

The Oban Times

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Scottish Hotel Awards 2013

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SPORTS NEWS

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup draw



Pupils from Dalmlally Primary School performed 'She Will be Coming Round the Mountain' at the 30th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

Music and dance festival was one of the best

'It was an incredible array of art and culture - traditional and contemporary'

THE 30th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival has been described as one of the most successful yet after welcoming more than 1,100 competitors.

Oban was alive with colour and song at the weekend as the event hosted music, dance and singing competitions across 11 venues, while the organisers were honoured in a civic reception hosted by councillors

Roddy McCuish, Louise Glen-Lee and Mary-Jean Devon. Chairman of the event, Donald MacLean, said he was delighted with how the weekend turned out.

'The 30th festival was a real success,' he said. 'One of the busiest and most vibrant to date, it really was brimming with talent all the way through.'

'It was an incredible array of art and culture - traditional and

contemporary, Gaelic, Scots and English. It is so encouraging to see so many people put so much into what is a voluntary celebration of our heritage.

'If anyone is looking for an uplifting experience or is seeking confirmation of the talent, dedication and positivity of our youth, they should come along to festival.'

'Councillors McCuish, Glen-Lee and Devon hosted a

reception for those who have contributed to the festival over the years - paying tribute to its significant impact in cultural and economic terms and pledging support for its continued development, for which we are of course very grateful.

'All in all a real success in its 30th year and a tremendous team effort.'

Mr MacLean paid particular tribute to those who helped

organise or host competitions this year.

He said: 'Massive thanks are due to everyone who helped - participants, supporters, audience members, announcers, MCs, stewards, adjudicators and, last but not least, members of the organising committee, who are now looking forward to the next thirty years!'

See our picture special on the festival on pages 12 and 13.

Pub giant gets nod

THE final hurdle preventing pub giant JD Wetherspoon from opening in the town has been passed after the company was granted a licence. However, the company is yet to confirm opening dates as it considers the conditions attached to the licence. A Wetherspoon spokesman said: 'We can confirm a licence was granted for the site.'

'Organised' thieves target Oban charity shop

CALLOUS thieves who stole two highly valued items from an Oban charity shop have deprived hungry children of food, according to volunteers.

A Waterford Crystal horse and Chalkware German shepherd dog, each worth more than £100, were taken from Oxfam on George Street last Saturday

between 2pm and 4.45pm.

Maggie Clayton, shop volunteer, said: 'They came into the shop and helped themselves when it was busy. I don't think this was opportunistic, I think it was organised, these aren't the kind of things you can run down the street with.'

The two items had been on display in the window of the shop in the hope of attracting a buyer - this tactic worked but it was too late for the missing pieces.

Maggie added: 'We have had people in trying to buy them. The horse isn't rare but it is precious and the dog is from the 1930s and really good condition which

is unusual. Two hundred pounds would feed a lot of hungry children. If anyone saw anything suspicious would they come and talk to us in confidence.'

Police are investigating theft and their enquiries are continuing. If you have any information which could help contact PC Joel Edwards on 01631 510500.

Young families group face 3,600 per cent rent increase

'Some things are worth more than money' - claims supporter of Soroba Young Family Group

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN
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"We had a peppercorn rent until our lease ran out."

manager Soroba Young Family Group

A SOROBA-based children's charity that supports more than 100 families could be made homeless after its landlord - a social housing provider - imposed a 3,600 per cent rent increase.

The Soroba Young Family Group (SYF) has been told by the Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) that a peppercorn rent of £100 per annum was to end. Instead, the charity would have to pay the going rate for the property, a rent of £3,600 a year.

It follows a decision taken by ACHA last year to eliminate peppercorn rents for charitable groups across its network to 'harmonise' lease arrangements.

SYF provide - among other things - day care for children up to five, family support, young parent support and services for children referred by the NHS and social work.

They also support children with additional needs, but say they face an uphill struggle to meet the increased rental payments and warn they could be forced to move from their home - something that could affect the services it currently delivers.

Janice Kay, manager of SYF, said: 'We had a peppercorn rent until September, when our lease expired.'

'Discussions have taken place with ACHA and we're still in talks with them but our point seems to have fallen on deaf ears.'

'We can probably afford about half that amount. We thought that would be more than reasonable but we haven't had any success yet.'

SYF, who also pay half the rent and electricity for use of the neighbouring community centre, also recently built an extension to the building, but

say ACHA could evict them if they don't sign a new lease demanding the increased rent. Janice refused to criticise ACHA though, saying they have done 'everything properly'.

Parents in Soroba are angry at the proposal. Calum MacColl, whose young daughter regularly attends at SYF, said: 'If they are evicted it will affect more than 100 families.'

'Some things are worth more than money.'

ACHA's chief executive, Alastair MacGregor, said: 'ACHA's board of management, in June 2012, approved proposals to harmonise a variety of lease arrangements for properties which were let not to tenants but to third parties.'

'These special lets had been inherited by the association from Argyll and Bute Council at stock transfer in 2006 and did not have an ACHA lease.'

'The board of management agreed the terms of the new lease to the Soroba Young Family Group should include a rent which was equal to a domestic house rent, which is what the association would obtain if the property was let to a mainstream housing applicant.'

Extra school holiday for Park pupils

PUPILS at Park Primary School in Oban had an extra long weekend when they returned from a Monday holiday - only to be sent home on Tuesday morning

due to an electrical fault.

Firefighters attended to ensure the school was safe and it was expected to re-open on Wednesday morning.



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Tyndrum goldmine plan stalls

FALLING gold prices has forced Scotgold to indefinitely postpone plans to build a multi-million pound gold and silver mine at Cononish, near Tyndrum.

While the mine remains a profitable prospect, the company's chief executive, Chris Sangster, says the low price of gold has impacted on the pre-pay financing available through RMB Resources.

Alternative funding streams are now being sought, he said. The move will cause concern in a community keen to see the development bring new jobs to the area.

In the company's quarterly report, Mr Sangster said: 'It is the directors' view that under current market conditions this approach to successfully finance the project

would be severely challenging and have decided to defer an approach to the market until market conditions are more receptive.'

'RMB remain supportive of the project and are re-evaluating the potential debt capacity of the project for the pre-payment facility.'

'In view of the above, Scotgold are considering a number of alternative strategic alternatives to finance the project to progress to production.'

Gold prices remained low as The Oban Times went to press, with the price dropping by more than one per cent on Tuesday.

Despite the delay, the company insists the mine is still viable, with profitable returns still anticipated on the 19,000 ounces of gold and

73,000 ounces of silver it is due to produce annually.

The news has been greeted with disappointment by Bruce Crawford, the MSP for the area.

He said: 'It is disappointing but entirely understandable that the Cononish Gold Mine project will be delayed as a result of the record-low gold price we have seen over the past month. However, I am assured that there is no question over the viability of the project, and that it will proceed once market conditions improve.'

'Given that the project relies on equity for financing, this move is understandable and I hope that the delay will be short-lived and that this exciting project is up and running as quickly as possible once market conditions stabilise.'

Police warn after heating oil thefts

POLICE have issued a warning to householders in the Lorn area after recent heating oil thefts.

Residents are being urged to ensure their tanks are secure whenever possible and be on the lookout for any suspicious people or vehicles.

The thefts took place in Lorn Road, Dunbeg and Achaleven, Connel, during April. There was 600 litres of fuel taken from the Dunbeg property and 1,200 from Achaleven, worth £440 and £860 respectively.

Police enquiries are continuing into both incidents and anyone with information about the thefts is asked to contact Oban police on 01631 510500.

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Biker banned following 118mph near Tyndrum

A BIKER who drove at almost twice the speed limit near Tyndrum has been fined £650 and banned from driving for two years.

Hugh MacDougall, 44, of 242 Drumchapel Road, Glasgow, admitted driving dangerously at 118mph when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on April 2. He was sentenced last Tuesday.

Sheriff John Herald also ordered that MacDougall must sit an extended test before he can have his licence returned.

Irish otter comes to Skye centre

THE INTERNATIONAL Otter Survival Fund in Broadford, Isle of Skye, has taken delivery of a young otter found in Galway, Ireland.

Shamrock, who was acting in a 'very tame' manner when discovered, has now settled in well at the centre. It is hoped to rehabilitate Shamrock for release as a wild otter.

Fife lock knife man avoids jail term

A FIFE man avoided jail after being found with a lock knife because of the rural setting around Bridge of Orchy that he was in.

Mark Jennings, 52, of 8 Broomhill, Luthrie, Cupar, was fined a total of £600 for possessing a lock knife, possessing cannabis, obstructing police and speeding at 40mph in a 30mph zone. He admitted all offences except possession of the knife as he said he had a reasonable excuse - it had been for use during wild camping. He was found guilty following a trial at Oban Sheriff Court in March.

Sheriff John Herald told Jennings: 'In normal circumstances anyone in possession of an item like this would be sent to custody. But your case is different and I'm prepared to take that into account.' Jennings also had three penalty points placed on his licence for speeding.

Island pupils become historical site guides

PUPILS from Sgoil an Taobh Siar (West Side School) on Lewis have become Historic Scotland junior guides at a popular local tourist attraction.

The children don period costumes to offer school tours of Arnol blackhouse, a typical example of the low turf and thatch-covered dwellings which housed many Lewis folk and their animals in times past.

Barvas school had previously taken part in the scheme, prior to its merger with Airdhantaim school to form Sgoil an Taobh Siar.

Headteacher Alice Macleod said: 'Blackhouses are a hugely important and unique part of our heritage so it's fantastic the children are getting the opportunity to tell this story to the next generation.'

Argyll's marine science park shortlisted for architectural design award

DUNBEG'S European Marine Science Park is in the running for a major architectural design award.

Malin House, the first phase of a new multi-million pound science park developed by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) at Dunstaffnage, has

been shortlisted by the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) awards.

State of the art
Built by Robertson Northern, the infrastructure, support services and construction group, the state of the art building provides around 18,000 square

feet of flexible laboratory and office space, which will allow for the growth of existing and new businesses wishing to tap into the region's world leading reputation in marine science research and development.

Designed for HIE by Glasgow-based ADF Architects, which

also prepared a masterplan for the European Marine Science Park, Malin House is the first of three buildings planned for the development at the park over the next 10 years.

Delighted
Morag Goodfellow, senior development manager at HIE,

said: 'We are delighted to be on the shortlist of projects for the RIAS Awards.'

'We've worked hard with Robertson Construction and ADF Architects to create a building which befits the surrounding environment, links well with the adjacent Scottish

Association for Marine Science (SAMS) and, most importantly, provides office and laboratory space for businesses working in marine science to grow and thrive.'

Sensitive site
Euan Geddes of ADF Architects added: 'The sensitive nature of

the site, which is located on a peninsula between two bays, is such that the building is very prominent within the landscape.'

'With this in mind, we used a palette of natural materials which will weather down over time, allowing the building to further integrate into the site.'



PC Matthew O'Neill, John Yellowlees of Scotrail, Plockton High School rector Duncan Ferguson, Jean Urquhart MSP and Plockton pupil Cameron Kitson-Jones are all smiles after the plaque unveiling.

Pupil power official at Plockton Station

PLOCKTON Station was officially adopted by Plockton High School pupils in a community celebration on the platform on Friday April 26.

The event set the seal on an initiative, led by PC Matthew O'Neill of British Transport Police, which saw the formation of a school pupil committee

to tidy up and tend the station area. From now on, Plockton senior pupils will officially be responsible for flower displays and keeping the station litter-free.

Scotrail external relations manager John Yellowlees, Plockton Community Council chairman Charlie MacRae and

Plockton High School rector Duncan Ferguson were among those attending the event.

Guest of honour, Highlands and Islands MSP Jean Urquhart, unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

Mr Ferguson gave a special thanks to PC O'Neill for bringing the initiative to fruition and to

Ms Urquhart for her 'gracious contribution' as principal guest. He added: 'There is no going back now the plaque is unveiled and our students taking part thoroughly enjoyed themselves.'

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

Partnership to cut anti-social behaviour at Loch Lomond

Litter and vandalism falls by 90 per cent following successful patrols on east side of the loch

WILD camping, littering and traffic offences will once again be targeted by police around Loch Lomond and the Trossachs as Operation Ironworks enters its sixth year.

Now coming under the umbrella of Police Scotland following the merger of the country's police forces, the high profile patrols are geared towards promoting responsible behaviour in the countryside.

It runs in partnership with rangers from Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park and Forestry Commission Scotland.

During the high pressure months, visitors to the National Park are sure to receive a warm welcome to popular sites across the area and experience a safe



Officers with Police Scotland will work with rangers from the Forestry Commission and Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park during Operation Ironworks.

and enjoyable time. Over the past five years, Operation Ironworks has successfully reduced anti-social behaviour in some of the most heavily used sites across Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. On the east side, litter and vandalism has fallen by 90 per cent following successful patrols and the introduction of a camping and alcohol bylaw.

Inspector Gerry McMenemy of Police Scotland, who is leading the operation, said: 'The National Park is now more family friendly than ever due to the work we have carried out since Operation Ironworks started in 2008.'

'Prior to that we knew families

didn't want to come to certain areas of the National Park because of the anti-social behaviour by a minority of people.'

Fiona Logan, chief executive of the National Park, added: 'Throughout 2013, we're celebrating the Year of Natural Scotland and it is vitally important we all play our part in making sure our National Park is looked after.'

'This includes protecting the precious wildlife and landscapes that make Loch Lomond and The Trossachs such a special visitor destination.'

Police and rangers will team up to target issues such as vandalism, litter, noise disturbance and traffic offences.

Teenager jailed after court hears police had to use CS gas to subdue him

A TEENAGER who was so hostile Oban police resorted to CS gas to subdue him has been sent to prison for four months.

Marc Green, 17, of 9 Lossie Crescent, Renfrew, had previously pled guilty to lashing out at police and spitting on them as well as behaving in a threatening manner in an Oban Hotel. He appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday for sentencing.

The court heard Green had gone to an Oban hotel on March 20 after he had missed his bus to Glasgow. Hotel staff 'thought he was under the weather in terms of drink'. Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court Green then left before returning 30 minutes later and becoming a nuisance to hotel staff, eventually they phoned police and Green was outside when they arrived.

Mr McGinty said: 'Police tried to talk to him and he was less than co-operative. Other officers arrived and tried to calm him down but he constantly lashed out.'

Green then spat in the face of a female officer.

'He continued to spit. He spat on the faces of two other officers who were involved in restraining him. They had to use CS gas to eventually bring him under control,' added Mr McGinty.

Defence agent Laura McManus said: 'He was disgusted by his behaviour, he is truly sorry about it.'

Sheriff John Herald told the court his decision to send the youngster to prison was an easy one.

He said: 'This was a nasty incident in a public place where people were simply trying to help you and were met with abuse and assault.'

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Oban youth project gains £60,000 award from Lloyds

ALMOST £60,000 has been awarded to a youth project in Oban to help continue the invaluable work it carries out.

Oban Youth Cafe Project was handed £58,000 from Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland which aims to improve life for disadvantaged people living in Scotland.

Kirsty McLuckie, project co-ordinator at the youth cafe, told *The Oban Times* the cash would be used to cover rent and staff wages.

She said: 'It makes a massive difference. We probably wouldn't have survived if we didn't have that money. It is a struggle.'

Lloyds TSB have been really good to us. It costs between £80,000 and £90,000 to run the youth cafe per year.

'This gives young people somewhere to go when they might not otherwise have anywhere. There is not that

many places for young people to go that are free and we are open the whole year.'

'We also take them away on trips in the holidays and help them do volunteering. We know them from 11 to 18, we have a long term relationship with the young people.'

Kirsty added the project also worked with Atlantis Leisure to encourage youngsters to get involved with sport.

Mary Craig OBE, chief executive of Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, said:

Drunk Taynuilt man spat on policeman

A TAYNUILT man who spat through the hatch of his police cell into the face of the sergeant on duty has been fined £350.

Jonathan Nicol, 24, of 30 Aldersyde, Taynuilt, pled guilty to the offence when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court.

'These awards range from £2,460 to pay for social events for older people to £150,000 for intensive work with families affected by substance misuse.'

'Many of the charities we support are very small, local charities and fundraising for their running costs and paying their staff can be very difficult.'

'Twenty two of the awards will be used to help pay for staff to run projects, and having funding in place to cover these basic costs is vital if they are to be able to deliver their services.'

Dangerous Skye road to be improved

A DANGEROUS stretch of road on the Isle of Skye at Breakish on the A87 road to Portree is to be improved, Transport Scotland has announced.

The government agency will work with BEAR Scotland to clear the roadside of vegetation and begin filling deep ditches to improve the verge surface.

Warning signs, double yellow markings and the direction signs at Sleat Road Junction will be reviewed. New priority signs at two bridges will be considered and speed surveys will be carried out.

But Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson said a walkway for pedestrians is the main priority.

He said: 'I am pleased that following the public meeting in March that Transport Scotland has undertaken to carry out a good number of improvements which will help improve safety for pedestrians and drivers on the A87.'

'I have also written to the transport minister [Keith Brown] to make the case for funding which would deliver a walkway along the side of the A87.'

He added: 'This is the main road through Skye and is frequently used by tourists who are not familiar with the local geography. It is important we ensure the area is safe for those walking at the side of the road.'

Argyll youth unemployment figure falls

YOUTH unemployment in Argyll is falling, according to new figures released by the Office for National Statistics.

Unemployment figures for those aged between 16 and 24 has reduced by 11 per cent compared to last year. The number of people in this age group claiming unemployment benefit fell to 485.

Angela Constance, minister for youth unemployment, said: 'Supporting more young people into jobs is a top priority for the Scottish Government. We are working hard to improve the employment options available and these very positive figures from Argyll and Bute demonstrate that our work and that of local authorities is producing results.'

Campbells centre stage at Lochcarron charity ceilidh

MULTI AWARD-winning family's trademark puit-à-beul, or mouth music.

Book publishers Acair will be making a journey from Stornoway especially for the occasion, and the family's record label Watercolour Music will also be coming up from Lochaber.

Tea and home baking will be available at the free ceilidh and a

raffle and collection will be held in aid of the Highland Malawi Trust, which supports projects working with people whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS and for the local Howard Doris Centre.

The family will be singing some new material destined for a new album being recorded this summer and songs and puit

from their debut album Fonn. Singer Mary Ann Kennedy said: 'It's going to be a great opportunity for us to meet friends and family and hopefully to introduce some new folk to our music. It's a bonus to have the virtuoso American step-dancer Nic Gareiss with us and there will be a couple of wee surprises in store as well.'



The Campbells of Greepe will be singing at Lochcarron.

Dunbeg man fined after threat to kill neighbours

A DUNBEG man who threatened to kill his neighbours has been fined £650.

Ian Hendry, 47, of 64 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, denied the offences but was found guilty by Sheriff John Herald after a trial in March. He appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday for sentencing.

The court heard Hendry had motioned for his victim to come

out into his back garden during the incident on January 26.

'I opened the back door and all hell broke loose,' said the victim.

'He went completely nuts and said he was going to kill me and my family.'

Sheriff Herald fined Hendry £500 for his threatening behaviour and a further £150 for damaging his neighbour's door.

Two bottles of whisky salvaged from the shipwreck that inspired the tale of *Whisky Galore* have sold at auction for more than £12,000.

The rare pair were put up for auction online on Sunday night by the widow of a Fraserburgh man. The bottles had been part of the cargo on the *SS Politician*, an 8,000 tonne ship which sank off Eriskay in 1941.

