remove the large amount of fencing.

DAMAGE was caused to a van parked at Claggan Park, Fort William around midnight on Sunday May 6.

DAMAGE was caused to a car parked within the car park of the Isles of Glencoe Hotel overnight on Saturday May 5.

POLICE are seeking information about a blue Vauxhall Corsa stolen from Angus Crescent, Upper Achintore overnight on April 28. The car was abandoned a short distance away, near the Angus Centre.

DAMAGE was caused to a Citroen car parked on Kennedy Road, Caol sometime between April 29 and May 1.

Anyone who has any information about these crimes, or knows of the whereabouts of any of the property stolen, should contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702 361, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Jackpot rollover

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £300 is up for grabs this week in Fort William FC's weekly lotto draw. Numbers last week were 01-05-11.



From left: Archie, aged four, Lex, aged three, and Aidan, aged five, had a go at being firefighters. 20\_191hope02



Stewart, Rachel and daughter Iona Tonks, of Lochside, enjoyed the face painting at the fun day. 20\_191hope01



New strips unveiled

Kilchuimen Primary School has unveiled their new sports strips after a donation from construction company Bam Nuttall. The Fort Augustus school's pupil council received an offer of support from Bam Nuttall, who have a base in the village, in the autumn and quickly researched the best kind of strip and the pupils' favourite colours. Acting head teacher Kenneth Morrison said: 'In their first uses, the school runners had an excellent performance in the MacRobert Cup Cross Country and the Kilchuimen Primary Football team did fantastically well in the Across the Loch inter-schools football competition when they were runners up, so we hope that the strips continue to bring us good fortune in the future.' Pupil council chair Ross MacDonald is pictured with Mr Collins of Bam Nuttall.

# Sun shines on Lochaber Hope family day crowd

Delight as event raises £9,000

HUNDREDS of people flocked to the BA Club in Fort William for a family fun day on Saturday and raised around £9,000 for local charity Lochaber Hope and a memorial for local man Stevie Wright.

The sun shone on Fort William for the afternoon while adults and children enjoyed a range of activities, including a bouncy castle, face painting, archery, a fire engine, pony rides, a strongman display and Highland dancing.

Around 150 helium-filled balloons were released in memory of joiner Stevie Wright, aged 28, who was found dead in tragic circumstances at his home in January.

The funds raised will be split between Lochaber Hope and the Wright family, who are expected to make a decision on the memorial shortly.

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Lesla Murphy, who helped organise the event, said the day had gone even better than she had hoped. She said: 'I'm just astounded by the turnout, and we've even got lucky with the weather as well.'

'We had a football match between a Celtic team and a Rangers team. Celtic won on penalties, which was nice because they were Stevie's team.'

'I want to say thanks to everyone who came along and everyone who helped out; they've all done a fantastic job.'

Following the success of the fundraiser, one of the organisers Shona Nicoll told *The Oban Times* she was hopeful it would become an annual event.

She said: 'It's a fantastic amount of money. Without the help of local businesses and local people, we couldn't have done this.'

Provost Allan Henderson introduced the balloon launch, saying: 'I want to thank every single person who has come along today. Nothing can beat community support.'

The fun day continued into the night with a number of bands performing in the BA Club.

An auction was held for four donated items which raised £1,150.

A Fender guitar signed by Snow Patrol went for £750, while a signed boxing glove went for £120. A signed Andy Gorum top sold for £100, while a tattoo voucher raised £180.

A list of businesses who helped out will be on display in the Lochaber Hope premises.



Around 150 helium-filled balloons were released in memory of Stevie Wright. 20\_191hope03

## Atmospheric setting for Scottish Land Court celebrations

A BLEAK hillside on Skye was the atmospheric setting for celebrations to mark the centenary of the Scottish Land Court, the body set up in 1912 to resolve disputes between tenants and landlords in crofting and farming.

Around 70 people gathered next to the Battle of the Braes memorial cairn to hear land court chairman Lord McGhie outline the vital role the court had played in protecting crofters' rights under the law.

The location could not have been more poignant - Braes witnessed violent clashes on April 19 1882 between 50 Glasgow police and local crofting men and women fighting eviction by their laird, Lord MacDonald.

The Battle of the Braes, as it became known, was the start of the six-year 'Crofters' War', which was ultimately successful in ending landlords' unrestricted ability to do with their tenants as they pleased. Sheriff Roddy John Macleod,

Lord McGhie's deputy and a native of the island, also spoke at the cairn. Skye-born Lord Bracadale also attended and chaired a debate in Portree High School later in the day.

Commission board member Ian George MacDonald, whose croft lies only yards from the battle site, delivered the welcoming address.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig musician in residence Margaret Stewart sang Oran Beinn Li (The Song of Ben Lee), which Victorian Gaelic poet Màiri Mhòr nan Òran (Big Mary of the Songs) composed about the confrontation for one of her best known songs.

Lord McGhie said the Braes crofters' decision to fight for the return of grazing rights on Ben Lee should be celebrated for helping to ensure the law was changed.

He said: 'The court, then as now, was able to protect crofters not by condoning violence but by giving effect to the rights given to them in law by Parliament.'



Land Court chairman Lord McGhie gives his address at the Battle of the Braes cairn. Photograph by Iain Smith.

## Cemetery supporters thank public

SUPPORTERS of a Lochaber cemetery have thanked local members of the public for helping to pay for its upkeep.

Following its annual general meeting, the Innis Na Birlinn Cemetery management committee issued its 'heart-felt appreciation' to all who provide donations throughout the year for the upkeep of the graveyard, both monetary and services.

Committee member Anne Marie Cameron said: 'The committee members undertake the grass cutting and all general upkeep work. They and have been joined in this venture by

some local volunteers, whose hard work is very much appreciated by the committee and all who attend at Innis Na Birlinn to visit their loved ones.

'The more volunteers we have to help, the less times this job come around.'

Burials at the private cemetery, which lies above the A82 north of the Corran Ferry, are restricted to families with local connections.

Anyone wishing more information or to help maintain Innis Na Birlinn, can contact David MacKinnon on 01855 821251 or Ann Marie Cameron on 01855 821231.