The *Politician* was a cargo ship owned by T and J Harrison of Liverpool. She left Liverpool on February 3 1941, bound for Kingston, Jamaica, and New Orleans with a cargo including 28,000 cases of malt whisky. However, she ran into storms and sank near the Outer Hebridean island of Eriskay. Much of the wreck's precious cargo was salvaged by islanders and the story of the wreck and looting was the basis for Compton Mackenzie's famous book and subsequent film *Whisky Galore!*

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Historic Book of Kells to come to Oban in June

OBAN and Iona will welcome a delegation from Ireland this June after the Mayor of Kells agreed to travel over with the Book of Kells as part of the St Columba celebrations.

The 20-strong delegation from County Meath, led by the Mayor of Kells, will be in the area between June 7 and 10 at the invite of Oban Community Council to help commemorate

the 1,450th anniversary of the arrival of St Columba to the shores of Scotland. Hile missing the main celebrations, the delegation will take part in a special service at St Columba's Church,

while joining a pilgrimage to Iona on Monday, June 10. Councillors Duncan MacIntyre and Roddy McCuish have been working with the community council to help bring

the delegation to the town, and have congratulated them on their efforts so far. Duncan said: 'There's about 20 likely to come. This is a tremendous opportunity for the

community council and Oban as a whole.' Chairwoman, Marri Molloy, said: 'It's very exciting news and it will be great to welcome them to Oban.'

Fraud to gain late bar licence ends in £2,500 fine

THE FORMER manager of an Oban public house has been fined £2,500 after being found guilty of fraud to obtain a late licence.

Elizabeth Callander, also known as Elaine Cameron, the 60-year-old former manager of Papparazzi, was found guilty of fraudulently obtaining an extension to the opening hours at the licensed premises by pretending to an employee of Argyll and Bute Council that the venue was hosting a wedding reception on March 26, 2010.

Before fining her last Friday Sheriff Douglas Small asked for a summary of her finances from defence agent Sandy Mitchell.

The court heard Callander owed over £120,000 on credit cards and had two properties up for sale as well as posting a £6,271 profit over the course of a year from the guesthouses she owns in Oban, which she also claimed £49,000 of expenses from.

Mr Mitchell said: 'Her problem certainly is one of illiquidity but she will be able to prioritise a financial penalty.'

Callander, of Arbour Guesthouse, Oban, has previous convictions for fraud including providing a false date of birth on her passport.

Sheriff Small said: 'I'm prepared to deal with you by way of a fine but it will be a substantial one to reflect the seriousness with which this type of offence has to be regarded.'

Six months in jail for 'persistent' offender

AN OBAN man has been sent to jail for six months as a catalogue of offences finally caught up with him.

Struin Doull, 23, of 7c Miller Road, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday where Sheriff John Herald told him: 'In the short time I have been in this town it is quite clear to me you are a persistent nuisance.'

Doull will have his sentence backdated to March 1 when he was taken into custody for an assault charge.

His six months behind bars is for assaulting a teenage girl while shouting and swearing at her, placing his ex-partner and then three-year-old daughter in fear and alarm and causing £1,231 worth of damage to the car of his ex's new partner.

Defence agent Laura McManus said Doull had gone through a 'number of significant unfortunate events'. She added: 'He is exceptionally sorry that he caused distress to his ex-partner and his daughter.'

NTS in Argyll has new chairman

THERE is a new chairman of the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) in Argyll.

Mike Hawke took over the role from Jenny McEvoy at the AGM of the Argyll Members' Group of the NTS, held on April 29 in Connel.

The meeting heard positive reports from the chairman, treasurer and membership secretary, who all endorsed the current drive to encourage new members. Other committee changes include Stafford Day as new secretary.

Following the AGM members heard an illustrated talk by the award winning Sir Richard Balharry on Scottish wildlife and habitats.

Tobermory to host street party

A STREET party is to be held in Tobermory to mark the 40th anniversary of the company which runs the town's sheltered housing.

Trust Housing Association, which was established in 1973 as Kirk Care Housing Association, runs Glen Iosal on Breadalbane Street. It provides homes and services to promote independent living among its residents.

The association is holding celebrations from May to August involving as many tenants as possible in more than 60 developments. There will be stalls, music and afternoon tea and the event will be assisted by the local guides - any funds made on the day will be donated to help towards building a new hall.



Richard Massey, 24, originally from Appin, received the Rising Star Young Chef Special Award at the recent Scottish Hotel Awards. Richard now works at the Toravaig House Hotel on the Isle of Skye.

Young chef from Appin is rising star

Former Oban High School pupil gains prestigious recognition at the 2013 Scottish Hotel Awards

ONLY three weeks into managing his first kitchen, Appin's Richard Massey has been named as one of Scotland's most promising chefs.

Richard, 24, had only just taken charge of the kitchen at the Toravaig House Hotel on the Isle of Skye when judges for the Scottish Hotel Awards visited to assess the hotel's credentials as a potential award winner.

Richard, who until then had been sous chef at the company's sister hotel, the Duisdale House Hotel, could have been forgiven for being daunted by the challenge, but instead produced a meal so impressive he was named the Rising Star Young

Chef for 2013. He said: 'I've been here for two months now and I'd just been in the job three weeks when the judges came. It's my first award in my first job as head chef. It's great.'

The former Oban High School and Strath of Appin Primary pupil has had a good grounding, having worked under some of Scotland's top chefs.

Richard, who until then had been sous chef at the company's sister hotel, the Duisdale House Hotel, could have been forgiven for being daunted by the challenge, but instead produced a meal so impressive he was named the Rising Star Young

by what he was doing I thought, I want to do this. 'He used local ingredients and that's what I try to do as well.'

His previous employers include Inverloch Castle, the Glenapp Hotel and Kinloch House - all award winners at this year's awards.

He added: 'I'm now looking to gain three AA rosettes here for our food. 'I was with the Glenapp when it retained its Michelin Star and was at the Glenloch when it was the long run, that's the direction I'll be pushing for.'

For more on the Scottish Hotel Awards see page 18.

Oban hospital reception to change

VISITORS to hospital in Oban will soon no longer be greeted by healthcare staff but instead by WRVS volunteers, according to NHS bosses.

The current reception service is to be replaced by a WRVS meet and greet and a separate 'booking office' where patients can be admitted.

Hospital staff are not happy about the plans to remove the current reception, with one telling *The Oban Times*: 'It is not for the good.'

It is understood that despite a £60,000 investment which equates to four extra staff in the department the hospital are to make use of volunteers from June 1. The volunteers would not have access to patient records - a member of NHS staff would be called to help with those queries. NHS Highland have confirmed a receptionist will be available out of hours, with the usual doorbell system in place.

Veronica Kennedy, acting locality manager for Oban, Lorn and Isles, said: 'The change to the reception area at Lorn and Islands Hospital is part of redesign work in medical records which has been on going for a year.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by FAITH ORR forr@obantimes.co.uk

'There has been considerable investment in this service and includes an increase in staffing.

'The front reception will be manned by volunteers from WRVS and NHS Highland staff will man the booking office.

'This will provide a more confidential service and will allow details to be taken in private where they can't be heard by passers-by.'

But Roddy McCuish, deputy leader of Argyll and Bute Council, told *The Oban Times* he was 'disappointed' to hear this.

He said: 'This is something I would expect to come to the community planning partnership (CPP) before any decisions were made. After all, that is what the CPP is all about - sharing information and consultation before any such decisions are made.'

WRVS could not be reached for comment as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Island primary school head teacher leaves Iona

THE WELL loved head teacher of an island primary school is retiring after almost 13 years in the job.

Liz Kennedy, head teacher of Iona Primary School, will be stepping down at the end of the school year, and islanders are desperate to find a worthy replacement.

A Facebook appeal was sent out and has been shared over 1,000 times by people from around the world.

Mrs Kennedy told *The Oban Times* leaving the school was the hardest decision she has ever made.

She said: 'It is a big venture to leave here. It is not just a job, it is a community here. You are

involved in everything.'

Excellent teacher

Eilidh Poynter, chairwoman of the parent council, added: 'We are sorry to see Mrs Kennedy retire as she has been a very dedicated and excellent teacher. We wish her a very long and happy retirement.'

Mrs Kennedy now plans to move back to Campbeltown and is hoping to renew her links with Africa. 'I'm just going to take it nice and easy for a couple of months,' she said.

Whoever takes over will be handling an increased school roll, up to 13 pupils next year compared to the current eight. The closing date for applications is May 17.

Lorn Lines

THE MULTIPLE Sclerosis Therapy Centre recently organised its annual 'flag week' where volunteers, armed with their collecting cans, knocked on doors in Oban and the surrounding area and raised £517.

Volunteers also collected £779 during the two collection days in Tesco's Oban store. Many thanks go to Tesco and their staff for their assistance at that time.

The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Oban would like to thank the public for giving so generously and also the volunteers who gave up their time and made the effort to help raise funds for the therapy centre which offers oxygen therapy treatment to aid MS and other conditions

□ □ □

JIM McColl from the BBC's Beechgrove Garden was filming at two local National Trust for Scotland gardens last week.

Both Arduaine and Craae gardens will feature on the programme later in the month.

In spite of the cold wet weather both gardens are full of life and colour and coming into their spring prime, albeit slightly later than usual.

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A cheque was presented to Marjorie Milton of the Friends of Oban Hospice by Noah Demooey and Catriona Cain who were part of an XL Group in Oban High School who raised the money through various activities, including a charity soup and sandwich lunch for staff at the school, while doing their XL course.

□ □ □

AN OBAN woman is raising money to protect children in Africa from malaria through the purchase of mosquito nets.

Kate Turner is asking everyone to put £1 in a coffee cup whenever they go out for a drink or a meal. A total of £5 buys, delivers and hangs up a mosquito net.

The idea of the scheme is that a network of friends will help buy mosquito nets dubbed coffee nets as they are purchased from people's goodwill when having a coffee.

Once the money is collected it can be donated by visiting www.justgiving.com/Kate-Turner4 until October when it will be sent to Ghana, Botswana or Namibia in the form of mosquito nets through the charity Malaria No More.

□ □ □



Pupils experiment with the forces of magnetism when Edinburgh International Science Festival's Generation Science visited Achaleven Primary School.

MAGNETS and their mysterious powers proved an attractive and repellent force in equal force at a science day for pupils at Achaleven and Dunbeg last week.

Edinburgh International Science Festival's Generation Science team brought their Marvellous Magnets workshop to Achaleven Primary on Friday, for the school's own P1/P4 and Dunbeg's P1/P2 pupils.

The classes learned all about magnetic attraction and repulsion, fields and poles and explored what effect magnets have on the world around us.

A spokesperson for the school said: 'Thank you to The Robertson Trust who subsidised this, making this fantastic workshop accessible for us.'



Heavy rain and strong winds failed to deter these sponsored cyclists on Mull at the weekend

Cyclists boost Help for Heroes in memory of Robbie

MORE THAN £1,000 has been raised in memory of fallen soldier Robert 'Robbie' McLaren from the Isle of Mull.

A 60-mile cycle ride was completed by 19 of his friends last Saturday in aid of Help for Heroes.

The group went ahead with the sponsored ride despite heavy rain and strong winds and finished the course in between three and seven hours.

Supporter and local councillor, Alistair MacDougall, said: 'Every

year since Robbie lost his life in Afghanistan they have rallied together as his friends miss him a lot in the community.

'On Saturday well over £1,000 was raised and the total so far over the four years is over £4,000.'

Robbie was laid to rest in June 2009, in Suie Cemetery, Bunnassan, during one of the biggest funerals the island has ever seen.

He lost his life in Afghanistan, after being in the country for only four weeks.

Oban to feature in top television programme

OBAN is to feature in a hit television series which tells the stories of places around the United Kingdom.

'Hidden stories' 'Town' with Nicholas Crane, which airs on BBC Two, is taking a look at the 'hidden stories' of Oban in the first episode of the new series which is showing on May 21.

Mr Crane said: 'Towns are the lifeblood of the British Isles, they are communities of the future. Smaller than a city, more intimate, much greener, towns are where we first learned to be urban.

'They are the critical link between city and village, the centre ground, where scale works and community counts. The story of towns is over two thousand years old; it has shaped our lives, our country and our lands.'

The Oban episode will explore Dunollie House, Oban Distillery, artist JoLoMo and Glensanda, Europe's largest granite quarry, as well as looking at Oban's role in the Cold War.

Oban's 1st Steps Day Nursery

FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday 11th May 2013 12-3pm
at First Steps Nursery, Croft Road, Oban
to celebrate our 14th Birthday Party

Bouncy Castle, Refreshments, Tombola, Name the Dolly, Guess number of Sweeties in Jar, Circus Entertainer, Animal Balloons, Show by Ballet West, Musical Performances from local children.

All Welcome, Entrance fee at gate
See our website for more information
www.firststepsoban.co.uk

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Morvern Lines

FOR CENTURIES the Sound of Mull has been a busy and important seaway.

Ships of all sizes and nationalities from dugout canoes to the *Ark Royal* have sailed on it. Before she was decommissioned in 1997 the Royal Yacht *Britannia* and her naval escort used to pass through on the royal family's annual cruise of the Western Isles.

For the past two weeks residents and visitors to Morvern have enjoyed a grandstand view of many of the armed forces' ships taking part in one of the largest military exercises in Europe.

Exercise Joint Warrior, involving more than 40 warships and 12,000 personnel from the UK, the Netherlands, Canada, France, Denmark, Belgium, Norway, Poland,



One of the Visby class 'stealth' warships spotted off Morvern.

Sweden and Germany, have been training off the west coast of Scotland.

Of particular interest was a Norwegian submarine passing a few cables length from the Morvern shore with some of the crew on the conning tower waving to passing yachts.

So too was the spectacle of one of the new Visby class vessels which are amongst the world's first, fully operational, stealth warships more or less invisible to radar.

ANOTHER welcome vessel in the Sound recently was the *Wilson Goole* which docked at the Lochaline Quartz Sand Company's pier inside Loch Aline to take onboard 3,112 tonnes of silica sand - the largest shipment so far since the mine re-opened last year.

The MV *Wilson Goole* was built in 1995 and sails under a Maltese flag. Her gross tonnage is 2,446. She is 88m long with a 13m beam and her draught is 5.5m. She is owned by Wilson Eurocarriers, Bergen, Norway.

The Lochaline mine currently employs nine full and three part time staff and since it came back into production, has delivered approximately 40,000 tonnes of sand to Runcorn on the River Mersey for NSG/Pilkington for their Optiwhite product. Pilkington Optiwhite is a low iron, extra clear, float glass with a very high light transmission.

Used in architecture and design, Optiwhite is practically colourless and ideal for exterior or interior glazing, furniture and a wide range of other products including conservatories and a variety of solar technologies.

THE NEW £3 million Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) pier near Pennygowan on Mull is more or less on schedule for completion in late August this year.

The locally-based company, TSL Constrictors Ltd, have been carrying out most of the work.

It has been estimated that the new pier will save on at least 800,000 lorry miles each year which should prevent further damage to the fragile single-track, Lochaline-Carnoch Bridge road and relieve congestion at the Corran Ferry.

Some years ago FCS made a timber loading facility near Savary on the Sound of Mull from which it was intended to export all of Morvern's timber. Because the design engineers failed to appreciate the exposed nature of the site and take into account a nearby reef, the project was a costly and useless exercise ending before it had begun. Perhaps when FCS finally decide to construct their proposed new hydroelectric schemes in Morvern, they will plough the profits from them into another pier for the benefit of the whole area instead of donating a few pounds to some unwanted community project.

WHEN LOCAL government was re-organised in the 1970s, Fort William replaced Oban as Morvern's market-town.

It was a novelty to begin with to jump in a car and shop without worrying whether the Oban-Lochaline ferry was going to call or not. It was also a time when Fort William's high street was a busy thoroughfare with a cinema, tailors, shoe and hardware shops and several other upmarket outlets.

Now, because of a dearth of every day services, Fort William's High Street is in terminal decline resembling a crumbling, highland mansion with the laird lying upstairs in bed - dead for the past 50 years! When small ghost towns are mentioned in America today the talk is about architectural euthanasia and bulldozing them down. Is this the fate in store for Fort William's once thriving High Street?

Iain Thornber.

Barralive announces line up for island festival

BARRALIVE will welcome Wolfstone, Face the West, Skerryvore and the Watersay Boys, among others, at this year's festival.

Organised by Feis Bharraigh, the event has this year enlisted the help of Neil Morrison from Macgochans, Tobermory, to oversee the event. Neil, an organiser of Mull Music Festival and licensee at Tiree Music

Festival, said: 'Barra is a magical island and it deserves the best festival possible. 'The more tourism we can create for this weekend, the more we can promote the island and drive the local economy. 'It is essential we do not lose what Barralive has become but we also have to grow this event and enable it to be a success as a money raising event for the

progress of Gaelic and traditional music in our islands.' Held over two days at Tangasdale Machair, the community festival raises funds to support Feis Bharraigh's children's activities in traditional music tuition.

There are numerous volunteers who give up their time and expertise throughout the year to help make the event a success.

Neil said: 'Feis Bharraigh is very grateful for the help offered by the local community. 'There is an amazing atmosphere at Barralive and this is in part due to our wonderful volunteers, musicians and, of course, our special island location and culture. In Barra last year, a total of 125 children between the ages of four and 16 took part in the week-long

festival with tuition in Gaelic song, fiddle, pipes, accordion, Gaelic drama, art, shinty, highland dance, step dance, clarsach and group work, with many of the classes being taught through the medium of Gaelic.' Barralive Music on the Edge will be held on July 26 and 27. For tickets and more information, see www.macgochans-tobermory.co.uk.

Appin gains £60,000 for Jubilee Bridge upgrade

MORE than £60,000 has been awarded to Appin Community Council by sportsotland to help them upgrade the Jubilee Bridge.

The cash was part of a round of funding from the sport body as part of a Scottish Government initiative to provide a legacy from the Commonwealth Games.

Mike Rayworth applied for the funds on behalf of the community council to restore the bridge, built in 1888.

He said: 'The bridge is in a very, very poor state of repair. It is currently closed as some of the beams have been breaking.

'They have lasted 25 years but we are replacing the bridge beams, deck boards and parapet with Greenheart timber.

'We are attempting to make the bridge last for a very, very long time.'

He added: 'It has been closed for two or three weeks as a beam broke at one end.

'We felt we had no option to close the bridge on safety grounds so we have got this grant through just in time.

'The bridge was opened in 1888 to commemorate the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria. It is an iconic part of Appin village - it would be a huge loss if it went.'

Despite receiving £66,147, the community council is still fundraising towards the £150,000 cost of fixing the bridge. Work will start by July 31 at the latest and will be completed by the end of the year.

All charges dropped in North Lorn rape case

A NORTH Connell man accused of rape has had all charges dropped by the prosecution.

James Stephen, 27, was alleged to have attacked a woman on several instances, including in Oban and Kilmore, between February 2004 and October 2007.

He was also accused of raping the woman while she was pregnant in July 2011 and of two further sexual assaults against her. He will not face any further court action on any of the charges, including being accused of raping another woman in Oban in 2008.

Oban stylist in running for top award

A STYLIST at Oban hair salon Rutherford's is in the running to be named one of the UK's finest.

Allan McKechnie will be one of 20 Scottish stylists to travel to Edinburgh next week for the regional heats of the Wella Trend Vision competition. Three will be selected to compete at the UK finals in London - and could be selected to compete at the world finals in Frankfurt in the autumn.



Health staff receive long service awards

MORE than a dozen members of health service staff received long service awards in Oban to mark the length of time they have dedicated to supporting health care in Argyll.

Robin Creelman, chairman of Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership, said: 'I would like to thank all of our staff across Argyll and Bute for their hard work and

commitment to delivering local health services that we can be proud of.

'I was especially pleased to have the opportunity to present a number of these staff with an

award to mark their many years of service to the NHS. They do a great job for their local communities and I was really delighted to be able to recognise them for their achievement.'

Appeal to be lodged over Killin pharmacy approval

Decision by NHS Forth Valley 'totally ignores the will of the majority of the people in our remote communities'

AN APPEAL is to be lodged after NHS Forth Valley approved plans to establish a new pharmacy in Killin - a move that could cost the village a GP.

Health board bosses have approved an application from Davidson's the Chemist to open a shop in the village despite a 900-strong petition objection to the plan.

Currently, prescription drugs are dispensed from the local surgery's own dispensary, which supports one of the three GPs employed there.

However, rules state that once a dedicated pharmacist is open in the locality, the GP surgery can no longer operate its dispensary.

While based in Killin, the surgery serves the wider Strathfillan and Balquhider areas, a patch of 300 square miles.

Dr David Syme, a partner at Killin Medical Practice, accused the health board of being selective over which Scottish Government directives to follow when making its decision.

He said: 'Of course we are

disappointed with the decision, which flies in the face of strongly expressed local opinion, contrary to what the Scottish Government intended when they changed the rules with regard to Pharmacy and Dispensing practice in 2012. We feel the committee has misunderstood that intention and will be appealing on that basis.

'We have had lots of expressions of support from our patients and the local community who realise that the loss of dispensing income will inevitably mean a reduction in

doctor time and the services we are able to provide.'

The appeal will also focus on the company's alleged failure to advertise their plans for 20 consecutive days.

The decision has prompted anger in the community, who have accused NHS Forth Valley of ignoring their wishes.

John Riley, chairman of Strathfillan Community Council, said: 'I'm experiencing deep frustration about the approval of this application which totally ignores the will of

the majority of the people in our remote communities. How can we regard ourselves as living in a democracy when a remote faceless committee can ignore us and our elected representatives and carry on regardless?'

In a letter to Mr Riley, Bruce Crawford MSP said: 'I will be contacting those who have a right of appeal against the decision to encourage them to make representations to the health board by the cut off date of May 14.'

A spokesperson for NHS Forth

Valley said: 'We are aware of local concerns, however, all decisions for new pharmacy applications in Scotland are governed by national pharmacy regulations.'

'It is Scottish Government policy to ensure, as far as possible, that local communities have access to the full range of pharmaceutical services available at a community pharmacy. There is an appeals process and those eligible to appeal the decision have been advised of the process and timescales.'

Special badges awarded to Oban Beavers

FOUR Oban Beaver Scouts have been awarded a special badge and certificate signed by the famous chief scout.

Leigha Low, Heather Dickie, David Cameron and Lewis Macdonald, pictured right, received the Chief Scout Bronze Award and certificate signed by Bear Grylls as well as a special badge for their uniform. This award is given once a beaver scout has earned all five of the challenge badges and is 'quite an honour', according to scouting leaders.

Leader Elisabeth Stevenson, also pictured right, said: 'The 1st Lorn (Argyll) Scout group is extremely proud of these four and their achievement.

'Scouting is about everyday adventure. 'It offers hundreds of different activities to girls and boys, indoors and outdoors, both creative and adventurous for everyone and at every level.'

Boys and girls aged six or seven can become a beaver scout. Beavers 'swim up' to cubs to continue on their path through Scouting.



Oban Sheriff Court

Oban man accused of police assault

AN OBAN man accused of assaulting a female police officer by kicking her on the body will face trial on July 7.

Richard Halcrow, 19, of Aithernie, Nursery Lane, Oban, denies all charges against him, including challenging police officers to fight, resisting handcuffs and pushing and pulling another officer by his body armour during an incident last December 28 on George Street. Halcrow will appear again on June 25.

Three-year driving ban and work order

AN OBAN man has been ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work within a 12-month community payback order after drink driving twice while on bail.

John McKay, 39, of 18 Nelson Road, Oban, was also banned from getting behind the wheel for three years by Sheriff John Herald.

McKay had previously admitted the offences with sentencing deferred for background reports - which defence agent Edward Thornton said were 'positive'. He added: 'He has taken on board the fact he has a serious problem.'

Sentence deferred on heroin charge

AN OBAN man is awaiting sentence after he pled guilty to possessing

heroin by letter to Oban Sheriff Court. Iain Cruikshanks, 26, of 8b Mossfield Avenue, Oban, had his sentence deferred until May 28 for the preparation of background reports and for him to be in court in person.

Pub punch lands man in court

PUNCHING a man on his head while in an Oban pub landed a Soroba man in Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Paul Kerr, 29, of 34c McCaig Road, Soroba, Oban, admitted the assault, which took place on January 13.

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

Fine and ban for drink driving

BEING behind the wheel while more than twice the legal drink drive limit landed an Oban man with a £350 fine and a year-long driving ban.

Jonathan Coffey, 29, of 6d Longsdale Crescent, Oban, admitted driving with 77mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court. The legal limit is 35mcg.

Oban man admits sexual threat text

AN OBAN man who sent a message threatening to sexually assault the wife and daughter of his recipient will be sentenced on June 25 at Oban Sheriff Court.

Steven MacLeod, 27, of 8 Hazeldean

Crescent, Oban, pled guilty to sending the message, in which he also swore at the man and made further remarks of an offensive and sexual nature.

Man ordered to do unpaid work after assault

AN OBAN resident who assaulted a woman and a nine-year-old boy has been ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work.

Pawel Kuznicki, 34, of 111F George Street, Oban, will also be supervised for two years as part of his community payback order, imposed by Sheriff John Herald at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday.

Kuznicki previously admitted all offences including placing the pair in fear for their safety, breaking a bail condition by going to their home and struggling with officers who tried to remove him.

Woman who slapped ex fined £200

A WOMAN who slapped the face of her ex-boyfriend in an Oban pub has been fined £200 for the offence.

Andrea Hendry, 24, of 12 Macdougall Court, Oban, previously pled guilty to assaulting the man and shouting and swearing.

She appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday for sentencing.

Defending, Laura McManus told the court Hendry accepted her behaviour was 'entirely inappropriate'.

DISCOVER SCOTLAND'S WILDLIFE

SCOTLAND'S BIG 5

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the red squirrel.

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the red deer.

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the harbour seal.

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the otter.

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Year of Natural Scotland 2013

Islay to commemorate island bard with unique performance

Community musical sees 140 musicians unite in common cause

A COMMUNITY musical event featuring more than 140 musicians from the Isle of Islay will take place at the end of the month to commemorate the island bard.

Blàr, which will take place in Bowmore on May 30, is dubbed a 'unique performance of a community musical event' to celebrate Islay bard William Livingstone.

The musicians will perform new Gaelic music composed by Clare Jordan from Oban who now lives on the island.

The new pieces are based on a Gaelic poem by Mr Livingstone that tells the story of the infamous Battle of Gruinart, which took place on Islay in 1598.

Clare said: 'Last year Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile asked me to compose a suite of three songs

with words from William Livingstone's poem Blàr Traigh Ghruinart.

'I wasn't familiar with Livingstone's poetry when I started but I became fascinated by this forgotten masterpiece.

'The Battle of Gruinart was the last clan war fought on Islay and behind Livingstone's bloody, brutal depictions of 16th century Scottish warfare is the

tragic story of two families, the MacDonalDs of Islay and the MacLeans of Mull, torn apart over ownership of Islay lands.'

Iseabail Mactaggart, Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile's conductor, added: 'This is a thrilling event to have produced.

'The three songs Clare composed for the choir are wonderful and linking them together with new instrumental passages

has produced a really stunning new work.

'Bringing 140 performers together has been a considerable challenge but it has brought together people from all age groups with different musical interests and from all corners of Islay, uniting them in a common cause.

'This is truly a community arts event and Islay has never before

seen anything on this scale and of this ambition.'

Every musical group on the island will take part in the performance including the traditional instrumentalists from Feis Oigridh, the island brass band, all the Gaelic choirs and Islay Pipe Band.

A single performance of Blàr will take place at Bowmore Hall, Islay, on May 30 at 7.30pm.



Coigach Community Development Company decided not to buy the island because of commitments to other projects.

Summer Isles' island goes on the market

THE ONLY inhabited island in the Summer Isles off Ullapool has been put on the market for £2.5million.

Ecology and wildlife

The 800-acre Tanera Mòr has been owned since 1996 by the Wilder family, who sold their

Wiltshire dairy farm to make the move.

The island is currently managed by Mr Wilder's daughter Lizzie and her husband Richard Williams.

The couple run a successful tourism business based around

Tanera Mòr's ecology and wildlife.

The Wilder family held talks the local community on a possible sale before offering it on the open market but Coigach Community Development Company decided not to pro-

ceed because of commitments to other projects.

Mrs Williams said: 'We hope that whoever owns the island in the future will enjoy the same warm and co-operative relationship with the community that we have for the past 17 years.'

Dunbeg could be business base

Community council hears possible small business park would be attractive option

A NEW industrial estate at the Dunbeg side of Oban would reduce traffic in the town and be 'highly valuable' for businesses, a community councillor has claimed.

Speaking during a discussion on the proposed Dunbeg roundabout, Oban community councillor Duncan Martin said a mixed-use area proposed in the area would be an ideal business park and reduce congestion in the town.

Mr Martin said: 'There is a mixed use site and I think there would be even more benefit in having that site used for small businesses to have a workshop there. I think a small business unit there would go like hot cakes.'

'It would save people having to go all the way through town just to get to the workshop and there would be an attractive option for new business too.'

'I think it would be very popular.'

Mr Martin said funding such a project should be part of Oban's TIF bid.

New jobs

Gwyneth Neal, chairwoman of Dunbeg Community Council said it would be a great way to provide new jobs for the area and encourage new, smaller businesses.

'It might be a very good thing,' she said. 'I think we are short of a lot of things we need for this area and an area like that might help.'

'It could help encourage different kinds of business and maybe encourage other people to think about small businesses.'

'The problem with this area is it is so far away from everything else, but it can work both ways, especially if it provides something the area needs.'

'It'd be ideal for small businesses such as catering, for example. If it was to work the units would have to be let at a reasonable price though as cost is an issue.'

'But they would have to do their research about who is going in - we wouldn't want it to become a white elephant.'

Meanwhile, local councillor Roddy McCuish says he has had a 'mixed reaction' to news that Premier Inn has renewed its interest in coming to Oban.

He told Oban Community Council: 'If a company of that calibre wants to come to Oban obviously we're doing something right.'

Shinty steps back in time with re-enactment of first Badenoch and Brae Lochaber game

IT WILL BE 'the clash of the ash' with a difference at The Eilan in Newtonmore next Sunday, May 19, when Badenoch and Brae Lochaber re-enact their first meeting back in 1889.

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Both teams will take the field dressed in period kit while spectators are encouraged to come suitably attired in Victorian costume, tartan or tweeds.

Landmark project

The game, a replay of the teams' 16-a-side 0 - 0 draw 124 years ago, is being staged to celebrate the completion of a two-year project on the history of shinty.

Match organiser, Ian Gibson of Newtonmore Camanachd, secured funding for the landmark project and devoted countless hours to uncovering material dating back to the very beginnings of the game.

A book of CDs was produced together with an exhibition of shinty memorabilia, which is on display in the former Boleskine Shinty Club pavilion at the Highland Folk Museum near Newtonmore.

The pavilion had stood at Foyers on Loch Ness since its construction in 1930 and was threatened with demolition.

Aware that such buildings were become a rarity, the museum transported it to Newtonmore, where it was carefully re-as-

sembled and restored.

It was originally envisaged to record the entire history of shinty since the sport's inception, but such was the amount of material generated that only the period from 1747 to 1939 is covered.

For Mr Gibson it has been a real labour of love - and he had no idea of the amount of work involved.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We have collected material from shinty as a folk pastime supported by landowners to the beginnings of it as an organised sport in the 1870s when shinty was codified under the Camanachd Association.'

'The majority of records are about Newtonmore and Kingussie, but by the 1890s virtually every village had a shinty team.'

The match day programme on May 19 begins at 2pm with the teams being piped from Newtonmore Grill to the Eilan. After team photos, local primary school children will give a Gaelic call to shinty ahead of the 2.30pm throw-up.

Each team will have a squad of 20 with rolling subs throughout the game, which will have no offside rule.

Complimentary coffee, tea, juice, bread, cheese and outcakes will be available on the day.



Ready for the re-enactment of a famous game, Christopher Sellar in the traditional blue Badenoch top and Rory Kennedy in the raspberry colours of Brae Lochaber will be among the players that line-up at The Eilan, Newtonmore, on May 19.

Choralist gets on his bike in sponsored cycle across Malawi

A MEMBER of Còisir Ceann an Tuirc (Argyll Male Voice Choir) is getting on his bike for a 300-mile sponsored cycle across Malawi.

Alistair Watt, an elder at John Knox Church in Stewarton, is heading to Malawi today (Thursday) to raise funds to support Mulanje Mission Hospital.

This is the third time Mr Watt has undertaken the ride and will also be taking 'fish and chip' jumpers knitted by ladies in the Oban area out with him to provide clothing for babies to travel home from hospital in - rather than newspapers.

Mr Watt will be cycling 300 miles in five days during his journey and is aiming to raise £3,000. Donations can be made at mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/alistairwatt2.

Glenbrittle picks up super speed with new broadband links

A REMOTE beauty spot below the Cuillin mountains has become one of the fastest places in the UK to surf the internet.

Glenbrittle Campsite had no mobile coverage, no ADSL broadband availability, no wi-fi and no internet connectivity.

But now climbers and the local community have a superfast 24mb download/5mb upload service to connect them to the world after Skye firm Highland Wi-Fi installed satellite broadband and wireless infrastructure.

Janet Clarke, executive director campsite owners of MacLeod Estates said: 'Many of our campers relish the remoteness of our camp site, but it can be frustrating for the wardens who need real-time information to function efficiently down there.'

Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant said: 'It is good to see communities such as Glenbrittle leading the way.'

Jura's search for youngsters for oral history project

JURA Lives, the island's oral history project, is looking for keen youngsters to get involved in work experience over the summer.

Jura children over the age of 12 can gain experience in an office or recording studio environment while taking steps towards gaining a Saltire Award, a Scottish Government scheme to reward volunteering. They will also receive acknowledgement on the CD produced to coincide with the island's digital archive of memories and stories.

The project can also offer paid work

experience to recent graduates or current students for up to three months through the 'Adopt an Intern' scheme.

Jane Carswell, project officer, said: 'The archive will just be like an audio library managed by a database. While all today's students are used to handling fair quantities of digital information, those studying history or records management or music technology should find working with us on the archive particularly interesting.'

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

WILD LOCHABER FESTIVAL

18th-25th May

- Guided Walks • Wildlife Safaris • Talks
- Rock Safaris • Boat Trips • Photography Competition
- See "Scotland's Big 5" and lots more

www.outdoorcapital.co.uk/wildlochaber

Visit Scotland Year of Natural Scotland 2013

Unique Licensed Restaurant Opportunity in Argyll



A popular holiday destination in Argyll is on the hunt for a new operator for its famous restaurant 'The Shower of Herring' to further enhance the already top quality facilities on offer there. Melfort Village, near Oban, provides self-catering and timeshare accommodation in 32 holiday cottages along with a variety of indoor and outdoor leisure facilities.

As the central attraction within this idyllic retreat, the 40-cover restaurant enjoys a coveted reputation for a warm welcome matched with high quality locally sourced fare. The Building itself includes a bar area with seating for a further 20 people, and an external balcony which seats 16. Christine Roberts, manager of Melfort Village, comments: 'The restaurant has enjoyed a reputation for using the finest Scottish produce and prides itself on providing carefully sourced and delicious food. Melfort Village recently received a Green Tourism gold award from Visit Scotland, and ideally we are looking for a husband and wife team or similar partnership who can continue to develop this area of the business.'

KEY FEATURES:

- Licensed for over 100 occupants
- Attracting both local and tourist trade all year round
- Over 50 self catering cottages within 3 mile radius
- Ideal location close to Loch Melfort
- Off-sales service
- Kitchen includes separate prep area and walk-in cold store

The Shower of Herring is available for lease from November 1 2013. Call Christine Roberts on 01852 200257, or visit www.melfortvillage.co.uk/shower-herring.htm for more information.

Mull Lines

MORE than £1,000 was raised at last weekend's community fire station open day in Tobermory, which had a special guest in attendance.

Watch commander Willie Hume welcomed area commander Paul Connelly to the fire station's annual open day on Sunday May 5.

Mr Connelly is the most senior officer in charge of the newly formed division of Argyll and Bute, East and West Dunbartonshire, when the new Scottish Fire and Rescue service went live on April 1.

The new division is one of the largest of the 17 local senior officer divisions and has a total of 45 stations, with around 750 personnel.

Mr Connelly, and a team of group commanders and station commanders, has the responsibility for looking after a population of more than 284,000 people over a geography of more than 7200Km2, including 13 islands.

Mr Hume said: 'All the station personnel would like to thank him for coming from the division's new headquarters in Clydebank as he is a very busy man to say the least.'

'The station would also like to say a huge thanks to all the hotels, guest houses, shops and individuals who gave so generously and, of course, everyone who turned up on the day. Your continued support is fantastic.'

The open day saw plenty to keep young and old entertained and the total of £1,200 raised will be divided between The Firefighters Charity and local organisations.



Crew commander Iain Noble keeps an eye on budding young firefighters.

THE OFFER of a sea eagle sculpture to greet visitors to the Isle of Mull has been met with anger by members of its community council.

Bernard Kramer, a sculptor currently working on a series of birds, wrote to Mull Community Council (MCC) with two options for the proposed eagle statue, to be sited at the ferry terminal in Craignure.

But Steve Willis, chairman of MCC, said the correspondence came 'out of the blue' and when he asked colleagues their opinions on the matter he got a negative reaction. He said: 'An artist wrote in saying "I'm getting funding from the BBC for site specific art". He has given us two photos - either a sculpture of one big eagle or three small eagles in flight.'

'He wants to put it at the pier in Craignure to greet people as they get off the ferry, but the last thing people say they want to see is an eagle - especially with the recent meeting farmers had with the environment minister over problems they are having with the sea eagles.'

Mr Willis said other suggestions had come back to him from members of MCC including a Highland cow, red deer stag and golden eagle - a much less controversial bird on the island.

He added: 'I wrote back to artist to say we're not against the idea of a sculpture - but not that subject. I think there are other things he could do that would be less controversial.'

Mr Kramer was contacted for comment but did not respond.



MORE than £300 was raised by pupils of Lochdonhead Primary School on the Isle of Mull at their recent daffodil tea.

The event saw the community invited to come along and participate in the various activities and sales. There was a baking stall, a plant sale, arts and crafts, a lucky dip, catch the duck competition and a raffle. Fresh cakes, teas and coffees were also served.

All the stalls and the café area were run by the pupils. Charlotte from primary seven described the morning as 'absolutely fun, busy and most of all delicious'.

The school raised £319 from the morning which adds to the £115 raised through the bags to school scheme, held earlier in the month.

This brings the May fundraising total to £434 and Henry from primary five said: 'I can't believe how well we have done.'

Oban man jailed after breaching probation

AN OBAN man has been sent to prison for six months after he breached a probation order imposed for an 'unprovoked assault' on a teenager.

Struin Doull, 23, of 7e Miller Road, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Friday after admitting breaching his probation by assaulting a teenage girl.

Doull had previously pled guilty to attacking a 16-year-old boy as he was sitting in a car in Rockfield Car Park eating a chinese takeaway with friends.