## Riders roar through Kinlochleven

THE FAMILIAR smells and sounds of classic motorbikes filled the air in Kinlochleven last weekend as the popular Pre '65 Trial returned to the village.

The precursor to its sister event, the Scottish Six Days Trial, the Pre '65 is one of the biggest in the Kinlochleven calendar, with around 1,500 spectators and 180 riders from all over the country flocking to the south Lochaber village for the two-day event.

The riders, all on vintage motorcycles manufactured before 1965, took off in pairs from the car park behind the Post Office with crowds surrounding the start line to watch them leave.

The gleaming machines roared through the streets as the competitors tackled set routes around the village, and were penalised with a 'mark' for touching the ground with their foot. The person with the lowest score at the end of the two days is named winner.

Davy Morewood put in a flawless performance to finish in first place with zero points. James Noble came in second with a score of three while Carlos Casas in third had four points.

The award for best Scottish rider went to Leslie Winthrop.

The event is estimated to bring about £100,000 into the village's economy. On Sunday, Pre-'65 competitors rode cross-country from Kinlochleven to Fort William to join the main SSDT cavalcade of riders down High Street.



Crowds gathered on the hills around Kinlochleven to watch bikers including Sam Hampshire tackle the course.

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**Locality Events**

COME ALONG TO

- Find out about Reshaping Care for Older People
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- Hear and see what services are available in your local area
- Share your ideas and experiences
- Let us know how you would like to be involved in developing services locally

Everyone with an interest in the current and future services for older people is welcome to attend any of these locality events

There will be two sessions each day, the first from 10a.m. until 12.30p.m. and the second from 1.30 p.m. until 4p.m.

Each session will start with a short presentation; you are welcome to pop in at any time during the day and stay for as long as you like.

May 10th	Drill Hall, Lochgilphead
May 11th	Victoria Hall, Campbeltown
May 14th	Church Centre, Glencruiltan Road, Oban
May 15th	Columba Centre, Islay
May 17th	Craignure Hall, Isle of Mull
May 18th	Pillar Hall, Victoria Hall, Helensburgh

### Chamber backs A82 trunk road campaign

FORT William Chamber of Commerce has thrown its weight behind efforts to improve the A82 trunk road, which is currently undergoing five sets of roadworks in less than 25 miles.

Stewart MacLean of the A82 Partnership spoke with chamber members at a recent meeting to discuss the ongoing works as well as the progress on the proposed improvements at Pulpit Rock south of Crianlarich.

He updated the members on talks between the Partnership, Transerv and the Scottish Government, and suggested the chamber invite Transport Scotland chief executive David Middleton to a meeting to discuss the ongoing traffic restrictions.

**Restrictions**

Chamber vice chairman Stewart Leitch said: 'The chamber fully supports the A82 Partnership in its endeavours to improve road conditions on the A82 and to alleviate the temporary restrictions, which are harmful to local business.'

The chamber's next meeting will be held in the Moorings Hotel on Thursday May 31, where Highlands MSP Fergus Ewing will be the guest speaker.

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**Depression support group wins Co-op grant**

A STRONTIAN-based support group which offers help to local people suffering from depression has been awarded a grant of £1,728.

Action on Depression was given the award by from the Co-operative's Community Fund. Ilena Day from the support group said: 'We are thrilled with the generous grant we have received from the Co-operative, which will help us to continue to provide our important service for local people.'

**False alarm caused by faulty GPS radio**

A MALLAIG and Barra lifeboat team call-out turned out to be a false alarm caused by a malfunctioning GPS radio onboard a yacht.

The two teams, along with the coastguard rescue helicopter, received a number of mayday calls last Thursday afternoon. A man was found onboard the yacht at Broadford unaware the calls were being sent from his boat.

Meanwhile, Kyle lifeboat helped with the search for a missing child who was found safe and well in the Broadford area.

The team was called out as the four-year-old was last seen near the pier before being reported missing.

**MSP in call for clarification on ski lift VAT cut plan**

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson has called for the UK Government to clarify its proposed plan to cut VAT for ski lifts.

The move was announced in last month's budget but the Treasury has not yet confirmed when the cut will be applied.

Mr Thompson has written to Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander urging him to apply the cut in time for the next skiing season.

Mr Thompson said: 'The ambiguity and uncertainty surrounding the implementation of the VAT cut is not beneficial. I am urging Mr Alexander to consider applying the cut in VAT from January 1 2013 so that the ski centres can benefit from this in the 2013 season.'



International allies including Plockton head teacher Duncan Ferguson and Belfast Cuchullain coach Declan McLarnan during last year's shinty/hurling competition in Kinlochleven. 20\_19belfast01

**Shinty teams Belfast bound**

SHINTY players from Kinlochleven and Plockton High Schools are to visit Belfast following the bridge-building success of a shinty-hurling contest held in Lochaber for the first time last year.

The two teams will take on the Belfast Cuchullains hurling team in a round-robin competition at the 30,000-seater Casemount Park during the three-day trip from Tuesday June 26 to Thursday June 28.

Sixteen years ago PJ O'Grady, rector of St Patrick's College Beranagheeha in Belfast, got together with Plockton head Duncan Ferguson to arrange annual shinty-hurling challenge matches, alternating between Plockton and the Northern Irish capital.

Mr O'Grady formed the

Belfast Cuchullains in 2006, drawing under-16 players from Catholic schools Corpus Christi College and St Patrick's College Beranagheeha, and Protestant schools Belfast Boys Model and Ashfield Boys.

Opening up a sport perceived as exclusively 'Catholic' to Protestant children raised some eyebrows - but thanks in part to Plockton's involvement, the cross-community venture prospered.

**Journey**  
Last year it grew further to include Kinlochleven after the school played the Cuchullains on their return journey to Belfast from Plockton in 2010.

Kinlochleven head teacher John McGilp said: 'As well as the opportunity of playing a match against a hurling team, this trip

is also about building bridges across the sectarian divide in Northern Ireland.

'The team we are playing from Belfast is made up of two protestant and two catholic schools, and has specifically been set up with this in mind.'

Plockton have won the Corn Cuchullain for the past five years, drawing 3-3 with Cuchullains and beating Kinlochleven 1-0 in last year's event.

Ballachulish Shinty Club have donated money towards the cost of the trip, as has the Sport Lochaber Youth Trust Fund, with the pupils encouraged to do fundraising of their own.

**Talented young actors prepare to make stage debut**

FOUR aspiring young Lochaber acting stars are preparing to make their stage debut in Fort William next weekend.

Lochaber Showstoppers latest show will be a musical adaptation Charles Dickens' classic novel Oliver Twist, with Alexandra McKeown, aged 11, and Heather McAdam, aged 12, leading the cast in the role of Oliver.

Sian Angus and Katryn Muir, both 11, will play the part of the Artful Dodger. The four beat nearly 60 other Lochaber youngsters at auditions in January.

Director Susan Munro said: 'We were so overwhelmed by the massive response, but these particular girls' musical and performing talent really did shine through.'

'It's great to be able to do a show like Oliver that is a popular show and also a good mix of youth and adults on stage. Having a cast of over 70 people presents many challenges but those challenges are far outweighed by the fantastic sound they all produce.'

Heather McAdam said: 'When I perform I get a bit of stage fright, but when I am on stage I am too happy to be scared.'

Co-star Sian Angus said 'I am looking forward to hearing the applause which will let me know I've done a good job.'

Oliver! is on stage at the Nevis Centre at 7.30pm on May 17, 18 and 19, with a matinee at 2pm on May 19. Tickets can be purchased through the Nevis Centre box office on 01397 700707.

**Hundreds welcome new lifeboat to Leverburgh**



The Leverburgh volunteers celebrate the arrival of the new boat.

RESIDENTS on Harris gathered to celebrate the port of Leverburgh becoming home to Scotland's newest lifeboat station last Wednesday.

Hundreds of people came to the pier to see the arrival of the RNLI all-weather lifeboat Lifetime Care.

The station, currently housed in a temporary building, will be ready to take call outs from tomorrow (Friday). The station is being run on a 12-month trial basis after locals raised concerns about an increase in marine traffic and the length of time required for a lifeboat to arrive from Barra or Stornoway.

It is estimated that the Leverburgh volunteers could be

called out up to 10 times a year to help people and vessels in distress.

In spring sunshine, a short ceremony was conducted before the people gathered enjoyed entertainment, music and a huge spread of food.

RNLI divisional inspector for Scotland Paul Jennings said: 'Everyone in this community has pulled together in one direction and one purpose, to get this lifeboat here and to gain the knowledge of how to operate her.'

'I have been constantly impressed by the dedication of this community to that purpose and it has been a pleasure and an honour to be part of it.'

**Mountain bikers race down slopes of Glencoe Mountain Resort**

MORE than 100 mountain bikers took to the slopes at Glencoe Mountain Resort on Sunday for the annual mass start downhill bike race MacAvalanche.

The race, organised by No Fuss Events, starts on snow near the summit of the mountain and travels down across, snow, rock, heather and bog making it a real test of skill and endurance.

Joe Barnes won the male category in nine minutes 22 seconds, while Hannah Barnes was the fastest female down the hill.

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FW

**Search continues for missing diver**

AS THE Oban Times went to press police and navy divers were due to continue a search in the vicinity of the wreck of the SS Breda in Ardmucknish Bay in the Firth of Lorne on Wednesday after a diver went missing on Tuesday morning.

It is understood the diver is 54 year old John Skerry, a local councillor from Huntington, Cambridgeshire.

Coastguards, who were contacted by the dive boat to say one of the party was missing, were assisted by Oban Lifeboat and a Royal Navy search and rescue helicopter from HMS Gannet. Two dive vessels in the area also joined the search.

Watch manager Graeme Waters said: 'Coastguard Rescue Officers from Oban carried out a second shoreline search at high water to check again whether this diver made it ashore and but sadly nothing was found.'

'A search in the vicinity of the wreck was also carried out by navy divers but nothing was found.'

It is understood the diver may have become stuck within the wreck of the Dutch freighter which was sunk by German bombers in 1942 and has become a popular dive site, shortly after 11am.

**Tests carried out after body discovered near Crianlarich**

FORENSIC investigators are working to confirm the identity of a body found near Crianlarich at the weekend.

A man walking in a wooded area between Crianlarich and Tyndrum, near the A82, found the remains, thought to be male, on Saturday.

Central Scotland Police say the death was not being treated as suspicious and a post mortem examination will be carried out.

A spokeswoman for the force said: 'We are following a line of inquiry in relation to the man's identity but this will only be confirmed once we have received the results of these tests.'

**NEWSDESK**  
01397 703003



Angus Stewart's character, Tobermory Cat, is being given a vacation until a dispute with publisher Birlinn is resolved.

**Ginger fur flies in Tobermory 'copy' Cat row**

A MULL artist is mothballing a character he created last year, saying he is being forced out by a 'copy-cat'.

Angus Stewart started a Facebook page in February 2011 called Tobermory Cat, tracking the activities of the enigmatic ginger kitty who could be regularly seen lazing around the town. It was said he became famous simply for being famous.

However, subsequent to this, Edinburgh publisher Birlinn announced plans to release a children's book, The Tober-

mory Cat, featuring artwork by million-selling children's artist, Debi Gliori.

While Birlinn say their cat, which like Mr Stewart's creation is ginger and becomes famous for being famous and can often be seen lazing around the colourful town, is a completely independent creation, Mr Stewart says he feels his idea has been 'stolen'.

Mr Stewart said: 'I believe this is a creative property. They could easily have picked a different cat in a different location but they didn't.'

He says the publisher's managing director, Hugh Andrew, visited his house and offered him a picture on the back of the Birlinn book, but no form of payment. He said: 'They suggested Tobermory Cat is nobody's property and nobody has rights to it.'

Mr Andrew said: 'Our story is about a ginger cat in Tobermory. It is entirely original. The idea was conceived before I knew about Angus Stewart's Facebook site.'

'I find this situation absolutely extraordinary. I've never had

this situation in 28 years of publishing.'

Mr Andrew said he did visit Mr Stewart and asked him what he intended to do with his Tobermory Cat, but alleges the artist refused to answer him.

'I'm not stopping him doing his website, I'm not stopping him selling his postcards.'