Sheriff Douglas Small told Doull: 'You have been given opportunities to prove you can behave yourself. I have little alternative but to sentence you to a period of custody.'

Doull's sentence will begin after the six month sentence imposed on him by Sheriff John Herald earlier in the week expires.

Islay distillery to host music night

LAGAVULIN Distillery on Islay will present its Malt Mill Music Night on May 24 at the distillery.

Edinburgh-based group Blueswater will be providing the entertainment, with a mixture of blues, folk, soul and rock and roll.

Tickets for the event are available on the door or in advance by emailing lagavulin.distillery@diageo.com. Doors open at 7.30pm.

Training starts for Islay Triathlon

THIS year's Islay Triathlon is to take place on June 22, with the school event happening the next day on June 23.

Those wishing to take part are being encouraged to start training as soon as possible in order to be at their best for the running, cycling and swimming event.

For those in Bowmore, the location of the triathlon, training sessions are available on Mondays from May 20 between 6pm and 7.30pm.

These sessions are for both seasoned triathlon competitors and beginners.

NEWSDESK 01631 568000

PLOCKTON

PLOCKTON Small Boat Sailing Club (PSBSC) is looking forward to the new season with club nights for juniors every Tuesday at 5pm.

Those at stage three and four are invited to attend next Tuesday, those at level one and two the following Tuesday, then alternating thereafter. The aim of splitting the group is to provide better guidance during the session, better access to club boats and more quality time and practice on the water.

Adults are still welcome to come on any Tuesday club night and the club is always especially grateful for adults able to helm with less experienced crew, adults or juniors.

In addition, this year PSBSC is trialling a dedicated adults only club night on one Thursday evening a month at 6pm. If successful these will become a regular feature of future calendars.

The first of these is scheduled for May 16.

Upcoming PSBSC events include a 'Lochalsh Coastal Row' from Dornie to Plockton on May 25. The day on the water will be followed by a bar, barbecue and band in the PSBSC boat shed.

Invites have been sent to a number of local clubs to participate and raise funds for their own clubs. It is also hoped PSBSC teams will seek sponsorship for funds toward a new outboard engine for the club's safety boat.

Meanwhile, the club is still on the look out for new timekeepers to take a turn on the line.

This can be a lot of fun and a great way to watch the race. Training will be provided.

If interested please contact Bob Rowe bob@plockton.uk.com or on 01599 544356.



Children and volunteers who helped Agota create the willow structures at Barra Children's Centre enjoy one of their creations.

A HUNGARIAN landscape architect has brought her Transylvanian living structures to the Isle of Barra.

Agota Kekesi visited Barra Children's Centre last week to help create willow buildings in its Castlebay grounds.

Willow for the project was donated from eight local gardens to complete the living structures, which will green over with new growth during the summer.

The local Co-op provided juice and fruit for volunteers on the day.

Agota had previously built the structures in Romania's most famous region, Transylvania - more famous for the living dead than living structures. Her work to create a natural

BARRA

play space was carried out on an adopt an intern work placement, funded by the European Social Fund and the Scottish Government.

Abigail Treffry, family centre co-ordinator at Barra Children's Centre, said: 'The willow structures are the first phase of the play space which Agota is designing during her internship.'

'It's great we were able to achieve so much in a relatively short time and with very little investment thanks to the skills that Agota and her husband Gabor brought to the project, donations of local willow and hard working volunteers.'

'The willow dome with tunnels, a snail, horse and 'Nessie' sculpture offer great play value and have so far stood up to some pretty strong wind over the weekend.'

Barra Children's Centre benefit from funding from LEADER Inne Gall and The Robertson Trust to support the Family Centre co-ordinator post, enabling this kind of project to take place.

RENOVED artist Gordon Young has been forced to postpone his trip to Barra after his flight was cancelled, but he will return in June.

The public space artist is set to create a special piece for the centre, incorporating the island's tradition and values.

MORAR

MORAR Community Council will hold its May meeting in Lady Lovat Primary School on Monday at 7.30pm.

All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Recent matters of concern include sheep causing problems in the village. Tups have been seen at the children's play-park, where they leave a mess. Elsewhere, a group of stray ewes has been wandering around causing damage to gardens.

MCC asks those responsible for the sheep to ensure they are diverted away from the village. It was also noted that due to inadequate fencing, sheep were spotted along the railway line. The secretary has written to Network Rail requesting new fencing.

MORAR Women's Rural Institute's April meeting heard from local pharmacist Gillian Cameron, who gave an informative talk on her work.

Ms Cameron stepped in at short notice following the untimely passing of the scheduled speaker Jackie Ross.

Tea was served by hostesses Audrey MacEachen and Morag Keenan before the competition winners were announced.

Fabric Bag: 1 Heather Simpson; 2 Morag Keenan; 3 Eileen Macphie. Lemon Curd: 1 Christine Haynes; 2 Flora Lawrie; 3 Mary Ferguson. The raffle was won by June Foxwell.

EASDALE

THE NEXT meeting of the Easdale branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland takes place this Saturday, May 11 at 2.30pm, with new members welcome.

Whether you have served in the armed forces or just want to support the RBLs by helping fundraise, the door is open with membership costing £7 per year. Members from Kilmelford are particularly sought as this area is included in Easdale's poppy appeal.

Jean Alexander, honourable secretary, said: 'We always have a small membership but we don't have any members from Kilmelford and it comes under the poppy collection we do. We thought it would be nice to open it up to people and see if anyone was interested.'

Meetings of the branch are held every two months in Tigh and Truish Inn, Clachan Seil, and there are a couple of events throughout the year. Contact Jean on 01852 314242 for more information.

SEIL

A FORMER Seil woman is shedding the pounds in the hope of collecting some for charity.

Jenny Thirlaway, who might be better known to islanders as Jenny Hetherington, now lives in Newcastle but is appealing to the generous nature of her old neighbours.

She said: 'I am starting a weight loss fitness challenge today to raise money for The Meningitis Trust.'

'My daughter caught meningitis at four days old and has been left with a form of cerebral palsy from this.'

'I have a Facebook page called Jenny Thirlaway's 5 Challenge that I'm going keep updated.'

'My just giving page is www.justgiving.com/Jenny-Thirlaway.'

MUCKAIRN

A COFFEE morning to raise funds for Mary's Meals was held in Taynuilt Village Hall last Saturday.

The fundraiser was organised by Muckairn Church Guild, which hosted its final meeting of the 2012/13 session.

Following the theme, A Faith to Proclaim, members read two short plays. The plays carried the messages on being discerning when buying products and on prayer and way of life.

The reading was from Colossians chapter 3 on being Christ like in speech and action. Hymns 'Christ Be Beside Me' and 'Look Forward in Faith' were recited in unison.

The committee was re-elected as follows: Convenor/treasurer - Stella Huntingford; secretary - Marlene Stanners; press secretary - Mary Scott; committee - Ivy Smart.

CRAIGNISH

YOUNGSTERS at Craignish Primary School will be cooking up a storm when they host an African themed evening tomorrow (Friday).

The children will prepare African food, which will be made with Fairtrade ingredients and have organised a number of activities for people to take part in. The event is being held to help raise both awareness and money for the Pelandaba Orphan Fund, which pays for orphans in Zimbabwe to go to school.

Craignish children have been busy promoting the event to locals by creating their own posters and putting them around the village. Residents can go along to Craignish Village Hall from 7pm where they will be greeted by the youngsters serving up delicious food.

KILCHOAN

KILCHOAN'S new community playground will be officially opened on Saturday May 25 - the culmination of years of local fundraising and hard work.

Food and drink will be available on the day at the park, which is next to Kilchoan Community Centre. Entertainment on the day will include a raffle draw.

KINLOCHLEVEN

A MEETING to update Kinlochleven residents on plans for a community hydro scheme above the village will be held in The Theatre Venue at the Leven Centre on Wednesday May 29 at 7pm.

Local people are invited to come along to find out more about initial proposals for the small scale project, which it is hoped will provide substantial revenues for the Lochaber village. The meeting is open to everyone.

APPIN

PRESIDENT Doreen Evans welcomed members to the suitably decorated Port Appin Hall on April 18 for the AGM and Musicals Night.

It was business first and then on with the show. Members had arrived dressed as characters from the musicals ranging from Mary Poppins to the Wicked Witch of the North. The prize for the best dressed went to Catriona MacKenzie as one of Lloyd Webber's 'Cats'.

A quiz involving guessing tunes from various musicals quietened things down and then members had fun making their own instruments from odds and ends and producing some 'music'.

After a delicious tea provided by the committee, the new committee was announced. Linda MacLeod was voted the

new president and she took the opportunity to thank

Doreen and the outgoing committee members for a successful and enjoyable session.

The prize for My Favourite Brooch' went to Ann Calvert and the trophies for the session were awarded as follows: Housewives: 1 Jessie MacKenzie; 2 Chrissie Malone and Carina Sinclair. Handcraft: Jessie Gilkes and Brenda Macleod; 2 Pat Wyeth Webb.

ACHALEVEN



Achaleven Active Crew's active fun times have proved popular.

PARENTS in the Connel area have been enjoying watching their kids keep active thanks to the Achaleven Active Crew.

The non-competitive active play club meets every Thursday from 3.30pm - 4.40pm at Connel Village Hall, but is run by Achaleven Primary School. Sharon Burt, head teacher at Achaleven, said: 'We use

a mixture of activities from SportScotland and games the children enjoy. We end with a quiet time of singing games and rhythm activities.'

The idea was driven by the school's classroom assistant Lenka and the scheme drawn up by Active Schools co-ordinator, Dale Kupris.

For more information, visit www.achaleven.org.uk or call 01631 710529.

INVERGARRY

THE INVERGARRY Home and Garden Sale will be held in the village hall this Saturday from 10am to 3pm.

The hall will be packed with stalls selling a range of goods. Inverness company Highland Liliams will be amongst the stall holders on the day.

ARISAIG

ARISAIG made up for a lack of rain in the first three months of the year with a much wetter than average April.

Local man Ranald Coyne recorded 117mms of rainfall during the month. But the rainfall for 2013 so far is still below average.

The average temperature in the village for April was 11.3°C during the day and 3.1°C at night - both below average.

The hottest day saw the mercury reach 14°C, while the temperature on the coldest night was -3°C.



The Young Seniors Club took in £1,540 at their recent fundraising night.

A CHARITY bingo night in Caol proved a huge success, raising more than £1,500 for a group of young people with learning disabilities.

Around 250 people crammed into Caol Community Centre for the Young Seniors Club (YSC) night, with extra tables having to be added at the last minute to cope with demand.

YSC also caters for young Lochaber adults on the autistic spectrum or who have acquired a head injury. Among the prizes on offer were a tumble drier, a kids BMX, a Kindle, iPod docking stations and whisky. George

CAOL

Kerr, who helped organise the night, told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a really good night. This would not have been possible without the parents and helpers on the night, who made it a great experience.'

'We were expecting to get around 150 people, but we got over 250. The hall was mobbed.'

Each of the 15 members of the club put £20 into the funds to pay for the night, and were rewarded with their returns plus interest.

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Inveraray and District Pipe Band will perform at the prestigious pre worlds concert later this year.

MEMBERS of Inveraray and District Pipe Band are gearing up for another busy season as they prepare to perform at the most prestigious concert on the pipe band calendar.

The award winning pipe band is busy preparing for the 2013 Pre-Worlds concert at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall in August, which comes the week before the World Pipe Band Championship.

Hosted by Glasgow Skye Association Pipe Band, the *Ascension* concert looks set to be a sell out with 800 of the 2,000 tickets already sold before the pipe band season officially gets underway this month.

The concert is aptly named following the band's success since it reformed under Pipe Major Stuart Liddell in 2004 and has rapidly worked its way through the ranks to join the top flight when it became a grade one pipe band in 2010.

Douglas Orr, a promoter of Glasgow Skye Association Pipe Band, said: 'We are thrilled at the response so far, but given the quality of the band and the worldwide reputations of the Pipe Major Stuart Liddell and leading drummer Steven McWhirter perhaps we shouldn't be too surprised. It is going to be a great night with a terrific atmosphere.'

The band will start the pipe band season at the British Pipe Band Championships in Bathgate on May 25.

ONE OF the biggest developments Inveraray might see has won the support of local businesses.

Natural Retreats, a luxury holiday home provider hopes to build 23 self-catering holiday homes and a block of flats on the site of the former Argyll Wildlife Park. The company hopes to secure planning

Down Your Way Inveraray

permission in the coming weeks and the proposal has won over local businesses who would welcome additional tourists to the area.

The accommodation, comprising of three and four bedroom homes, one and two bedroom apartments, reception area and service buildings, will be built across approximately 30 acres near Argyll Caravan Park.

Kris Clarke, owner of the George Hotel in Inveraray said it would be the perfect way to use the land which is currently lying empty. 'It is certainly welcome. It would only be a positive thing and from the view people would use the pub here that is definitely a major benefit,' he said.

The company, which has holiday sites around the world, will actively promote the area to tourists.

Adriano Pia, owner of Mr Pia's International Fish and Chips, said the development would be a massive benefit to the area.

'Since most of our business in Inveraray is 60 per cent from visitors coming to the area it would definitely be welcome,' he said. 'Extra accommodation is always welcome. Often people can't find anywhere to go and end up leaving.'

But, Bill McNicol owner of Newton Hall Guest House, remained sceptical about the proposed development.

'I would be worried that it would dilute our business though I can understand why other businesses would be keen to see the development go ahead though,' he said.

INVERARAY Castle picked up a prestigious award after it was rated as one of the best tourism attractions in the UK by visitors.

The castle received an award of excellence at the UK Awards of Excellence which are hosted by the Irish bus tour operator CIE Tours International.

The recognition for the castle comes after the tour operator carried out an independent feedback survey of its 25,000 customers and achieved more than a 90 per cent in customer feedback.

Jane Young, Inveraray Castle manager, picked up the award at a ceremony held in Glasgow's Crown Plaza Hotel last week on behalf of the Duke and Duchess of Argyll.

The Duke of Argyll said it was fantastic to receive the recognition.

'I am delighted to accept this award on behalf of all those who help us at Inveraray Castle to create such a memorable and authentic tourist experience. We enjoy working with such a well-known and respected company.'

The castle was one of 17 Scottish tourism destinations given an award of excellence by the tour operator, which brings thousands of people from North America to the UK each year.

RING OF Fire, I'm a Believer and I Walk the Line will be just some of the hit songs which will be heard in the Argyll Hotel next Saturday.

The Neil Diamond and Johnny Cash Tribute Act 'A Night with Cash and Diamond' will be performing at the hotel, in Inveraray. People who would like to go along to the event should contact the hotel to book tickets to avoid disappointment.

KILMELFORD

MEMBERS are urgently needed for the 100 Club - which keeps Kilmelford Village Hall running.

The group is currently sitting at 90 members but 100 is needed to cover running costs.

Diane Scaife, village hall secretary, said: 'It is for the maintenance and upkeep of Kilmelford Village Hall. We need 100 people and we have about 90 at the moment, but we can take more than 100 - I wouldn't turn anyone away.'

'Half the takings go back as prize money, tickets are £1 per month and we ask for 12 months in advance.'

'We do the draw at the regular monthly coffee mornings.'

If you are interested in joining the club and contributing to the upkeep of the hall contact Diane on 01852 200208.

SOUTH UIST

IT WAS with much regret we learned of the death of Neil MacCormick of South Boisdale, who died suddenly in Glasgow recently.

Neil, the eldest of the MacCormick family of seven and a former merchant seaman, was one of few islanders who actually served on the famous liner the 'Queen Mary'.

After service in the Navy he worked for many years at the Alginite Industries factory in Boisdale and thereafter on the croft at South Boisdale.

A keen historian, Neil was also a goalkeeper in the early days of Southend Football Club and was a true local man with no worldly aspirations, save maintaining his local folklore and stories amongst his friends till the end.

SPRING is late this year as a result of cold and frosty weather, but now a little rain has fallen the ground is more ready for planting.

We look forward to a warmer May and June to bring forth the planting that has been sown in good faith.

We are also hopeful a new ferry service may be starting soon from Lochboisdale to Mallaig in the near future to bring good news and business to South Uist and Eriskay, which are presently rather forlorn and in much need of industry and good ferry connections. Angus Campbell.

Mull & Iona Life
 55p Spring 2013 Issue 15
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Thieves deal boxing club a low blow

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK

A KINLOCHLEVEN boxing club has had alcohol and a small amount of cash stolen from its gym - just weeks before their biggest ever home show.

Claymores Amateur Boxing Club are due to host a Scotland vs England match up on June 15, and had been saving up bottles of drink to stock the bar at the event. But when club coach Martin Glenesk went to check the supplies, he found several bottles of expensive spirits missing, with an estimated retail value of around £1,000.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We keep it in a locked cupboard. It's where we keep the booze, wristbands, everything you need for a show. It's not something we check very often. I just went down just to check on the crockery and I noticed that a lot of the booze had gone.'

'The key for the cupboard was kept in a locked office at the gym in Kinlochleven business park. It appears the thefts happened over a number of days, raising suspicions the culprit knew where to look.'

Mr Glenesk said: 'I don't know if it was an inside job.'

'To get to the key they've had to break into the office, then go into the cupboard. But it is the only cupboard in the place we kept locked so it's not brain surgery to work out where it was.'

'The police said they didn't think it was kids because they went in and past all the alcopops to the good stuff.'

Around £30 was also stolen from a float for selling sweets to young club members.

Some local businesses have already offered to replace some of the drink for free to show their support to the club, which only formed in 2008.

Mr Glenesk added: 'It's put a real downer on things, everyone is paranoid now. But the show is still going ahead. People have really rallied round us, so I'm chuffed with that. If there's a silver lining, that's it.'

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: 'It appears the culprits managed to get in through an insecurity in the building.'

'Any information from the public would be greatly appreciated.'



Fort rider gets Six Days Trial underway

Lochaber's Gary MacDonald was in contention on Wednesday morning after two days of the Scottish Six Days Trial on his return to the event. The Kinlochleven rider, who missed the trial last year, picked up five points over the first two days to sit in seventh place - just three points behind the leaders. Local teenager Jack Dignan was the second highest placed newcomer, sitting in 107th place out of 265 riders. Fort William's Gary MacLennan, above, got the event underway at 7.30am on Monday. His brother, local councillor Thomas MacLennan, looked on as Roy Bridge youngest Finlay Cameron piped Gary out of the starting gate. For coverage of the SSDT parade and the Pre '65 competition in Kinlochleven see page 4. [20_11954d02](#)

Residents get chance to have say on new Fort William school plans

FORT William residents will get the chance to have their say on plans for one of the new primary schools being built in the town as part of a £32 million pound project.

Highland Council will display the proposals for the new facility on Lundavra Road at the West Highland Hotel from 11am to 7pm next Wednesday, and are asking for local input.

The new building will replace

the existing Fort William and Upper Achintore primaries.

Locals have participated in the creation of the plans, which will also see community meeting rooms and sports facilities created at the site.

Ken Johnstone of the Upper Achintore Regeneration Group told *The Oban Times* locals were glad to see the plans progressing.

He said: 'We had quite a lot of

input into the substance of the design, and we're supportive of it. They have delivered on the community aspect.'

'We are concerned about some safety aspects though, like the need for a safe bus bay and drop off point, and we're concerned about children having to cross the wide, busy junction at Connachie Road and Lundavra Road.'

The plans are part of the

Greater Fort William Primary Schools Project, which will also see a new all-Gaelic school built at Ardgorr Road in Caol.

Highland Council will also create a joint campus on the existing Caol Primary School site with a combined Roman Catholic primary, merging the present Fort William and Lochy-side schools.