'All we want to do is produce a fun book that showcases Mull, the isles and, as you have to go through it to get there, Oban.'

The 'Tobermory Cat,' by Birlinn, is due to be published in November.

**New council leader pledges transparency**

Cross party alliance to offer new 'living' minimum wage to council employees

NEW Argyll and Bute Council leader, Roddy McCuish, has promised to be 'open and transparent' as he outlined his plans to improve living standards across the county.

Speaking after formalising the new administration with council chief executive Sally Loudon on Tuesday, the Oban South and Isles councillor and former postal worker told The Oban Times his objective is to make the county a better place to live.

Among the raft of measures the new alliance will work towards in the short term is introducing a new 'living' minimum wage for council staff of £7.20 per hour.

He has also outlined his desire to elevate the county's roads from some of the worst in the country to some of the best as part of a greater focus on infrastructure.

Education will also receive greater focus under the new alliance's proposals.



New council leader Roddy McCuish

He said: 'Everything we have been asked to do are things that would make life better for everybody across Argyll and Bute. Often, most of these things don't have a cost implication.'

'We have a strong plan to work towards everything we outlined in our manifesto.'

Two new spokesperson posts will be created.

Dougie Philand will take up the post of spokesperson for welfare and employment, while

Louise Glen-Lee becomes spokesperson for communication and broadcasting in a bid to improve the council's transparency.

Mr McCuish said: 'Everybody else in Argyll and Bute can go to a councillor if they have a problem.'

'We feel it is important staff of the council - of which there are over 4,000 - have an identified councillor who will champion their cause.'

'We are also looking for a way forward so everyone in Argyll and Bute can engage in what's going in the council and everything is as open as it can be. Of course in that we have to recognise that some things need to be confidential.'

'Our priority is to form a strong, transparent council that listens to the electorate.'

The new council's full list of spokespersons will be confirmed next week, ahead of the first meeting of the new council on May 22.

**Nine charged with drugs offences**

NINE people have been charged with drugs offences after a weekend of action by local police, during which a number of properties were searched.

**Contaminated drugs**

Quantities of cocaine, heroin, ecstasy and cannabis were recovered as part of the swoop.

It is understood the action was undertaken after suspicions were raised that contaminated

drugs were in circulation in the town.

Last week, a 27 year old man was found dead at Donmor Lodge. It is understood death is being treated as drugs related.

A post mortem into the death will be conducted later this month.

Meanwhile, The Oban Times has learned that another man, 21, was left unconscious for two

days in another incident understood to be drugs related.

Strathclyde Police has not confirmed if the searches are connected to the incidents.

Among those searches, a dealer quantity of herbal cannabis was found at a property on Jura Road, searched on May 6.

A man was expected to appear in court on indictment as The Oban Times went to press.

30 Years Ago

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

Thursday, May 13, 1982



As the start of the tourist season draws closer, it's a safe bet that Oban's most famous landmark, McCaig's Tower, will be the focus of attention for many visitors. 16\_1191wtd01

**Forest fire warning**

TWO HUNDRED hectares of five-year-old trees were destroyed in a blaze in Barcaldine Forest on Friday evening.

Forestry workers and firemen spent three hours fighting

the fire, which swept through acres of trees, heather and grass belonging to the Forestry Commission.

It is thought it may have been started by a carelessly dropped

cigarette or other light. Four fire appliances were out from 5.30pm until 11.30pm to deal with the blaze, which was more confined to the Loch Etive side of the forest.

**Children's favourite on the Isle of Iona**

A NEW attraction on Iona - Perry and Pos, a magnificent pair of Welsh Cobs - have already won the hearts of local children.

Last week they also began turning the heads of visitors, to whom they offer an ideal way of seeing round the tranquil island - by horse drawn carriage.

The new company offering the service is Island Carriages, set up by Sue and Reg Morgan of

**Hospital site moves to Soroba**

THE LATEST site for Oban's new general hospital appears to be Soroba, according to Councillor William Hunter.

He said he had a 'very strong impression' the site at Soroba was now committed for the hospital, not Ganavan.

**Radio complaints**

AT ITS meeting last week, Lochaber District Council decided to monitor complaints and comments regarding the recently introduced timings of BBC Radio Highland's morning programmes.

the Isle of Mull Pony Trekking Centre, Ormsaig, Pennyghael.

The Morgans bought Perry and Pos, seven-year-old half brothers, from a top Derbyshire driver, Caroline Dale, on condition that they were never parted.

The pair have always worked as a team and last year they showed their worth when they took second place in a national driving competition.

Oban Community Council chairman Alick MacLeod said: 'From the time Ganavan was earmarked as the site until the time it was cancelled, I am sure there was time enough to build the hospital. What we want is a starting date.'

It was contended that most of Lochaber were unable to listen to their local radio station because of the rescheduling which meant that the main part of the broadcasting occurred after people had left for work.



**Council urge land rethink**

THE SELLING of open land overlooking Branksome Park for private development has been sharply criticised by Oban Community Council.

The land is being offered for sale by Argyll and Bute District Council for private development of an indoor sporting and recreational complex.

But community councillors feel that any indoor development should take place on the strip of ground between

the bowling green and the swimming pool and the area overlooking Branksome Park should be retained as a natural, open air park for older children.

The open land facing on to Dalriach Road in the same area is already earmarked as a park for young children with their parents.

Councillor William Fowler said: 'It is a great shame that this piece of land looking on to

Branksome Park is not being left as a piece of open ground where children can go and kick a football. That is what we need, not an indoor development.'

He was backed up by councillor Ian Smyth who said that at the moment the area was an eyesore: 'I think it is absolutely appalling,' he said.

'What we need is an open plan facility for children in the town.'

**The cuppa with a difference on offer in the Isle of Skye**



THE SKYE village of Luib on the main east coast road north of Broadford is where husband and wife Tony and Shirley Hodgson have opened a tearoom with a difference.

While Mrs Hodgson and daughter Alison serve customers in the tearoom, her husband is attending to orders of another kind.

Behind the tearoom is Skye Shooter Supplies, the first licensed gun shop west of Inverness, stocked with a range of guns, ammunition and allied equipment.

'Versatility is the name of the game,' said Mr Hodgson, a former weapons instructor with the Special Air Service, the undercover unit which must be familiar with weapons of all nations. 16\_1191wtd03



Friday afternoon activities for a group of Portree High School children, clearing brushwood from a central site in the town as part of a campaign to tidy up the Skye capital. 16\_1191wtd05

# Fatal accident inquiry hears of young shepherd's tragic death

THE DEATH of a young shepherd was an 'accident with tragic consequences' according to the findings of a fatal accident inquiry held at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

James Steele, 32, fell to his death while trying to help

neighbouring farmers, Derek and Catherine Dempster, gather sheep on August 5 last year.

**Fallen**  
James' father, Donald Steele, of Taynuilt, told the inquiry that it had been a 'fine' day and he had been in Glen Cruachan with

James helping gather sheep for shearing.

He said: 'It was late in the afternoon when I realised something was wrong. Catherine Dempster told me James had fallen and she was going to ring the emergency services.'

'I went over to where James was but he was dead.'

'He was just lying on the ground.'

Despite efforts to save the father of two, James, who was airlifted to Glasgow by helicopter, was pronounced dead

on arrival at the city's Southern General Hospital.

A pathologist's report confirmed the cause of death as a 'head injury due to a fall from a height'.

The former Oban High School pupil had worked on farms and

estates for a number of years and had been working with Castle's Estate near Loch Awe as a shepherd since 2005.

Health and safety inspections at the estate following James' death found that the existing policies were 'robust' and no

recommendations were made by Sheriff Ruth Anderson.

She said: 'Mr Steele was a hard worker and skilled. I want to express my sympathy to his family and friends. Nothing could have been done to stop this tragic accident happening.'

## Oban police go on video and Twitter

OBAN'S police office has joined the internet revolution by launching its very own Twitter feed. Launched as part of a redesign of the force's website, the new feed means the force can communicate instantly with followers, passing on advice and information on events, incidents and ongoing investigations.

The feed can be found at @strathpol60. Meanwhile, Inspector Julie McLeish features in a new video introducing Oban, Lorn and the Isles on Strathclyde Police's redesigned website.

The Oban page outlines police priorities for the area and links to their ongoing public consultation survey.

For more information, go to www.strathclyde.police.uk and follow the links for Your Community.

## New Clyde ferries go to Merseyside shipyard

WESTERN Ferries has appointed Merseyside company Cammel Laird as preferred bidder to build two new ferries for the Gourrock to Dunoon route.

Construction is due to start in June this year, with both vessels to be delivered in the summer of 2013.

The new vessels will be faster, more environmentally friendly and will offer 20 per cent greater capacity for passengers and cargo.

## Inveraray Castle opens its doors to local residents

INVERARAY Castle and Garden will throw open its doors to local residents this weekend.

Those living within the PA27, PA32, PA33 and PA35 postcode areas will be able to peruse the seat of the Duke of Argyll this Sunday from 10am-5pm.

A 20 per cent discount is available in both the castle tearoom and gift shop.

To find out more, check www.inveraray-castle.com or phone 01499 302 203.

## Mull alleged drink driver told to 'take legal advice'

A MULL man who had chosen to represent himself in court was instructed to withdraw his guilty plea by a sheriff at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Ralph Franklin, of 28 Struan Crescent, Tobermory, appeared on an undertaking after being found by police on the village's main street on April 29 allegedly drink driving.

Franklin, 59, had originally pled guilty to the charge but after hearing his claims that he was in the vehicle with the keys in his hand - not driving - Sheriff Ruth Anderson said: 'Life is never straight forward Mr Franklin, I am going to allow you to withdraw your guilty plea at this stage, because I am telling you to. I strongly advise you to seek legal advice when you leave here today.'

The case was continued without plea until May 29.

## New community website for Cowal

COWAL Marketing Group and Argyll Voluntary Action has launched a new community website to help promote the area.

The website, www.visitcowal.com, now allows local groups to quickly promote events thanks to a new upload form. The website was part funded by Argyll and Bute Council.

## Man arrested after alleged assault on teenagers

A 24 YEAR old man was arrested last week, accused of assaulting two fifteen year old boys in Oban's George Street at 1.30am on May 3.

## Oban man jailed for 10 months and banned from driving for eight years

A MAN has been sentenced to 10 months in prison after he was so desperate to find drugs he stole a vehicle and drove from Oban to Glasgow, crashing the stolen vehicle on the return journey.

John Johnstone, 31, broke into a garage where he was an employee after it had closed for the day on April 16.

Johnstone, of 3B Longsdale Terrace, Oban, took keys and stole a customers' Toyota Landcruiser.

The court heard he was on a methadone prescription but had been 'rattling' and unable to find drugs in Oban.

Johnstone had driven to Glasgow to buy heroin and had lost control at Loch Awe on the return journey causing the vehicle to strike a barrier and a wall.

The court also heard Johnstone had six previous convictions for driving while disqualified - all of which, according to his solicitor, were related to his drug use.

Sheriff Paul Crozier banned Johnstone from driving for eight years and sentenced him to 10 months imprisonment.

## Local businesses among top awards nominations

THREE local businesses, two events and one marketing campaign are among those shortlisted for prestigious tourism awards.

The Scottish Thistle Awards are given to those businesses that excel in offering an exceptional service to the tourism industry.

Argyll and the Isles dominates the Central South West Region, with six nominations in total.

Under the Best Guest House or Bed and Breakfast awards, Alt na Craig House, Oban, has been nominated, alongside the Ardorna guest house near Barcaldine. Kilmore's Clan Cottages is nominated for the Best Self Service Award.

The British Wavesailing Association's Three Wave Classic is nominated for the Best Sporting Event Award, alongside the Scottish Six Day's Orienteering Event in Oban last year.

The Loch Lomond Waterbus has been nominated for the VisitBritain Marketing Campaign of the Year Award.

Meanwhile, Arran's Auchranrie Resort has been nominated for the Historic Scotland Tourism Entrepreneur Award.

The winners will be announced at the regional final at the Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow, on May 23. The winners will then be shortlisted for the national finals in November.