The new buildings are planned to open in August 2015.

Fury at last minute Waverley trip cancellation

Hundreds disappointed as cruise to Iona is called off

FORT William daytrippers hoping to visit Iona on the Waverley paddle steamer were left fuming after their journey was cancelled at the last minute on Monday morning.

The contingent of around 60 had arrived at Oban to join hundreds of others expecting to sail for the sacred isle, the burial place of early Scottish kings and home to the sixth century monastery founded by Saint Columba.

But with the Waverley about to depart they were told the Iona trip was off and Tobermory was the new destination.

The Lochaber group's day out had already been disrupted when their scheduled departure from Fort William was cancelled because of a generator problem with the steamer on Sunday.

Waverley Excursions chartered two coaches from Shiel Buses to bring the group to Oban, including Caol woman Joyce Vickers.

Mrs Vickers was on a personal pilgrimage to Iona - her mother is buried in St Columba Minor Church in Newquay, Cornwall and next month is the 1450th anniversary of St Columba's arrival on the isle.

The 83-year-old, who paid £37 for her ticket, told *The Oban Times*: 'They were sailing for Iona at 11.30am. But at 11.10am it came over the tannoy that we were not going and were going to Tobermory instead.'

'The reason given was the weather but there were big hisses and boos. I want my money back

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk



Joyce Vickers: no cruise to Iona.

'I had been looking forward to it an awful lot.'

'I lost my husband to cancer at 61 and I like to go back to the House of Prayer on Iona ever year when I can. I have not been able to go for three years and yesterday was a big chance for me. But I just walked off the boat and took my packed lunch up to Tesco.'

Waverley Excursions Ltd chief executive Kathleen O'Neill said: 'After discussions with the local boat operator, who we work with in transferring passengers to Iona, it was considered that sea conditions were not conducive to allow a small boat transfer to take place.'

'Announcements were made prior to departure from Oban and a few passengers disembarked. Most stayed aboard for the revised cruise up the Sound of Mull and time ashore at Tobermory before returning to Oban via the Lynn of

Morvern and the Lynn of Lorn. Whilst we were sorry not to be able to offer the trip to Iona and know that passengers were disappointed not to get to their chosen destination, safety of our passengers is our primary concern.'

An industry source told *The Oban Times* that following the Herald of Free Enterprise ferry disaster off Zeebrugge in 1987 in which 188 passengers and crew drowned, the law states any decision to sail is the captain's alone. He said: 'It is a criminal offence to make the master sail against his professional judgement. He is the only person qualified to make that call.'

He added: 'The bottom of Mull and round Iona are pretty exposed, it is the Atlantic after all. They are some of the most treacherous waters on the west coast of Scotland.'

Shiel Buses owner David MacGillivray confirmed two coaches had been chartered to take around 60 Waverley passengers to Oban on Monday morning and bring them home in the evening. Most had taken the alternative day trip to Tobermory, he said.

Four young Iona men drowned crossing the Sound of Iona to Mull in December 1998 after their 14-foot dinghy capsized.

See Leader page 10.

NEWSDESK
OBAN
01631 568000

Antiques auction first for Lewis

THE FIRST ever antiques auction on Harris and Lewis will be held at the Caberfeidh Hotel in Stornoway on Saturday May 18.

The event, organised by Gerard's Auction Rooms, will see items such as jewellery, musical instruments and paintings up for sale.

North police to target rural crime

POLICE have launched an operation to target thefts in rural areas across the Highlands, including Lochaber, Lochalsh, Badenoch and Strathspey.

Reports of heating oil, power tools and plant equipment being stolen in remote areas have gone up in recent weeks, and in some cases insecure stores and vehicles have been entered.

Police Scotland said extra officers will be on patrol and specific resources will be used to track the culprits.

Highland and Islands Superintendent John Chisholm said: 'Criminals may travel into the area and travel significant distances looking for opportunities to steal. Farm equipment, marine equipment and any metal of value are also very tempting targets.'

Mental health group look for help

A NEW group to promote mental health and well being is currently being set up in Oban and is looking for volunteers.

Anyone who would like to be part of the group or help out with activities is invited to attend Glenruitten Church Centre on May 25 between 1pm and 4pm.

Organiser Laura Macdonald said: 'Initial suggestions are for a group that meets on a Saturday, but this will be determined by the group members themselves.'

'The open day is for anyone who is interested in joining a mental health and well-being group, volunteering with the group or helping set it up.'

Search on for trusted decorator

THE SEARCH for the most trusted decorator in the West Highlands has been started by a well known paint brand.

Residents are being asked to nominate their perfect painter as part of Dulux Trade's search. To nominate a decorator visit www.trusteddecorator.co.uk.

New 'champions' to care and support dementia sufferers in Oban and Fort William

PEOPLE who suffer from dementia in Oban and Fort William can look forward to receiving the care and support they need as the health service has new 'champions' to ensure their needs are met.

Three healthcare workers from the area were among the first 22 from NHS Highland to graduate as dementia champions - front-line members of

staff who will help to ensure that people with the condition get the care and support they need. This has been described as a 'significant step forward'.

Oban-based stroke co-ordinator Hazel Hamilton, and Fort William-based Dione Westbrook, an occupational therapist, along with staff nurse Jackie Small, of the Belford Hospital, graduated after a six-

month training programme in which topics included screening and assessment, the hospital environment, communication and planning for discharge.

The dementia champions are being supported by Ruth Mantle, who was appointed last year as the area's first Alzheimer Scotland dementia nurse consultant. She said: 'The people who

have graduated are from a range of disciplines, though they work mainly in acute hospital settings.'

'Having people who have been trained as dementia champions represents a major step forward in our ability to care for people with dementia.'

'It is important that these patients get the dignified care they deserve, and our new

dementia champions will help to ensure that they do.'

She added: 'Some 4,000 people in the Highlands have dementia, and the number is expected to double in the next 25 years. A significant number of these people will find themselves in hospital, perhaps as a result of being injured in a fall.'

'We realise that a hospital can be a difficult environment for

some people, particularly if they have dementia, and we need to work closely with patients and their families to ensure that they are treated with dignity and that their independence and wishes are respected.'

Training of the next batch of dementia champions from across Scotland, which includes 12 from NHS Highland, began on April 25.



The West Telferton Caledonian Dance Band proved popular at Portree

West Telferton Caledonian Dance Band entertain at season finale of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club

TORRENTIAL rain failed to deter a good number of musicians and friends from attending the final monthly meeting of the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club for their 2012/13 season in the Royal Hotel, Portree last Thursday.

Local musicians who entertained were fiddlers Caerina Campbell, Ellie MacPherson, Chloe Urquhart, Mairi MacKinnon and Wendy Riva while accordionists were John Cameron (Braes), John MacGilvary and John Cameron (Portree) who also played keyboard. Last, but not least, was sole local drummer Donald John Campbell.

Some fine sets were also given by two players from the mainland, namely John 'The Box' Mackerlich of Ardelve on

his five row button-box and Jim Johnstone from Spean Bridge on his piano accordion.

All performers acquitted themselves well and had the enthusiastic audience warmed up nicely for the appearance of the guest band, The West Telferton Caledonian Dance Band led by Andrew Knight of Newtongrange on fiddle ably accompanied by Ricky Ross of Dalry on accordion, Matthew MacLennan of Kiltarity on keyboard and Donald John Campbell of Skye on drums.

This excellent quartet quickly engaged with their audience and treated the assembled company to a superb and varied programme of top class music to suit the delighted and appreciative Skye audience,

accompanied by entertaining banter.

The evening was rounded off with a fine 'stramash' involving the local players led by the guest band.

Club members and friends now look forward eagerly to the annual Skye Accordion and Fiddle Festival from May 23 to 25 based in the Royal Hotel, Portree.

It will feature the bands of Hector McFadyen, Graeme Mitchell, Nicky McMichan and The Pentlands Ceilidh Band along with many other visiting musicians - a musical feast not to be missed.

More details can be found on www.skyemusic.co.uk or by telephone on 01478 621238. **John Grundy.**

New poetic guide to Skye launched

CÒMHLAN Bheanntan (A Company of Mountains), a new poetic guide to the peaks, history and culture of the Isle of Skye, will be launched in Sligachan next weekend.

Alec Finlay's poetry mapping of 14 viewpoints on the island, commissioned by contemporary arts producers ATLAS Arts, can be accessed free online and is being billed as 'an ideal companion' on location.

In Còmhlan Bheanntan, Mr Finlay blogs poems from 14 different mountain points and their surroundings.

At the launch event, PANORAMA, the public will be invited to join Mr Finlay and others at the Sligachan Hotel and Minginish Hall in Portnalong for readings, music and walks throughout Saturday and Sunday May 18 and 19.

Contributors include artist/musician Hanna Tuulikki, artist/walker Alison Lloyd, artist Caroline Dear and poet Meg Bateman.

A musical performance by Wounded Knee and 7VWW-WVW will also feature, together with 'Here is Where', a tribute to Tom Weir, and a lecture on volcanoes by artist Ilana Halperin, Karen Holmberg and Andrew Patrizio.

Saturday's programme is fol-



Alec Finlay is the new online poetic guide to Skye's mountains and landscapes

lowed in the evening by Iain's Ceilidh in aid of Marie Curie at the Sligachan Hotel, while on Sunday Mike Lates and Alison Lloyd will lead a five-hour walk to Coire na Creiche and the Fairy Pools via Bealach a Mhaim. Mr Finlay will lead a poetic journey to High Pasture Cave and the area around Kilbride, with contributions from Meg Bateman, Caroline Dear and Hannah Tuulikki.

Now living in Edinburgh, Mr Finlay grew up in the Pentlands.

His father was Scottish poet, writer and artist Ian Hamilton Finlay and his grandfather was Seton Gordon (1886-1977), the renowned Scottish author, naturalist, photographer and folklorist.

Mr Gordon lived for over 50 years in Kilmuir, creating maps of Scottish landscapes guided by the work of Japanese poet Matsuo Basho, known for his masterpiece of travel literature, Oku-no-hosomichi (Narrow Road to the Deep North).

Weather disrupts Loch Shiel Spring Festival

THE WEATHER may have disrupted the Loch Shiel Spring Festival, but it didn't prevent some of the country's finest classical musicians entertaining audiences at venues across Lochaber.

Many of the planned outdoor events for the gala day in and around Glenfinnan on Saturday were forced indoors, or in some cases cancelled as the rain continued to fall.

But an outdoor concert at Glenfinnan Railway Station attracted a large crowd to see Roy

Bridge teenager Helena Rose perform a selection of songs with festival artistic director Charles Mutter and flautist Susan Franks.

Many of the festival's musical events which were planned to be held around the village were moved to Glenfinnan Church, where Lochaber High School teacher and acclaimed tuba player Mark Reynolds delighted the crowd.

Lochaber College percussion group and the Glenfinnan brass and percussion ensemble were

also amongst the performers at the concert.

Mr Mutter told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a shame about the weather but we've still had lots of people coming along and the concert at the train station went really, really well.'

The four day event also saw celebrated pianist Jonathan Powell perform at Shielbridge Hall in Acharacle on Friday evening and the Maxwell Quartet play a selection of pieces by Schubert at the Franz Ariundle Centre in Strontian on Monday.

Oban student to organise sponsored cycle

AN OBAN student is organising a sponsored cycle event across the central belt of Scotland to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Callum Weir, a sport student in Glasgow, has previously cycled from Berlin to Copenhagen for charity and is now taking on this challenge much closer to home.

The route is 47 miles from Murrayfield in Edinburgh to Glasgow Green and will take place on May 26. Registration costs £5 and all profits from registration go to the charity.

Callum said: 'It will follow a Sustrans national route and only a small section is on road so will be safe for families to take part. The race starts at 11am and each person will get their time and a certificate at the end.'

'We are looking for 100 people to take part to raise money and have a great day. It is a great excuse to get fit and start training for a good cause.'

Contact Callum on 07825711117 or callumweir@hotmail.co.uk.

Guest speaker at Lochaber talk

THE INSTITUTE of Physics' National Officer for (Scotland), Alison McLure, will be guest speaker at the next Royal Society of Edinburgh public talk next Wednesday evening.

Ms McLure's lecture, 'Women in Science: Antarctic Experience', will reveal some of the secrets of the remote, hostile and uninhabited continent.

For the early explorers, Antarctica was the ultimate survival contest and for scientists it remains a place of intellectual challenge.

The free event at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, starts at 7pm. Refreshments from 6.30pm. To book a place visit www.royalsoced.org.uk.

Search for poet

THE SEARCH is on for the poet laureate of the west coast and the winner will be published in and receive a free of the National Poetry Anthology (NPA). The overall winner also receives £1,000.

Those who wish to enter should send three unpublished poems, on any subject - up to 25 lines and 160 words each - info@unit-edpress.co.uk or United Press, Admail 3735, London EC1B 1JB by the closing date of June 30.

BREAST BREAKTHROUGH CANCER

BREAKTHROUGH Breast Cancer is a UK charity dedicated to saving lives by finding the causes of breast cancer, improving detection, diagnosis, treatment and services

Thousands of people from across the UK work together under the charity to stop women dying from breast cancer.

A mere £25 buys 350 microscope slides - equipment that is vital for Breakthrough Breast Cancer's life-saving work.

And every advertiser on this page is helping this work - £5 from each advert goes directly to the charity, which funds 25 per cent of the UK's breast cancer research.

Breakthrough Breast Cancer works to find the causes of breast cancer in men as well as women and has the ethos that prevention saves lives.

Most cases of breast cancer are found by women noticing unusual changes, taking the initiative and visiting their doctor.

The earlier breast cancer is found,

the better the chance of beating it, so it is vital you make regular checks, perhaps in the bath or shower, or while getting dressed in the morning or undressed in the evening.

You know your body better than anyone else - you don't need any training to check for signs of breast cancer but it is advisable to be on the lookout for:

- Lumps - may not be seen, but might be felt - in the breast, upper chest or armpits.
- Skin texture eg dimpling or puckering.
- Appearance or direction of nipple.
- Nipple discharge.
- Rash or crusting.
- Unusual pains.
- Change in size or shape of your breast.
- Change in colour of your breast eg red or inflamed.

Remember to get anything unusual checked by your doctor.

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Annual garden fundraiser in aid of music school

LOCHABER Music School will hold a fundraising open garden day at Camaghael this Sunday afternoon, with flowers and teas on sale.

The annual event at Murlaggan will see senior pupils from the music school providing musical accompaniment throughout the day.

Music school director Peter Rose said: 'The garden day is always a lovely occasion. Lorna Ungoed-Thomas's garden is a wonderful oasis of rich, beautiful colours and we are extremely grateful to her for opening it up to visitors once again for this very special annual occasion.'

Loch Morar kayak accident victim named

THE MAN killed in a kayaking accident on Loch Morar last week has been named as Alexander Thorburn, from the Fife area.

The 48-year-old and a second man were plunged into the loch after it capsized on the evening of Sunday April 28.

The other man swam to an island before managing to raise the alarm the next morning.

Death of tanker crew member not suspicious

A 53-YEAR-OLD crew member died aboard on the BP Tanker 'British Explorer' on Sunday morning, Police Scotland have reported.

Stornoway police were called in at about 9.28am and were conveyed to the vessel with the assistance of Stornoway lifeboat. Following enquiries a report is to be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. There are no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death.

Lochaber gears up for second wild festival

LOCHABER is gearing up for the second annual Wild Lochaber Festival, which starts on Saturday May 18.

The week long event will celebrate the diverse nature and landscape of the area with a series of wildlife walks, Land Rover safaris, talks, boat trips and competitions.

Eight new wildlife guides - called 'The Wild Lochaber Trails' - will be launched during the festival.

Presenter and author Muriel Gray will unveil the Ardgour and Moidart trail to launch the festival on Friday 17th May at the Ben Nevis Distillery.

Many of the events are free to participate in, including a wildlife and historical walk around Canna Bay, sea kayaking on Loch Moidart and a landscape photography day.



Catch of the day: Inverlochypupils Beth Fairley, Brett MacMillan, Jamie MacMillan and Kathryn Kelly at the fresh fish workshop run by Seafood Scotland's Ruathy Donald, right. Inverloch class teacher Ann Dowson, left, helps with the net. 20.1916h01

Seafish roadshow washes ashore to share good news about the sea with pupils

MORE than 300 pupils from Lochaber high and local primary schools learned about the fruits of the sea at a two-day event in the school last week.

The Seafood in Schools roadshow saw children enjoy workshops explaining different species' journey from sea to plate, together with the health benefits of eating fresh fish.

Ruathy Donald from event organisers Seafood Scotland gave pupils the chance to handle crab, lobster, haddock, monkfish, squid and more, while local chef Stewart MacLachlan from the Crannog Restaurant in Fort William showed just how easy it is to make quick, delicious fish dishes - with tasty samples of pan-cooked langoustines on offer. In addition to Lochaber High

School pupils, primary school classes from Banavie, Caol, Fort William, Fort William RC, Invergarry, Inverloch, Lochyside, Roy Bridge, Spean Bridge, St Brides and Upper Achintore primary schools attended.

And the children's families got their chance to enjoy the same workshops and sample seafood delicacies last Wednesday evening.



Liam Johnstone, Kevin Sabiu and Martin Black dish up a bowl of soup at the fundraising event for Lochaber foodbank. 20.1919p001

Foodbank set to open in Fort William

FORT William people struggling to feed their families could soon be helped out with a foodbank set to open in the town.

Fort William Christian Fellowship Pastor John Penny hopes to open the charity operation on the town's High Street this summer.

Lochaber residents who have been referred by social services, doctors or Jobcentre Plus would be entitled to emergency supplies from the foodbank, including tinned goods, noodles, pasta and soup.

Mr Penny estimates at least 80 people in Lochaber are struggling to feed themselves each month.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We're waiting for the go-ahead to open in the old hydro shop in the High Street. We're reasonably

sure we're going to get it, and we anticipate being open within the next couple of months.'

'With all the welfare reforms that are being pushed through just now more and more people are going to be pushed over the edge and into food deprivation. There couldn't be a better time to open a foodbank in Fort William.'

West Highland College UHI student Martin Black and his two classmates sold homemade soup on campus to raise funds for the foodbank project.

Mr Black said: 'There are people who are struggling to get enough to eat, and it's people from all walks of life, including professional people with jobs. I used to be one of them - I was on the dole and struggling to make ends meet.'

Call for land buy-out task force to adopt radical approach

THE ORGANISATION representing the country's community land owners has urged a task force charged with making land buy-outs easier to rise to the challenge when it makes its interim report later this month.

Community Land Scotland argues broadening land ownership is essential and wants the Land Reform Review Group to embrace its Scottish Government brief to adopt a 'radical' approach.

And according to chairman David Cameron, further land reform is inextricably tied to 'changing the balance of current interests'.

He said: 'It is hard to think that Scotland could be taken seriously when it comes to securing greater social justice unless achieving significant change in land ownership patterns is firmly part of the agenda.'

'It is time to take the decisive steps necessary to re-shape Scotland's land ownership and the destiny of communities up and down the land. Giving more people access to the wealth of the land is to widen opportunity and contribute to creating a more socially just Scotland.'

He added: 'Current vested interests argue all it really well, they are doing the right thing by communities, they are effective curators of the land and are job creating, and they would welcome more community involvement in planning and to have partnerships with communities.'

'[But] it is the ownership that is decisive and nothing less is even faintly comparable. Only Parliament and the law can underpin the necessary change and without the force of the law, expect nothing much to change.'

Police appeal for death crash witnesses

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a motorcyclist died following a crash at a known danger spot on the A830 Road to the Isles.