## Three arrested following disorder

THREE people were charged by police at Donmor Lodge, Oban, last week.

A woman, 33, was arrested last Tuesday night, charged with hindering and obstructing police officers investigating an unexplained death.

The following day, May 2, a 48 year old man was charged with acting in a disorderly manner and obstructing officers during an investigation.

A 49 year old man was later charged with disorder offences at the scene.



The team behind the successful Royal Burgh cafe. 06\_a19caf01

## Prestigious national award for Royal Burgh's outstanding Italian connection

A FAMILY that has served traditional Italian food to people in Mid Argyll for generations has scooped the prestigious Fish and Chip Quality Award.

The Royal Burgh Cafe, run by Adriano Pia and family, received the award from the National Federation of Fish Friers (NFFF), in recognition of the quality of food and service in the Inveraray restaurant and takeaway.

The NFFF report states the cafe got top marks in all aspects

of the award including preparation work and knowledge of the end product.

**Hard-working staff**  
Adriano, who has been at the helm of the family business for 25 years, says the award is well deserved for his team of hard-working staff.

'The success of the cafe is not just down to myself but teamwork and everybody that works here; it is recognition of what is done here day in day out,' he said.

Adriano took over the business from his father who came to Argyll 27 years ago after falling in love with the area. Growing up around Italian food and drawing on his family's background and knowledge in farming helps in sourcing the best ingredients possible, he says.

Equally passionate about the environment and how food is packaged, the business recycles as much as possible and mostly uses paper products. Having worked in family fish

and chip shops in Lochgilhead and Tarbert, Adriano said he is grateful for the characters he has met in each of the Loch Fyne towns.

Mr Pia, known to his close friends as buona forchetta, which means enjoying good food, likes to share the naked taste of good food and specialities in his restaurant. The cafe will soon be launching a new evening menu incorporating the best of Argyll foods cooked with Italian flair.

## VAT hike threat to caravan holiday trade

ARGYLL caravan parks could be on the way out - due to the hike in VAT imposed in the government's 'pasty tax' - which also applies to static caravans.

**50 per cent slump feared**  
Industry sources say the demand for these caravans would decrease by around 50 per cent when the tax is imposed in October, risking jobs as a result.

Static caravans are currently only liable for a 20 per cent tax rate for the fixtures and fittings, which equates to around a five per cent tax rate as a whole.

Port Ban Holiday Park at Kilberry, Tarbert has been in existence since 1966, it has been passed down from the original owners to their 11 children.

Now director and co-owner, Jonathan Sheldrick, has contacted local MP Alan Reid in the hope he can lobby the government to change their minds.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We keep the park running through rentals but our profit comes from caravan sales. If this legislation goes through we will have to make decisions about dismissing employees - myself included - it is my job that is on the line.'

The family run business currently has a waiting list for

caravans which, Mr Sheldrick says, will 'shelter' them from the first effects.

'We are anticipating a boom this year as people try and beat the cost increase but after that we think it will go very quiet for the next two years.'

Figures collected by the British Holiday and Home Parks Association forecast a 52.2 per cent slump in demand for static caravans which would see nearly 4000 people across the UK lose their jobs.

To Mr Sheldrick this means that Port Ban Holiday Park would lose income equivalent to a full time employees annual wage.

There are also fears that the changes will impact on other Argyll businesses that depend on the caravan park residents - and on Britain's manufacturing industry.

HM Revenue and Customs forecast a 30 per cent fall in demand but the vast majority of park owners believe the effects will be far beyond this.

But Mr Sheldrick remains hopeful: 'We are getting a lot of feedback from our local MP and the association and it looks hopeful that the government will do a u-turn on this.'

## Mull man had 'really nasty' lock knife

A MULL man searched while waiting for a ferry was found to have a lock knife in his possession, Oban Sheriff Court heard.

Euan Mckay, who now lives at 34 West End Park Street in Glasgow, was found with the weapon in a black Nintendo case on April 29 while in Oban's ferry terminal.

The 26-year-old pled guilty but claimed he had the knife for use in art and crafts - an explanation Sheriff Paul Crozier rejected.

He said: 'This is a really nasty little article and I'm not satisfied that the explanation provided is accurate.'

Sentencing was deferred until May 18.



Ernie Upton's Reefed Sails off Duart, Mull, valued at £1,800, could be yours for £5 as part of Oban Phoenix Cinema's prize raffle.

## Chance of oil painting for £5 as Oban Phoenix Cinema keep fundraising

A SPECTACULAR oil painting by local artist Ernie Upton worth £1,800 could be yours for £5 as Oban Phoenix Cinema's latest fundraiser.

Reefed Sails off Duart, Mull was gifted to the Oban Phoenix Cinema social enterprise by the artist in a bid to help raise extra funds for the picture house, which will open its doors this summer.

The painting is of yachts passing Duart Castle on Mull, sails reefed in building seas. It can be viewed at ALBA, in Oban's Albany Street.

In total, 2,000 tickets have been printed, meaning the painting could raise as much as £10,000 for new features and facilities.

Director of Oban Phoenix Cinema, Laura Russell, said: 'We would like to thank Mr Upton for donating this fabulous

painting to us and for allowing us to hold a public raffle.

'All those who take part by buying tickets will be contributing to Oban Phoenix Cinema - and everyone has the chance to win.'

'The lucky winner will take home a very special work of art with a strong local connection.'

Tickets for the raffle are available from board and committee members and at all Oban Phoenix Cinema events. The winner will be drawn at the Corran Halls on September 22, when the group will hold a bring and buy sale.

Meanwhile, the directors and volunteers from the cinema will be bag packing at the Co-operative this Saturday from 10am-4pm. Anyone wishing to help out should contact Isla MacColl on lalcol@hotmail.co.uk.

A NEW CD combining the significant musical talents of the Oban, Lorn and Isles area is to be launched to celebrate this year's Festival of the Sea.

In total, 11 separate artists have combined to create The Essence of the Sea, an album conceived by former councillor Neil Mackay, whose own band, Macadam, features.

The album was produced by Finlay Wells, who has also co-written a track especially for the festival with Sileas Sinclair, Daydreams and Waves.

The album launch coincides with the announcement of the Festival of the Sea Fringe, which will see live music played across the whole area every day of the event, which runs from May 18-28, with 12 evening gigs held in and around the area throughout the festival.

Finlay says the eclectic album is the perfect way to celebrate the area's rich musical pool, while proceeds from the sales of the album will help fund the next Festival of the Sea.

He said: 'The album is called The Essence of the Sea, so all the tracks have a watery theme. "In purely musical terms though, each of the artists are quite different. We've got everything from Skerryvore to Oban High School Pipe Band.'

Also featuring on the album is Mod gold medallist Joy Dunlop, Angus MacColl, Gunna Sound, Mary Catherine MacNeil, Skipinish Ceilidh Band, Angus

*"Every artist was 100 per cent keen to be part of it."*

producer Findlay Wells

Smith and Achaba. Each artist picked their own track to appear on the album, which is due to go on sale on May 18.

It is hoped the very nature of the album will help introduce listeners to artists and even genres they've never had the chance to fully appreciate - both locals and visitors alike.

'Hopefully, it will act as a good introduction for people that haven't heard some of these acts before,' said Finlay. 'Every artist was 100 per cent keen to be a part of it as the Festival of the Sea is quite a huge event, and it helps the whole area.'

With Daydreams and Waves, Finlay hopes to have created something that sums up the festival.

He said: 'It's an instrumental track and quite dreamy with some big dynamics. It was great to work with Sileas on that. Writing it was quite fun because we hadn't written together before.'

For more information about the Festival of the Sea, visit obanseafestival.org.

## Gym boss placed on probation following sexual assault case

A GYM boss previously found guilty of indecently assaulting two young women has been placed on probation for a year.

Robin Morton, of 23 Balvicar, near Oban, was also placed on the sex offenders register when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week and will be monitored for the same period.

The 50-year-old, who is selling his share of Energy Fitness to his business partner, had claimed during his trial that the witnesses were lying about the assault and called their evidence 'poisonous' and 'vindictive'.

But the victims explained how he had offered them massages after they enquired about a job and described the experience as 'perky'.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson also

found Morton guilty of offering one of the women £50 to allow him to massage her.

Procurator Fiscal David Gnaney told Morton during the trial: 'These witnesses had to enter a punishing cross-examination by your solicitor, which was lengthy, emotionally bruising and rigorous, yet their positions remained unchanged.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson said Morton had 'overstepped the mark' but was a 'low risk of reoffending'.

Sheriff Anderson reiterated that she found the witness' evidence 'both reliable and utterly credible' and said that while Morton may not agree he had done anything wrong she hoped he now accepted the judgement of the court.

## Talent show raises £200 for H2O

THE RECENT Oban High School talent show raised over £200 for Hope 2 Oban (H2O) who want to thank the S6 pupils for all their hard work and wish them every success as their school days draw to a close.

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**CRICKET**

**Fort William record best ever score**

FORT William Cricket Club notched their second win in a week and recorded their best ever score in the process with an 84 run victory away to Nairn last Saturday.

Colin Jennings scored an excellent 80 in a record stand of 103 with DJ Duncan as Fort ended with 225 for five.

The strong performance with the bat was followed with some fine bowling from Fort, with Lindsay Gordon four for 33 and Rob Shepard four for 40 to restrict the hosts to a score of 141 all out.

Fort captain Kevin O'Meara said: 'We have some tough games coming up so let's not get too carried away.'

This was the first time in three years Fort have won two games in a row, and this weekend they will again meet Nairn, this time at the BA Club, as they look to extend their good form.

The reserve team slipped to a 53-run loss to Buckie last Sunday. The Lochaber men were bowled out for 124 as they chased Buckie's score of 177 for eight. Davy Duncan scored 53 not out, his first 50 in six years.

The reserves also face Nairn this weekend in Fort Augustus.

**GOLF**

**Overend takes May medal at Fort**

FORT WILLIAM Golf Club's May Medal competition saw a close fight for the win, with Alan Overend shooting a net round of 67 to finish first on Saturday.

Dougie Duncan's net score of 68 gave him second place while Duncan Rodger finished third with a score of 70.

**Sunart May medal win for MacPherson**

LOCH SUNART Golf Club held its May medal competition at Dragon's Tooth Golf Course in Ballachulish last Sunday.

The event was played in bright sunshine with Donnie MacPherson finishing first with a score of 67. Iain Mowatt was just one shot back in second while Peter Lindsey was third with a 69.

**TENNIS**

**Grant gains narrow victory in play-off**

JOHN GRANT is the new number one in Fort William Tennis Club's Division 1.

John Grant narrowly defeated Monty Bleasdale in the play-off for the top spot, winning a hard-fought series by three games to two. Scores: Game (1) 14-12 to Monte- Game (2) 11-9 to John- Game (3) 11-9 to Monte Game (4) 14-2 to John- Game (5) 11-2 to John.

**10-PIN BOWLING**

AFTER three weeks of play in the Lochaber ten-pin bowling single leagues at the Nevis Centre Tony Whitelocke still leads Pam Weller by one point in the scratch division.

Tim Attack sits a point further back in third place on 34 points. Attack leads the handicap competition on 33 points ahead of Rossamy Wareing and David Ogg, who both have 29 points.

Total scratch pinfall is led by Tony Whitelocke with 1,079 pins.



Fort William forward Danny Macintosh gave Locos full back Kieren Adams a torrid time in the second half. 20\_19fwt01

## Fort reach end of long hard season

**FOOTBALL**

**REPORT**  
by Richard Haddock  
Fort William play final game of the season on Friday, away to Formartine

FORT William ended their home season with two defeats in three days, losing 3-0 to Inverurie Locos on Saturday and 1-0 to Formartine United on bank holiday Monday.

The Lochaber men will play their final game of a season to forget away to Formartine tomorrow (Friday), knowing even a win would not be enough to catch second-bottom Strathpey Thistle, who sit four points ahead.

Fort will have suspended pair Andy Martin and Iain MacLellan available for the game.

Danny Conlon's men took on Formartine looking to gain revenge for a Highland League Cup defeat earlier in the season.

An early goal from Matthew McDonald proved to be the winner in an even but scrappy affair. A youthful Fort side were missing a number of players with Graeme Bamber asked to fill a gap in the defence after missing several months with a hernia injury.