The accident, which did not involve any other vehicles, happened at near Callart railway

bridge, around a mile and half east of Glenfinnan Monument at 3.10pm on Sunday afternoon.

Injuries
The man, not thought to be local, suffered serious injuries and was taken to the Belford Hospital where he died.

The road was closed for nearly six hours, with a 70-mile detour put in place via the A861 road through Ardgour and Moidart.

A police spokesman said: 'We would like to hear from anyone who may have information relating to the collision.'

As *The Oban Times* went to press, no details of the man had been released.

Bend
The road reduces to a one lane under the bridge, with give way signs recently put in place at the tight bend.

Family day out to look for butterflies

A FAMILY day out looking for butterflies in Glen Nevis run by Dr Tom Prescott of Butterfly Conservation Scotland has been organised for Sunday at 11am. To book a place at the free event, contact Nevis Landscape on 01397 701088 or at info@nevispartnership.co.uk.

Large crowd gathers for baptism

THERE was a large crowd at the morning service of the Plockton Free Church on Sunday May 5 when Ruairidh McGrath, son of Michael and Anne-Marie, was baptised by Rev Roddie Rankin. Ann-Marie is the daughter of Iain and Ann Fraser, The Schoolhouse, Inverinate.



Haul of shame: just some of the litter collected along the scenic Lochaline-Kingairloch road.

Unsung Morvern hero mounts litter blitz on roadside verges

A PUBLICLY-spirited Morvern man mounted his own litter blitz to clean up roadside verges in one of the West Highlands' most scenic areas.

The unsung hero, who does not wish to be identified, targeted the A884 between Lochaline and the Kingairloch crossroads after noticing an increase in rubbish thrown out of passing vehicles.

The road, much of it single track, connects the Corran and Lochaline-Fishnish ferries and is well-used during the holiday season.

In the past two weeks alone the good citizen collected 24 glass bottles, 129 plastic bottles, 96 aluminium cans and five 'miscellaneous' items. Ironically, the haul - which has gone for recycling

- includes many bottles and tins from leading drink manufacturers with labels encouraging their customers to help keep Britain tidy.

Lochaline JP Iain Thornber praised the clean-up effort - but was dismayed that the beauty of the Highlands was being spoiled by litter louts.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'These people are committing a crime. In what is the Year of Natural Scotland the message does not seem to be getting through.'

'There are sheep, cattle and deer along there and if they picked any of these items up and swallowed them it could cause the animals serious harm.'

He added: 'It is disappointing that some people have such little regard for our natural environment.'



Takeshi Shikama.

Japanese artist wins first Jon Schueler Scholarship

A JAPANESE artist/photographer has been awarded the first Jon Schueler Scholarship at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO), the Gaelic college on Skye.

Takeshi Shikama was selected from 200 applicants from around the world for the major new visual arts residency.

From July, Shikama will spend three months at SMO researching, developing and producing work in the dedicated artist's studio overlooking

the Sound of Sleat, from which Schueler drew much inspiration.

The scholarship celebrates the bond between the US abstract expressionist painter, who died in 1992, and the landscapes of south Skye.

Kath MacLeod, SMO arts development officer said 'We are delighted to be hosting the artist Takeshi Shikama on the first three month residency.'

'There will be opportunities for other visual

artists to meet Takeshi, see work in progress and hopefully spark an interesting exchange of ideas.'

Shikama said: 'I am very much looking forward to meeting with people and experiencing and learning about the Gaelic culture. I believe that the Gaels and we Japanese bear resemblance in sensibility.'

At the end of the residency, Shikama will be offered the chance to exhibit his work.

Skye Accordion and Fiddle Festival

PREPARATIONS have been completed for one of Skye's biggest annual events, the Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Festival.

The programme kicks off at 7.30pm on Thursday May 23 with music from visiting and local players culminating in performances from The Pentlands Ceilidh Band.

Friday afternoon features live music in the Royal Hotel and other establishments in Portree, while in the evening the Royal has the popular Hector McFadyen Trio.

Saturday will see all-day sessions and an eagerly anticipated appearance of Graeme Mitchell's Scottish Dance Band starting at 2.30pm in the Royal.

Portree's historic Skye Gathering Hall is the setting for the festival dance at 8.30pm with Nicky McMichan's Scottish Dance Band providing the music.

The event attracts visitors and musicians

from far and wide, many of whom return year after year, attracted by the friendly atmosphere and an abundance of the finest music.

Festival chairman Jim Campbell said: 'This is our ninth consecutive festival and from advance bookings it looks being the busiest yet.'

'Tickets for the dance are already being booked well in advance and the festival just seems to go from strength to strength. Organising it takes a huge amount of work - but it's all worthwhile when we see so many people enjoying themselves in a great atmosphere.'

Admission to the dance is by ticket only on 01478 612138, by e-mail on info@skyemusic.co.uk or from festival committee members in the Royal.

John Grundy.

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Safety must come first

THE CANCELLATION of Monday's trip on the Waverley paddle steamer to Iona caused disappointment to many.

Arguably among those most put out was a 60-strong contingent from Lochaber, who had already missed a scenic sail down Loch Linnhe to Oban after the vessel's emergency generator failed on Sunday.

A few disgruntled citizens walked off the boat in disgust after being told over the tannoy that the steamer would be sailing to Tobermory instead. But the vast majority of the 400 passengers elected to remain on board to enjoy their day trip to the picture postcard port. The complainers felt aggrieved that the change of plan was made only minutes before departure time.

But Waverley Excursions Ltd argues - with some justification - that having all their customers in the same place at the same time meant that everyone could be informed about the change of plan.

While there can be no doubt that some distress was caused, especially to those on a personal pilgrimage to Iona, the safety of passengers and crew must come first.

Sea conditions in port, whether at Iona or Oban, often bear no relation to those out on the open sea. And as has been pointed out, the Sound of Iona's reputation as one of the most treacherous stretches of water off the west coast has often been tragically justified.

So when a cruise company and the operator it hires to shuttle passengers to shore judges there is potential risk, it should be borne in mind the decision to alter the itinerary would not have been taken lightly.

GLASGOW LETTER

West End Festival 2013

AT THE recent launch of the West End Festival, which runs from Friday May 31 to Sunday June 30, the organisers were delighted to announce that the Mardi Gras will be back on the programme.

This will take place on Sunday June 9 and is expected to attract up to 80,000 revellers to the streets.

Following a public appeal to raise £15,000 this will be the first time sufficient funding will be available to cover the cost of closing Byres Road.

The festival programme includes more than 400 events in 80 venues across the west end of Glasgow with events ranging from music and theatre to walks, talks and community galas.

Programme highlights include the opening Torchlight Procession, Glasgow Mela, Scotland's biggest free multi-cultural festival which will take place in Kelvingrove Park on Saturday June 15 and Sunday June 16 from 12 noon until 8pm, the Cottier Chamber Project, Gibson Street Gala, Big Band Festival, Bard in the Botanics and much more.

The important part played by the Highland community over the years in the west end will not be forgotten and as well as musical events, which I will publicise at a later date, there will be the opportunity to learn Gaelic as well as Ceilidh on the Corner which will take place on Festival Sunday, June 9, featuring some of Scotland's finest ceilidh bands playing in the Social Services Car Park, Lower Byres Road.

The full printed festival programme is now available but can also be viewed at www.westendfestival.co.uk.

The 'Wee Skye'

THE GLASGOW Skye Association recently held a successful Spring Concert, the Wee Skye, in the Crawford Hall.

Calum Ross chaired the proceedings and the artists were piper John Rennie, accordionist Fiona Johnstone and singers Mairi Fernandez-Ares, Stephanie Tinnie.

Charlie MacColl and James Graham. In addition, Mairi was joined by Fiona Ross for a duet and perhaps special mention should be made of Stephanie who had spent the day in Strathclyde Park as a member of the winning Glasgow University rowing team prior to rushing along to sing.

The association's next event will be the AGM in Partick Burgh Hall, Room 5, on Wednesday June 5 at 7.30pm and then the following Friday, June 7, there will be a social evening in the Redhurst Hotel, Giffnock.

Non members of the association wishing to attend should contact the secretary Karen Campbell on 01786 832278.

Diary dates

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

Saturday May 11: Paisley and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh Dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm. Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh.

Sunday May 12: Gourrock Highland Games.

Tuesday May 14: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association AGM, An Leagan, Mansfield Street, 7pm. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association AGM, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72 Waterloo Street, 8pm, Kim Richey.

Thursday May 16: Comun an Taobh-an-Iar AGM, Ellangowan Social Club, Milngavie, 7.30pm.

Saturday May 18: Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm-Ian Muir's Band.

Pub scene

IN THE Islay Inn this weekend music will be played by the Keelies on Friday and by Black Velvet on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Deoch'n Dorus/ Martin Pottinger on Friday, Gunna Sound on Saturday and Nicky McMichan on Sunday.

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

YOUR LETTERS

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

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

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

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

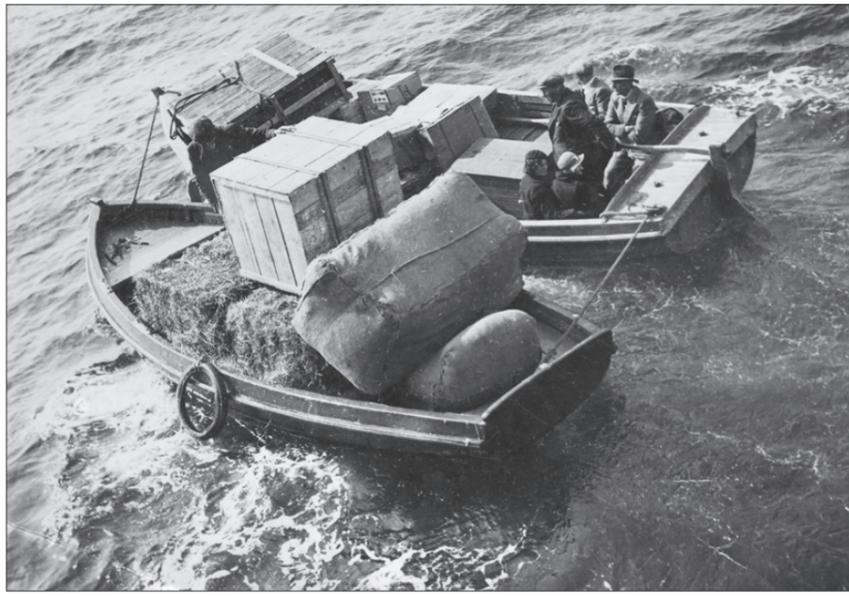
PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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



Passengers and freight ferried ashore from steamer

This week's flashback is from the 1960s and shows passengers and freight for Ardnamurchan being ferried to the shore from the Oban to Barra steamer as she lay off Kilchoan. Often there was little room for passengers in the heavily laden ferry boats. 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

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Should islanders pay for Oban Airport?

Sir, Paula Smalley and Lavinia MacLean-Bristol are right to praise the service Colonsay, Tiree and Coll get from Oban Airport.

But they seem to have misunderstood or ignored the point made by your correspondents that the number of passengers currently using the airport does not justify the annual cost of providing the facility, a cost born, one way or another, by mainland taxpayers who will never fly from Oban.

Indeed, Paula Smalley draws attention to the quadruple subsidy of providing connectivity for these three islands, each with its small resident population, in alluding directly to 'an alternative to ferry sailings' and indirectly to the dormitories of Oban High School that must go unused as pupils vacate them at weekends, presumably travelling home on subsidised flights from a heavily subsidised airport.

At a time when belts are being tightened, when thousands of mainlanders might lose the sports and fitness facilities of the Atlantis Leisure Centre and when many mainland communities with populations as large as Colonsay or Coll or Tiree have no bus, let alone a ferry or flight, we need to ask awkward questions about whether performance of the airport is adequate and whether it warrants its subsidy.

In addition, the question might be posed as to whether these three island communities should dig into their own pockets to help pay for Oban airport.

In addition, the question might be posed as to whether these three island communities should dig into their own pockets to help pay for Oban airport.

Ian Reid, Ardcornel Road, Oban.

Atlantis Leisure a class act

Sir, Twenty-one years ago, while I was managing a non-government owned bank in Oban, I was approached by a group of community-minded individuals who had the far-sighted idea of taking over control of the town's swimming pool and developing the facility.

It would have been impossible to refuse help to that group of people who showed drive, ability and commitment which far surpassed anything which Argyll and Bute Council could ever hope to offer by itself.

Over the last 21 years that group of people and their successors - all unpaid volunteers - have turned a basic swimming pool into a nationally renowned leisure centre which has become a model for similar ventures across the UK.

The transformation has been

impressive. In the last year alone, 183,000 visits were made to Atlantis. Users range in age from just a few months to 90. Some have represented their country at international levels.

Atlantis is a class act. It's not just a sports centre; it also delivers health and social benefits which are the envy of councils across Scotland. It's not just for locals; it attracts users from all parts of the country and from abroad.

While Atlantis is a community enterprise company and a charity, it must still attempt to balance its books. To do that it is supported by Argyll and Bute Council and around a dozen other funding partners. The council is currently considering how it can maintain a level of support which will ensure that Atlantis survives and, more importantly, continues to thrive and provide levels of excellence for generations to come.

The Atlantis model is a proven one and it demonstrates the community can successfully undertake such a venture and deliver services in an extremely cost effective manner.

In a time of austerity, demand on council budgets is immense. But, like the far-sighted individuals of 21 years ago, council officials must now look into the future and make the right decision for Atlantis and for Oban.

Les Stewart, by email.

Council would have sold site to private developer

Sir, Mr MacGregor, Chief Executive of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) stated in his letter in last Thursday's *Oban Times* that the private sector did not build on the site in Port Ellen known locally as the 'bog' during the boom years of housebuilding in the late 1980s and from 2003 to 2008 because the site is owned by ACHA and was earmarked for affordable housing.

I am afraid Mr MacGregor's statement is wrong because ACHA has only been in business since November 2006.

Prior to that this site was owned by Argyll and Bute Council and if a private developer had wished to purchase the site for a suitable amount Argyll and Bute Council would have sold it.

Growing despair at introduction of more wildlife

Sir, I read with growing despair in a recent *Oban Times* that yet another batch of biffins wishes to populate our glorious country with even more species of wildlife.

The number of times we have fallen prey to experts with an

agenda is truly bewildering. The Red Kite has been introduced to several areas where they were previously unknown. I was bemused to read that one group of introduced Red Kite was being fed on (introduced) Grey Squirrels which had been trapped in Aberdeen, meanwhile miles away a concerned landowner complained that he had witnessed other introduced Red Kite devouring endangered Red Squirrels. The experts unsurprisingly dismissed the claims. I wonder just where these birds acquired the taste for squirrel?

Hedgehog numbers are dropping alarmingly throughout the UK. The exact cause is not known but the wheel is likely to be a factor. Meanwhile, the million pound project to eradicate hedgehogs from the Uists appears to have failed miserably. After ten years many Mrs Tiggyswinkles are still evading capture.

There is no evidence to confirm the presence of the humble Uist hedgehog has played any real role in the dramatic worldwide drop in wading bird numbers so would it not make sense to instead transform these peaceful islands into a safe sanctuary for the gardener's friend, turning a blind eye to the odd birds egg they may consume?

As for the beavers in Knapdale, it is a sad and little known fact that out of 17 specimens captured in Norway only three actually arrived at the site in Argyll, the other eight released were in fact 'back up beavers' which had for some time been unobtrusively held in reserve at Edinburgh Zoo and the Highland Wildlife Park. A high mortality rate had been anticipated and regrettably did occur - the death of about one in three prior to release. Quite a price to pay in life terms simply to conduct an experiment? I understand the 'unofficial' Tayside beavers are doing just fine - without any scientific intervention.

Interestingly, in 2010 the blame for the catastrophic failure of Poland's flood defences was laid squarely on beavers. The Government swiftly reacted by upping the annual number of beavers which could legally be destroyed. If these wildlife introductions continue, there may just be a use for Great Uncle Albert's elephant gun in the not too distant future.

Lewis Morrison, Beregonium, Benderloch.

CalMac service and kindness

Sir, I have just returned home from what was meant to be a day visit to Tiree, but because the bow thruster on the *Clansman* had a mechanical breakdown we were unable to get back.

The staff at Tiree were great and helped us find a bed for the night, which was not easy because the main reason for our visit was to see the vet with our sick dog. People forget it's the

front line staff that take all the knocks when something goes wrong, but I am always amazed by how the office and pier staff cope. The next morning the *Clansman* had been fixed during the night and was on schedule again, which allowed us to return home, with many apologies from the captain and crew on board.

I am so glad we do not live in Orkney. Thanks once more to everyone at Caledonian MacBrayne for their service and kindness.

Pat Graham, Isle of Coll. Waverley return not good news

Sir, Regards the return of the much-loved paddle steamer the *Waverley* after a £2million facelift. Great news? No.

She broke down in Oban on Sunday May 5 and people who had booked to go to Iona on Bank Holiday Monday had to be 'bussed' from Fort William to Oban. The weather was rainy, but not unduly windy. On boarding the vessel, passengers were informed that the ship was not going to Iona.

This year many pilgrims from all over the world wish to visit Iona to commemorate the 1,450th anniversary of St Columba's landing on Iona on July 9 all those centuries ago.

This is the third time I have been unable to reach Iona when paying £37 to visit that wonderful place. Instead, we are taken to Tobermory which is not what we want and paid for initially.

Like others, I left the ship at Oban and seeking a rebate - pensioner - for a trip I did not want. The little ferry and its crew who dot back and fro from Mull to Iona are experienced guys who do it many times daily in all weather. Please *Waverley*, keep your word and do not use the name Iona as an incentive for people to go.

Joyce Vickers, Caol.

Thanks

Sir, May I, through your pages, thank those who helped my wife when she fell on the pavement opposite Wallace the Optometrists in Oban on Tuesday April 23.

Two kind ladies came straight over to help her up and mop up her bleeding. Then a lady from a shop came out with a chair. My wife recovered consciousness very quickly and was helped to our car. At this stage, one of her helpers suggested we seek help from the First Aid expert in the ferry. Once on the *MV Isle of Mull*, I sought such help and was delighted with the kindness and proficiency with which this help was given.

After a visit to her doctor and dentist my wife is now well but with a wonderful black eye caused by her forehead hitting the pavement. I cannot exaggerate my appreciation for the kindness of those who helped. **Lieutenant Commander R M Tappley, Isle of Mull.**



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

COMHAIRLE bhuan nach d' fhuairidh agam! Cha b' urrainn faclan na bu fhreagarraiche mar fhreagairt air beachdan IDS is e a' moladh gum bu chòir dha na seann daoine as fheàrr dheth feadhainn den cuid shochairan a thilleadh gu sporan an riaghaltas, ach chan eil guith aig luchd an airgid mhòir anns an riaghaltas air dad a dhiùltadh! Tha Mac a' Ghobhainn air e fhèin a dhearbhadh mar fhior dhuine cruaidh ach feumar aideachadh nach eil seachnadh air a bhith cruaidh nuair a dh'fheumar seasamh aig dùbhlann eaconamach cho mòr 's a th' againn aig an àm seo.

Ach tha prìomh dhleastanas aig riaghaltas a thaobh cor an t-sluaigh a tha e a' riochdachadh agus tha còir gum biodh aithne air sin na shlat-homhais air a h-uile gluasad a chuireas e an gnìomh.

'S e an duilgheadas gum feum ministearan riaghaltas tuigse mhionaideach air suidheachadh mòr-shluaigh na dùthcha ma tha iad dol a chòileanadh an dleastanas dhaibh agus, mar a tha mi air a thogail iomadh uair roimhe, chan eil doigh aig mòran den fheadhainn a tha a' riaghladh an-dràsta air an tuigse sin a bhith aca.