Conlon told The Oban Times: 'You could see it was an end of season game. We were disappointed, but we had so many players out and the two sendings off on Saturday was a massive blow to us.'

'I asked Graeme Bamber to play today and he did really well. And young Kieran Lopez came in today and I thought he had a good game too. But with all our strikers missing we didn't really look like causing them a lot of problems.'

'I'm in a stronger position for Friday's game. I've got the two sendings off back and one or two others hopefully. But I'm just glad to see the end of the season. It's been a long hard one for me.'

In Saturday's game, Inverurie's first goal came after 20 minutes when the referee awarded a debatable foul on the edge of the Fort box. Keeper Robbie Donaldson got a hand to Neil Gauld's free kick but couldn't keep it out.

Jack Strachan scored minutes later to double Fort's misery before Locos striker Nicky Gordon was sent off for slapping Michael Gillespie on the back of the head.

With nine minutes left Fort youngster Iain MacLellan was sent off for abusive language, and just minutes later Andy Martin received his marching orders when he stopped a goal-bound effort with his arm.

Locos' keeper Andrew Reid took the resulting penalty but sent his shot wide.

The referee gave the visitors a second spot kick five minutes later following a Mark Gillespie foul, which they scored to seal the win.

## Lochaber's first female boxer makes her debut in the ring

A KINLOCHLEVEN schoolgirl made a piece of boxing history recently when she became Lochaber's first female boxer.

Danielle Campbell, of Nether Lochaber Claymores, took on Rebekka Taylor of Insh ABC in Huntly in an exhibition match.

There was a big weight difference between the two 14-year-olds but Danielle gave as good as she got until the referee stopped the fight in the second round due to the Kinloch fighter suffering a bleeding nose.

Claymores coach Martin Glenesk said: 'The girls gave a good account of themselves and the crowd in the hall fully appreciated what they were watching.'

'This was the first time that either Nether Lochaber or Insh have ever fielded female boxers so both clubs were delighted to share in a wee bit of history.'

Meanwhile, two of Claymores' younger boxers were in action last weekend at a show in Renfrewshire hosted by Linwood ABC.

Marcus Spence, aged 10, made his debut appearance at the show and quickly took control of his 'skills' bout against Joe Cameron. Marcus' southpaw jab had the Linwood boxer confused from the start as he took the centre of the ring and stayed there forcing his opponent to work on the outside.

The crowd were on their feet at the final bell cheering both lads for a highly entertaining opening



Lochaber's first female boxer Danielle Campbell made her ring debut recently.

both these youngster have a great future in this game.

Tyndrum's Callum Clement then took to the ring and started at a fierce pace against Craig Mullyroy.

The 14-year-old pinned his opponent in the corner and kept up the pace throwing the faster

and more accurate shots.

Callum continued bossing the bout until his inexperience crept in and he started to allow Mullyroy of the hook, which let the Linwood boxer to land some stunning shots of his own.

Callum eventually lost the very even bout by two points.

## Isle of Mull victorious at Banavie's annual sevens

TEAMS from across the north of Scotland travelled to Banavie for Lochaber Rugby Club's annual sevens tournament last Saturday.

A large crowd of spectators were treated to an afternoon of fast paced rugby with Isle of Mull RFC underlining why they were dubbed as early favourites.

**Final**  
The host team was not to be discounted too easily as they beat a very useful Aberdeenshire side 17-5, but the final was to be contested by Mull and Lochaber.

There was only one converted try between the sides at half time in a close run affair. But Mull, who also recently won Highland RFC's sevens event, ran out worthy winners 21-7 at the end of an energy sapping tie.

After the games many of the players and spectators enjoyed live music and refreshments in the clubhouse.

Lochaber club member Stewart Sandison told The Oban Times: 'Special mention must go to the Lochaber youngsters who all performed way above their years, and to Robin Morgan who was competing in allegedly his 32nd consecutive Lochaber Sevens - surely a record that will be hard to beat!'

'Thanks also to our sponsors MacPhee and Partners and to all the volunteers that contributed to making the day a success.'



The winning Mull side celebrate their victory at Banavie 20\_19rugby01.



One of Lochaber's oldest bowlers Wilma MacGillivray threw out the first jack to open Lochaber Bowling Club's green at the BA Club, Fort William.

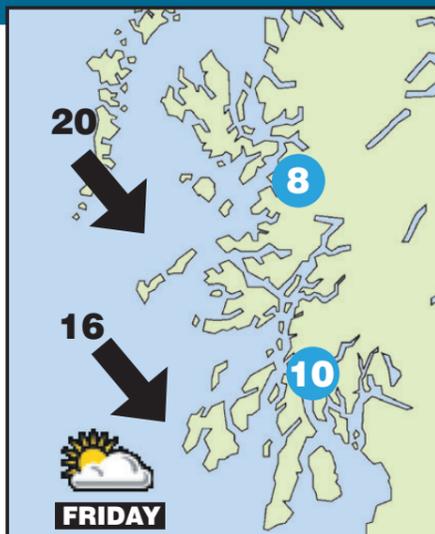
## Weather

**Thursday** Grey and overcast  
Winds light north-easterly  
Temperatures 2°C to 12°C

**Friday** Sunshine and light showers  
Winds moderate north north-westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.

**Weekend** Sunny intervals and showers  
**Outlook** Winds light west - southwesterly  
Temperatures 6°C to 12°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Calm  
Kennacraig to Islay Calm



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, May 10, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.34 0.7 08.19 3.4 14.52 0.8 20.47 3.6	
Fri	03.27 0.9 09.08 3.1 15.45 1.0 21.42 3.3	
Sat	04.25 1.2 10.08 2.9 16.43 1.2 22.50 3.1	
Sun	05.29 1.4 11.42 2.7 17.49 1.4 *** **	
Mon	00.23 3.0 06.41 1.6 13.23 2.7 19.05 1.5	
Tues	01.43 3.0 07.57 1.6 14.25 2.8 20.20 1.5	
Wed	02.39 3.1 08.56 1.5 15.04 3.0 21.19 1.4	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardnishraig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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