Chan e an coire a th' ann gun d' rugadh cuid aca cho beairteach is nach robh dad riamh gun dìth, ach a cheart cho cinnteach 's nach tuig a' mhòr-chuid againne leithid sin de shàidhbheas, cha mhotha thuigeas iadsan gainnead. Tha beagan a bharrachd cheistean air ire eòlais agus tuigse bhuihl a' Chaibineat a' nochdadh anns na meadhanan bho chionn ghoirid is barrachd mothachadh ga thoirt dhàn cuid beairteis agus an scòrsa cultar a tha iad air a thoirt a foghlam ann an leithid Eton agus Oxford.

Chan eil ach beagan ann am Breatainn aig am bheil beairteas mòr agus tha buidheann dhiubh a' toirt buaidh air mar a thathas a' dèiligeadh ri mòr-chuid aig nach eil ach am beagan! Suidheachadh mi-chothromach a tha sin gun teagamh, ach thug sluaigh Bhreatainn sin orra fhèin leithid a' cleachdadh a' chumhachd bhòtaidh a th' aca.

Theagamh gum bheil an taic a fhuair UKIP na chomharradh air mi-rùn an t-sluaigh a thaobh mar a tha cùisean ga riaghladh an-dràsta agus nach bu mhath nam b' e comharradh a bh' ann air ùidh às ùr ann am poilitigs.

Ach tha na partaidhean fhèin ri 'n coireachadh cuideachd, agus tha daoine seachd searbh ag èisteachd ri riochdairean fa leth a' càineadh a chèile agus ag innse dhuinn carson nach bu chòir taic a chur ri càch.

'S e tha dhìth ach gun tòisich iad ag innse carson a tha iadsan a' airdh air taic!

MANY people appear to believe that millionaire politicians, educated at exclusive public schools and universities, are incapable of properly understanding the social and economic status of the majority.

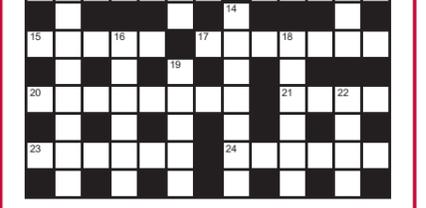
While the recent UKIP support may demonstrate some voter dissatisfaction with current government policy people must recognise that they have the power to influence more effectively by taking responsibility and using their votes!

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

Le taic bho



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Across | Down |
| 7 Sharp ends (6) | 1 Jester (4) |
| 8 One who massages (6) | 2 A group of complex proteins (6) |
| 9 Clever tactic (4) | 3 To marry (7) |
| 10 Glimpse (4-4) | 4 Age (5) |
| 11 Hostile (7) | 5 Person whose function has mechanical help (6) |
| 13 Secret or estate (5) | 6 Winty (8) |
| 15 Go away! (5) | 12 Crew (8) |
| 17 Fighting (7) | 14 The lady who holds a party (7) |
| 20 Antagonistic (8) | 16 Hold fast (6) |
| 21 Christmas (4) | 18 Dry fire material (6) |
| 23 Waiting to be put through (2,4) | 19 Something whispered (5) |
| 24 'S' in communications alphabet (6) | 22 Acquire through labour (4) |

Last week's solution

M	A	L	A	R	I	F	A	C	E	L	E	B
C	O	E	N	H	A	D	A	M				
P	R	I	M	P	G	R	A	N	D	A	M	
E	T	I	R	E	L	N	G	I	N	E	U	
I	T	E	S	E	L	E	N	G	I	N	E	S
R	H	E	R	E								
W	A	S	K	E	D							
S	H	I	P	S	C	H	A	N	D	L	E	R
U	N	I	T	E	R	S						
S	E	C	R	E	T	I	N	G	U	S		
B	E	L	E	S	O							
R	E	T	I	E								

LOCAL TOURIST MAPS REGULARLY RESTOCKED THROUGHOUT THE SEASON



Available from most retailers and tourist outlets

FREE

Antarctic Circle searchers

HAVING spent several years studying whales off the west coast of Scotland, Russell and I have just returned from our first research expedition to Antarctica, using pioneering listening techniques to find blue whales.

Antarctic blue whales, the largest mammal ever to have lived on the planet, were almost wiped out by industrial whaling.

By the time the killing of blue whales was banned in 1965, there were probably just a few hundred animals left out of an estimated population of more than 200,000.

Challenge

Even now, with the Southern Ocean designated a whale sanctuary where whaling is prohibited, Japan continues to hunt whales in the area - although not blue whales - through a loophole that allows whaling for scientific research.

In order to study Antarctic blue whales, you first have to find them. However, with so few animals in such a large area, that in itself can be quite a challenge.

The object of this seven-week sea voyage to the Ross Sea area of the Antarctic run by the Australian Antarctic Division, was to work out how we could find more whales more easily by making use of the sounds they make - very loud, very low noises like moans and groans.

Acoustic technology

These low frequency messages can travel for hundreds of miles underwater and acoustic technology, in the form of underwater microphones called sonobuoys, can detect blue whale sounds and indicate the direction they are coming from - and help us to track down whales directly.

However, this was a new research method and we weren't quite sure how well it would work. We were not even sure we would even hear blue

BANAVIE couple Susannah Calderan and Russell Leaper are safely back in Lochaber after a life-changing mission to track Antarctica blue whales amid the icebergs of the wild Southern Ocean.

For self-employed whale researchers Russell, 46, and Susannah, 38, the trip - their first below the Antarctic Circle - was an unforgettable experience.

Here Susannah, who previously worked aboard the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust's research boat *Silurian*, tells *Oban Times* readers about the search for these magnificent animals persecuted to the brink of extinction by industrial whaling.



Susannah Calderan preparing to launch a sonobuoy to listen for whales.

whales, let alone be able to navigate towards them.

We set off from New Zealand's South Island in January, the middle of the Antarctic summer.

Our ship was a 65m deep-sea trawler, the *Amalval Explorer*, chartered by the Australian government for our research expedition.

Onboard were 18 scientists from

Australia, New Zealand, the UK, the USA and Chile, along with 17 crew, who are all normally fishermen.

Amazingly, we were barely out of sight of New Zealand when we started hearing our first Antarctic blue whales.

And as we headed south, it wasn't long before the sounds were loud enough for us to follow the direction they were coming from and find the animals.

And what animals they are! It's hard to imagine what a whale as long as our local swimming pool really looks like face-to-face.

Blue whales are, indeed, massive, but they are also very beautiful, and surprisingly swift and agile for their size.

Southern Ocean

Their colouring when seen from the surface is not so much blue as a mottled grey - their mottling patterns are unique to each animal, like a fingerprint, and is a way of identifying each as an individual.

However, when seen through the water, they are the most stunning turquoise blue, which is probably how they get their name.

The Antarctic is not just home to blue whales. Through their slightly smaller relative the fin whales, to humpback whales, minke whales and dolphins, there was never a day without an intriguing wildlife encounter.

The waters are also home to some

wonderful seabirds, from soaring albatrosses to the smallest petrels and penguins.

The Southern Ocean is incredibly biologically productive and all these animals are there to make the most of the abundant food.

When the extraordinary scenery of sea-ice, icebergs and stormy seas is added to the mix, Antarctica makes for an exceptional place to work.

By the end of the voyage, we had found more than 100 Antarctic blue whales, by navigating towards their sounds - possibly about five per cent of the entire world population.

This success was much greater than we had hoped for and is very encouraging for future research expeditions.

It should now be much easier to work out how many whales there are, whether populations are really recovering from the terrible effects of whaling and how to plan our future research.

Closer to home, more than 300 blue whales were hunted off the Outer Hebrides between 1904 and 1928. If numbers recover here too, we hope to see and hear more of them off our shores in the future.

Susannah Calderan.



Research vessel *Amalval Explorer*, chartered by the Australian Government, by a tabular iceberg in the Southern Ocean



An Antarctic blue whale surfaces among the ice floes. Photograph by Paula Olsen.



Right: Russell Leaper and Susannah Calderan reading *The Oban Times* in the Ross Sea.



£30,000 engine for railway

Mull's railway is set to get a new £30,000 engine, made from a design specially brought over from Australia. Phil A'verd and Don Marshall from Melbourne with Roger Nicholas, centre, from Craignure, on the Mull Railway. t19twenty04



Vital Glencoe post bus link

Some of the remotest rural areas of the Highlands and islands are served by a post bus - giving residents a vital link with the outside world through mail, transport and conversation. Postman Donnie MacIntyre is pictured delivering mail to a remote Glencoe home. t19twenty07



The distinctive first phase of Oban's Waterfront development. t19twenty01

Plimley sells Waterfront development

OBAN'S £2.5 million Heritage Wharf development has been sold - one year after it was completed.

Developer Peter Plimley, who is set

to embark on the £4 million second phase of the Waterfront development, confirmed on Monday that the first phase, which includes a glass blowing

studio, visitor centre, tearoom and shops, has been sold to the Edinburgh-based property investment company Kirkgate Investments.



An artist's impression of how the second phase, including apartments, ice rink and library, will fit in. t19twenty02

Special ceremony on Isle of Coll

Right: At a ceremony at the Project Trust headquarters, Ballyhough Farm on Coll, the Duke of Argyll planted a Rowan tree to mark the opening of the final phase of the building. Major McLean Bristol, left, and his wife Lavinia, right, are seen welcoming the Duke and Duchess to the centre. t19twenty03



Wealth of talent on show at Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival

A WEALTH of talent was evident throughout Oban at the weekend as the 10th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival got underway.



Angus MacColl of Oban took the trophy for Top Piper. t19twenty06



Right: Musician Angus MacPhail of Tiree. t19twenty05

what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY - May 9

9am, Ramblers Scotland, Glen Ceran walk, meet Ballachulish Tourist Info or Longsdale Road car park, Oban.
10.15am, Creation Station, Church Hall, Connel.
11am, Zumba Gold, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.
2pm, Grey Matters, Bowman Court, Craignure, Mull.
2pm, Open house, Bishop's House, Iona.
6pm, Zumba Fitness, Park Primary School, Oban.
7pm, Bokwa Fitness, Park Primary School, Oban.
7.30pm, Friends of Oban Hospice flower demonstration, Oban High School.
7.30pm, Coast windward tour, Corran Halls, Oban.
7.30pm, Concert, St John's Cathedral, Oban.

FRIDAY - May 10

Craignish Primary School's fundraiser for Pandalaba orphans, Craignish Village Hall.
8.30pm, Coast windward tour, Community Centre, Mallaig.
9pm, Oban Mic night, O'Donnell's, Oban.
9.30pm, Kevin Fraser, Markie Dan's, Oban.

SATURDAY - May 11

5am, Dawn chorus, car park at Moine Mhor, book through Kilmartin Museum.
10.30 - 2pm, Coffee morning and soup lunch, Congregational Church, Oban.
1pm, Butterfly count, Dunadd car park, book through Kilmartin Museum.
2.15pm, Roller disco, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
2.30pm, RBL's Easdale branch meeting, Tigh and Truish Inn, Clachan Seil.
8pm, Ladies night, Palace Hotel, Oban.
8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.
8.30pm, Jo Mango and band, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.
10pm, Signal Fires, Lorne Bar, Oban

SUNDAY - May 12

8.45am, Ramblers Scotland, Morven walk, meet Corran Ferry slipway.
Garden day, Arduaine Garden, Arduaine.
2.30pm - 4pm, Producers' market, Dervaig Hall, Mull.
3.30pm, All Age Worship, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
9.30pm, Pub quiz, Markie Dan's, Oban.

MONDAY - May 13

7.30pm, Royal British Legion Scotland monthly meeting, Royal Hotel, Oban.
7.30pm, Zumba toning, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.

TUESDAY - May 14

10am, Creation Station, Guide Hall, Oban.
8pm, Mull Community Council meeting, Craignure Village Hall, Mull.
8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.

WEDNESDAY - May 15

10am, Guided walk, Langamull Woods, Mull.
7pm, Bokwa fitness, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.
7.30pm, Melfort Ukuleles, Kilmelford Village Hall.
Basil Forgrieve, Royal Hotel, Oban.

THURSDAY - May 16

10.15am, Creation Station, Church Hall, Connel.
11am, Zumba gold, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.
1.30pm, Mull Musical Minds, An Roth, Craignure, Mull.
6pm, Zumba Fitness, Park Primary School, Oban.
7pm, Community Concert, Corran Halls, Oban.
7pm, Bokwa Fitness, Park Primary School, Oban.
8pm, Mull Film Club, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.

FRIDAY - May 17

All day, Heb Camp, Oban and Kerrera.
9.30am, Ramblers Scotland, Kinlochleven walk, meet Glencoe Village.
Mull Rugby Sevens, Garmony, Mull.
7pm, Beetle drive, Bunessan Hall, Mull.
8.30pm, Trevor Loughrey with Baton Rouge Band, BA Club, Fort William.
9pm, Oban Mic night, O'Donnell's, Oban.

SATURDAY - May 18

All day, Heb Camp, Oban and Kerrera.
9.15am, Ramblers Scotland, Lismore walk, meet Ballachulish Tourist Info or 10am at Port Appin Pier.
Mull Rugby Sevens, Garmony, Mull.
2.15pm, Roller disco, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.
7pm, Whisky tasting, Isle of Erika Hotel, Benderloch.
7pm, Fun night, Pennyghael Community Centre, Mull.
8.30pm, Scottish Show, Royal Hotel, Oban.
9.30pm, Fraser James, Markie Dan's, Oban.

SUNDAY - May 19

All day, Heb Camp, Oban and Kerrera.
Zumbathon, Tobermory, Mull.
2pm - 4pm, Producers' market, Craignure Village Hall, Mull.
9.30pm, Pub quiz, Markie Dan's, Oban.

Send your events to whatson@obantimes.co.uk.



Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival



More photos available online
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Kilniver's Neve Davies, left, and Georgie Anderson after their performance in the woodwind and brass duets.
16.119musicdance17

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS MUSIC & DANCE FESTIVAL RESULTS - 2013. Oban - 3rd to 5th May 2013

HIGHLAND DANCING SCOTTISH AREA FINALS: North Aberdeenshire; Choreographed Solo/Duet: Dawn Fraser, Stirling; SCOTTISH CHOREOGRAPHY CHALLENGE: Choreographed Set Theme, Choreographed Set Piece and Open Age Group: Dawn Fraser, Stirling; Strictly Ceilidh - 12 years and under: Dawn Fraser, Stirling.

ACCORDION & FIDDLE MASTERS: ACCORDION: 1 Lagavulin Distillery Trophy: Gary Sutherland, Giffordtown, 2 Iain Campbell & D W Campbell Memorial Trophy: Neil Angus Maclell, Aberdeen, 3 Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride; FIDDLE: 1 Oban Distillery Trophy: Maggie Adamson, Shetland, 2 Gordon MacLachlan Memorial Trophy: Erin Smith, Aberdeen, 3 George Davidson, Tarves.

CHAMPION OF CHAMPION: Jimmy Feighan Trophy for best performance at Concert of Champions: Amelia MacGaggart, North Connel.

JUNIOR SOLO PIPING, CHANTER AND DRUMMING COMPETITION: Chanters - Under 12 years - Scale & 2 part tune: 1 Argyll Print Trophy: Emma Hill, Connel, 2 Innes Munro, Connel, 3 Finbar Dunne, Oban; Chanters - Under 12 years - 4 part tune: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Amy Paterson, Campbeltown, 2 Eosaph Cairnbeul, An Caol and Alistair MacRae, Lochyside; Frances Shand Kydd Trophy: Eosaph Cairnbeul, An Caol; Chanters - 12 years and under 14 years - March: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Andrew Moir, 2 Bronwen Davies, Kilniver;

Novice March - Under 13 years: 1 Oban Electrical Services Trophy: Jamie McKerral, Campbeltown, 2 Matthew McSherry, Kilmartin, 3 Finlay Bennett, North Connel; Ground of a Poibaireachd - Under 15 years: 1 D Watt & Son Trophy: Kyle Rowan, Edinburgh, 2 Alexander M Anderson, Tobermory; Anthony Campbell Memorial Trophy: Jamie McKerral, Campbeltown; Poibaireachd - Under 15 years: 1 Pipe Dreams Trophy: Donald C Stewart, Stewarton, 2 Aaron Hossain, Dunbeg, 3 Joshua Townsley, Airdrie; March - Under 15 years: The Willie MacCallum Trophy for March Playing: 1 Joshua Townsley, Airdrie, 2 Bridgha Chaimbeul, An Caol, 3 Donald C Stewart, Stewarton; Strathspey & Reel - Under 15 years: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Donald C Stewart, Stewarton, 2 Ciaran Ross, Dunblane, 3 Harry McLachlan, Aberfeldy; The Billy Kirkham Trophy: Joshua Townsley, Airdrie and Donald C Stewart, Stewarton; Jig - Under 15 years: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Joshua Townsley, Airdrie, 2 Ciaran Ross, Dunblane, 3 Aaron Hossain, Dunbeg; Poibaireachd - 15 years and under 18 years: 1 Angus MacAlister Memorial Quaid: Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge, 2 John Dew, Strathallan School, 3 Cameron Strain; March - 15 years and under 18 years: 1 Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trophy: Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge, 2 Henry Richards, Strathallan School, 3 Iain Crawford, Strathaven; Strathspey & Reel - 15 years and under 18 years: 1 Chris Crowe Trophy: Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge, 2 Callum Wynd, Dunblane, 3 John Dew, Strathallan School; Hornpipe & Jig - 15 years and under 18 years: 1 Bill Crowe Trophy: Cameron Strain, 2 Iain Crawford, Strathaven, 3 Seamus O'Boaghill, Isle of Skye; The Allan MacInnes Memorial Trophy: Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; Hornpipe & Jig - 15 years and under 18 years: 1 United Auctions Trophy: Mark Leishman, Campbeltown, 2 Blair MacDonald, Oban, 3 Alistair Cameron, Oban; March, Strathspey & Reel - 15 years and under 18 years: 1 Adam McCracken Trophy: Mark Leishman, Campbeltown, 2 Blair MacDonald, Oban, 3 Alistair Cameron, Oban. SENIOR PIPING: Poibaireachd - Grade A & P (Open): 1 Cooper Salver: David Wilton, 2 Dugald MacColl Memorial Trophy: Gordon McCready, Renfrew, 3 Allan Russell, Kilty; Poibaireachd - Grade B: 1 Royal Bank of Scotland: Andrew Wilson, Dromore, 2 Walter Drysdale Trophy: Connor Sinclair, Crief, 3 Gavin Ferguson, Glasgow; Poibaireachd - Grade C: 1 Ronald Lawrie Memorial Trophy: Matt Fraser, Glasgow, 2 Jamie Elder, Auchtermuchty; 3 Christopher Gray, Lockerbie; March, Strathspey & Reel - Grade A & P: 1 Reid Family Trophy: 1 Gordon McCready, Renfrew, 2 Glen Brown, 3 Cameron Drummond, Forgandenny; March, Strathspey & Reel - Grade B: 1 Riona T MacInnes Trophy: Angus J MacColl, Benderloch, 2 David Shedden, Glasgow, 3 Steven Gray, Lockerbie; March, Strathspey & Reel - Grade C: 1 Fusion Marine Trophy: Mael Sicard-Cras, 2 Craig Martin, 3 Christopher Gray, Lockerbie.

ACCORDION - JUNIOR & OPEN: March, Strathspey & Reel (Traditional) - Under 12 years: 1 Ilay Accordion Club Trophy: Kyle Rowan, Edinburgh, 2 Ellie Borthwick, Newtongrange, 3 Mark Fullerton, Ballachulish; Frances Shand Kydd Trophy: Annie Borthwick, Newtongrange; Gaelic Waltzes - 12 years and under 16 years: 1 Iain MacPhail Trophy: Emma Dickson, West Linton, 2 Ruairidh Gollan, Edderton, 3 Allan Rowan, Edinburgh; March, Strathspey & Reel - 12 years and under 16 years: 1 Iona Shop Trophy: Emma Dickson, West Linton, 2 Alex Stewart, Stanley, 3 Alan Rowan, Edinburgh; March, Strathspey & Reel (Pipe) - 12 years and under 16 years: 1 Oban Accordion Club Trophy: Emma Dickson, West Linton, 2 = Ruairidh G

Gollan, Edderton and Alex Stewart, Stanley; The John Allan Memorial Cup: Emma Dickson, West Linton; The Duncan Campbell Trophy: Ruairidh Gollan, Edderton. OPEN ACCORDION: March, Strathspey & Reel (Traditional) - Open: 1 Mr & Mrs Hugh MacInnes, Beechglade Trophy: Graeme MacKay, Inverness, 2 John Weaks, Glasgow; March, Strathspey & Reel (Traditional) - Open: 1 McIntee Family Trophy: Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride, 2 Aiden Graham, Windygates, 3 Leonard Brown, South Shields; March, Strathspey & Reel (Pipe) - Open/Buton Key Accordion: 1 Mr & Mrs Hugh MacInnes Trophy: Graeme MacKay, Inverness, 2 John Weaks, Glasgow; March, Strathspey & Reel (Pipe) - Open: 1 Neil Sinclair Trophy: Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride,

2 Graeme MacKay, Inverness, 3 Kyle Rowan, Edinburgh; The Jimmy Shand Scotrail Trophy: Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride; Gaelic Waltzes (Traditional) - Open: 1 Iain MacPhail Trophy: Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride, 2 Graeme MacKay, Inverness, 3 Kyle Rowan, Edinburgh; Own Composition - Accordion or Fiddle: 1 Angus & Ella MacFadyen Memorial Trophy: Emma Dickson, West Linton, 2 Maggie Adamson, Shetland, 3 Jack Westwell, Edinburgh; Traditional Scottish Band/Group - Open: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Kyle Rowan Band, 2 The Things, 3 Westwell Family.

FIDDLE: Slow Air & March - Under 12 years: 1 Oban Strathspey & Reel Society Trophy: Anna Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 Amy Paterson, Campbeltown, 3 Emma Hill, Connel; The Frances Shand Kydd Trophy: Coineach Macleod, Stornoway; March, Strathspey & Reel - 12 years and under 16 years: 1 Accordion Club Trophy: Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 Stuart Davidson, Tarves, 3 Hannah MacRae, Fort William and Eilidh MacLeod, Stornoway; Slow Air - 12 years and under 16 years: 1 McLachlan Trophy: Eilidh MacLeod, Stornoway, 2 Sorcha Gall, Huntly and Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh, 3 Stuart Davidson, Tarves; March, Strathspey & Reel - Open: 1 Calum MacPhail Trophy: Maggie Adamson, Shetland, 2 George Davidson, Tarves, 3 Shona MacFadyen, West Kilbride; Slow Air (Traditional) - Open: 1 Christine MacKenzie Trophy: George Davidson, Tarves, 2 Maggie Adamson, Shetland, 3 Hannah Dickson, West Linton.

CLARSACH: Beginners: 1 Campbell Family Trophy: Jessica Swan, Oban, 2 Christiana Cameron, Oban; Intermediate: 1 Oban Gaelic Drama Trophy: Melanie Ronnie, Edinburgh, 2 Breagha Charlton, Taynuilt; Solo Singing with Self Accompaniment: Clarsach Society Trophy: Anna Westwell, Edinburgh; Advanced: 1 Russell Quaid: Catriona Clark, Castle Douglas, 2 Kirsty Savage, Helensburgh; Non-Traditional: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Anna Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 Catriona Clark, Castle Douglas; Recital of Scottish and/or Gaelic Music: 1 Rebecca Hill, Connel, 2 Anna Westwell, Edinburgh; Ensemble: Lomond School Clarsach Ensemble.

SINGING: PRIMARY, SECONDARY & OPEN: The Gillies Cup: Amelia MacGaggart, North Connel & Chrissy Harkins, Alexandria; Scots Song - Primary: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Chrissy Harkins, Alexandria, 2 Ealasaid MacLean, Appin, 3 Amelia MacGaggart, North Connel; Classical Song - Primary: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Chrissy Harkins, Alexandria, 2 Molly Gregory - Beard, Appin, 3 Amelia MacGaggart, North Connel; Songs from the Shows - Secondary 3 +:

1 MacKinnon Family Trophy: Aime MacDonald, Appin, 2 Kyle Renton, Mid Argyll Youth Chorus, 3 Zoe Thomson, Benderloch; Songs from the Shows Girls - Primary 4 & 5: R T MacInnes Trophy: 1 Katie Cook, Lismore, 2 Charlie Johnston, Appin; Songs from the Shows - Primary: 1 Berni MacMillan Trophy: Amelia MacGaggart, North Connel, 2 Alistair Cupples, Mid Argyll, 3 Chrissy Harkins, Alexandria; Scots Song - Secondary 1 & 2: 1 Margaret Farmer Trophy: Emma Baird, Taynuilt, 2 Charlotte Lawson, Benderloch, 3 Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh; Secondary Duets: 1 Mary Pollock Trophy: Emma Baird & Florence Campbell-Gray, Taynuilt, 2 Eve Maxwell & Abbie Williams, Mid Argyll Youth Chorus, 3 Zoe Thomson & Lauren MacDonald, Oban; Senior Choirs - Accompanied: Sequence: Junior Choirs - Under 18 years: John Wallace Trophy: Mid Argyll Youth Chorus: Scots Song - Secondary 3 +: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Amy Leigh Boyce, Taynuilt, 2 Aime MacDonald, Appin, 3 Danielle Law, Glenrothes; Folk Singing Solo - Own Guitar Accompaniment: 1 Oban Gaelic Choir Trophy: Jack Anderson, Oban, 2 Shona Keith, Lochgair; Songs from the Shows - Secondary 1 & 2: 1 Frances Grant Trophy: Emma Baird, Taynuilt, 2 Charlotte Lawson, Benderloch, 3 Eve Maxwell, Mid Argyll Youth Chorus; Vocal Solo Girls - Primary 6 & 7: 1 Frances Shand Kydd Trophy: Amelia MacGaggart, North Connel, 2 Maria Clark, Oban, 3 Molly Gregory - Beard, Appin; Classical

Song - Open: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Shona Keith, Lochgair, 2 Pauline Cameron, Oban, 3 Alison McGinty, Mid Argyll Youth Chorus; Songs from the Shows - Open: 1 The Highlands Restaurant Trophy: Shona Keith, Lochgair, 2 Caitlin Taylor, Taynuilt, 3 Catriona McLean, Mid Argyll; Classical Song - Secondary 1 & 2: 1 Iona Shop Cup: Charlotte Lawson, Benderloch, 2 Holly Renton, Mid Argyll Youth Chorus, 3 Tiegann Holroyd, Mid Argyll Youth Chorus; Scottish Song - Gaelic or English: 1 Argyll Oils Trophy: Shona Keith, Lochgair, 2 Catriona McLean, Mid Argyll Youth Chorus, 3 Alison McGinty, Mid Argyll Youth Chorus.

LADY FERMOY PIANO COMPETITIONS: The Lady Feroym Trophy: Lena Kurishita, Oban; Visit Scotland Trophy: Liam Stewart, Fort William; Pianoforte Solo - Pre Grade 1 standard: Caroline Boyle Trophy: Cameron Whyte, Mintlaw; Pianoforte Solo - Grade 1: 1 Seilas Sinclair Trophy: Finlay Cameron, Inverness-shire, 2 Laura McClymont, Oban, 3 = Maria Clark, Oban and Keegan Johnstone, Dumfries; Pianoforte Solo - Grade 2: Neil Sinclair Trophy: Katie Ramsay, Peterhead; Pianoforte Duet - Grade 1 - 2: McLellan Trophy: Jordan & Katie Ramsay, Peterhead; Pianoforte Solo: 1 Scottish Music Trophy: Melanie Ronnie, Edinburgh, 2 Finlay Cameron, Inverness-shire; Pianoforte Solo - Grade 3: 1 Sheila Sinclair Trophy: Jordan Ramsay, Peterhead, 2 Megan MacDonald, Fort William; Romantic Period - Adult Advanced: Jessica Bennett, Melrose; Pianoforte Solo - Grade 4: 1 Peter and Peggy Sinclair Memorial Plate: Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 Marnie Clark, Castle Douglas, 3 Paul Mathers, Leven; Classical Solo: Bryce Stewart Trophy: Lena Kurishita, Oban; Ragtime & Blues: Jack Westwell, Edinburgh; Modern:

1 Jack Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 Lena Kurishita, Oban; Scottish Music - Slow Air/March, Strathspey & Reel: 1 Liam Stewart, Fort William.

SCHOOLS: SINGING AND RECORDER: Primary Folk Singing Group: 1 N.A.B.O. Trophy: Dunbeg Folk Group A, 2 Barcalinde Primary School, 3 Dunbeg Folk Group B; Primary Choirs - Accompanied: 1 Sinclair Family Trophy: 1 Lochnell School Choir, 2 Barcalinde & Ardchattan Primaries, 3 St Columba's Primary Choir; RECORDER: Primary Recorder Groups: 1 Agnes Connelly Trophy: Dunbeg Recorder Group, 2 Taynuilt Primary School, 3 Bardchattan; Recorder Solo - Open: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Laura McClymont, Oban, 2 Catherine Ravenhill, Oban, 3 Kaitlin Evans, Oban; Recorder Group - Open: 1 HIMDF Trophy: 1 Kilmore & Oban Church Recorders, 2 Taynuilt Primary School; Vocal Duet - Primary: Amelia MacGaggart & Molly Gregory - Beard.

WOODWIND & BRASS: PRIMARY: Woodwind - Elementary (less than 1 year's experience): 1 Chloe Hamilton, Oban, 2 Kelsey Whitlow, Kilmelford, 3 John MacFadyen, Easdale; Brass - Elementary (less than 1 year's experience): 1 Calum Warnock, Ardmaddy,

2 Kathryn Mathers, Leven, 3 Joy Barrow, Oban; Woodwind - Open: 1 Eliza Cox, Taynuilt, 2 Katie Ramsay, Peterhead, 3 Rowan Chisolm, Taynuilt; Brass - Open: 1 Amy Paterson, Campbeltown, 2 Jessica Tanner, Kilmartin, 3 Anna Westwell, Edinburgh; Ensemble - may include Woodwind and Brass: Taynuilt Primary Wind Ensemble; Woodwind and Brass Duets: 1 Eliza Cox & Rowan Chisolm, Taynuilt, 2 Shona MacKenzie & Katie MacCorquodale, 3 Neve Davies & Georgie Anderson, Kilniver; WOODWIND & BRASS: SECONDARY: Woodwind - Secondary 1st Year: 1 Katie Houston, Taynuilt, 2 Sophie Carswell, Taynuilt; Brass - Secondary 1st Year: Gavin Johnson, Lochgilphead; Woodwind - Secondary 2nd & 3rd Year: 1 Chelsea McLab, Oban, 2 Tess Bell, Lesmahagow, 3 Eilidh Wynd, Dunblane; Brass - Secondary 2nd & 3rd Year: 1 Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 Paul Mathers, Leven; Woodwind - Secondary 4th, 5th & 6th Year: 1 Hollie McGregor, Lochgilphead, 2 Amy Boyce, Taynuilt, 3 Kirsty Campbell, Oban;

Brass - Secondary 4th, 5th & 6th Year: Matthew Tanner, Kilmartin; Ensemble - may include primary pupils: Oban High School Wind Ensemble; Woodwind & Brass Duets: 1 - Kirsty Campbell & Emily Scott, 2 Magnus & Anna Westwell, 3 Ruairidh Lister-Campbell & Chelsea McNab; HIMDF Lorne Trophy: Primary Woodwind - Eliza Cox, Taynuilt,

Primary Brass: Amy Paterson, Campbeltown, Secondary Woodwind: Chelsea McNab, Oban, Secondary Brass - Matthew Tanner, Kilmartin.

MORE than 1,000 dancers, musicians and singers gathered in Oban at the weekend to join in the celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

Scores of enthusiastic competitors were matched with spectators and supporters alike as the town thrived with Highland spirit inexorably linked with the traditional arts extravaganza.

Held across 11 venues with more than 1,100 people competing, the event underlined its credentials as one of Scotland's most respected trad events.

Competition was fierce, but the atmosphere was undoubtedly one of celebration despite the dour weather, with smiles seen across the events.

Saturday night's Festival Fling at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls also provided the best way to dust off the stress of competition, with the ceilidh one of the weekend's highlights.

The Oban Times was out in force and captured a host of photographs and video from the event to help capture the festival's successful third decade.



Kilniver Primary School's routine, Peter the Rabbit Had a Fly on His Nose drew a few 'awws' from the Corran Halls crowd.
Photo by Kevin McGlynn.

Video of this available online
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Magnus Westwell, from Edinburgh, with the trophy he won for the pianoforte solo grade four competition, held in St John's Cathedral on Saturday. 16_t19musicdance4



Intermediate Highland Dancing winners. 16_t19musicdance8



Advanced Clarsach competitors Catriona Clark, Castle Douglas, Kirsty Savage, Helensburgh and Rebecca Hill, of Connel. 16_t19musicdance1



The Argyllshire Gathering Halls was packed for the Festival Fling on Saturday night.

Below: Maggie Adamson from Shetland and Gary Sutherland, of Milnathorp, who were overall winners in the fiddle and accordion categories. Photo by Kevin McGlynn.



Cameron Walker, Deeny, with Holly Donaldson, right, and Abbie MacNeil, Glasgow, joint winners of the Kirstin Janet Stewart Trophy, which is traditionally presented to the dancer with the most points in the Highland Dancing classes 13-21. 16_t19musicdance11



Amy-Leigh Boyce, 15, from Taynuilt, Gold winner of the Scots Song section for third year plus. Amy also won silver place on her Clarinet Solo.



Alastair Currie, from Mull, who competed in several categories of the accordion competitions at the St Columba's Cathedral Hall. 16_t19musicdance12



Susan MacFadyen, picked up another raft of trophies in the accordion competitions this year. It was the sixth time she had won the open traditional Championship and the seventh time she's won the Jimmy Shand Scotrail Trophy for best overall performance in March, Strathspey and Reel (traditional) categories. 16_t19musicdance13

Oban Phoenix Cinema	Iron Man 3	Thurs 9th	17:45 2D, 20:45 3D
	GI Joe: Retaliation	Fri 10th	18:00 3D, 20:30 2D
		Sat 11th	18:00 3D
		Sun 12th	18:00 2D
	Sammy's Great Escape	Sat 11th	13:00 3D
		Sun 12th	13:00 3D
	Wreck It Ralph	Sat 11th	15:00 3D
		Sun 12th	15:00 3D
	Dark Skies	Sat 11th	20:30 2D
		Sun 12th	20:30 2D
	Robot and Frank	Mon 13th	18:00 2D
		Thurs 16th	14:00 2D
	Oblivion	Mon 13th	20:30 2D
		Tues 14th	18:00 2D, 20:30 2D
		Wed 15th	18:00 2D, 20:30 2D
Thurs 16th		17:45 2D, 20:30 2D	

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Iron Man 3 (12A)
When Stark finds his personal world destroyed at his enemy's hands, he embarks on a harrowing quest to find those responsible. This journey, at every turn, will test his mettle. As he fights his way back, Stark discovers the answer to the question does the suit make the man?

GI Joe: Retaliation (12A)
An action figure with a sweet core, Johnson can pump up the humanity of any franchise, whether he's playing a stepdad who becomes a hero in Journey 2 or, as here, a stud soldier who treats Flint and Jaye like his grown children and shepherds them through peril. Following those younger Joes, the Retaliation audience is encouraged to dangle on Johnson's huge shoulders and go along for a pretty cool ride.

Sammy's Great Escape (U)
Sammy and Ray, leatherback turtles and friends forever, are enjoying an atoll's water and sand, shepherding new hatchlings: Ricky and Ella out to sea. Suddenly, a poacher swoops in and ships them off to be part of a spectacular aquarium show for tourists in Dubai.

Wreck It Ralph (PG)
Back in glorious 3D!!! Ralph is tired of being overshadowed by Fix-It Felix. After decades doing the same thing and seeing all the glory go to Felix, Ralph decides he's tired of playing the role of a bad guy. He takes matters into his own massive hands and sets off on a game-hopping journey to prove he's got what it takes to be a hero.

Dark Skies (15)
From the makers of SINISTER and INSIDIOUS, an innocent family becomes the focus of mysterious happenings and dark violent phenomena.

Robot and Frank (12A)
ROBOT & FRANK is a buddy caper. Set in the near future, aging curmudgeon and retired jewel thief Frank lives a solitary life until his son installs a caretaker robot; against his will and his daughter's wishes, the robot upends Frank's lonely life with a strict regimen of exercise, diet and gardening. Stubborn at first, Frank soon realizes Robot has the ability to pull off the most calculated of heists. An unlikely friendship, and crime duo, is born.

Oblivion (12A)
Tom Cruise stars in Oblivion, an original and ground-breaking cinematic event from the director of TRON: Legacy and the producer of Rise of the Planet of the Apes. On a spectacular future Earth that has evolved beyond recognition, one man's confrontation with the past will lead him on a journey of redemption and discovery as he battles to save mankind.

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Saturday 11th May > Markie Dans	DJ STEVO starts 9.30pm
Saturday 11th May > Lorne Bar	SIGNAL FIRES start 10pm
Sunday 12th May > Markie Dans	QUIZ starts 9.30pm

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Oban's 1st Steps Day Nursery
FAMILY FUN DAY
Saturday 11th May 1-3pm
at First Steps Nursery, Croft Road, Oban to celebrate our 14th Birthday Party.
Bouncy Castle, Refreshments, Tombola, Name the Dolly, Guess number of sweeties in jar, Circus Entertainer, Animal Ballons and much much more.
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See our website for more information www.firststepsoban.co.uk

Oban Congregational Church
Coffee Morning
Saturday 11th May
10.30am - 2.00pm
Tea or Coffee & Cakes £2.50
Soup/Bread £2.00
Special Lunchtime Offer
Soup/Bread followed by Tea/Coffee & Cakes only £4.00
Sales Stalls
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Ladies night
PALACE HOTEL, OBAN
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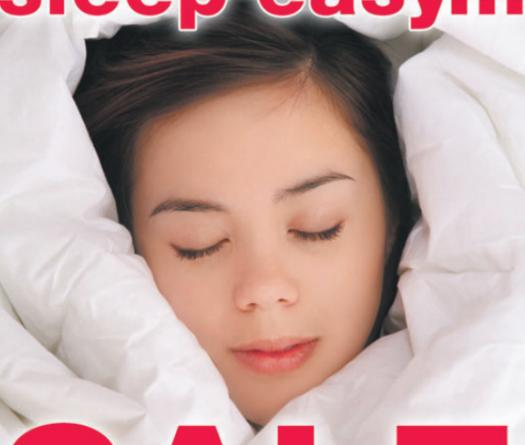
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SUMMER HOMES

Summer is a wonderful time 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 widows 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.

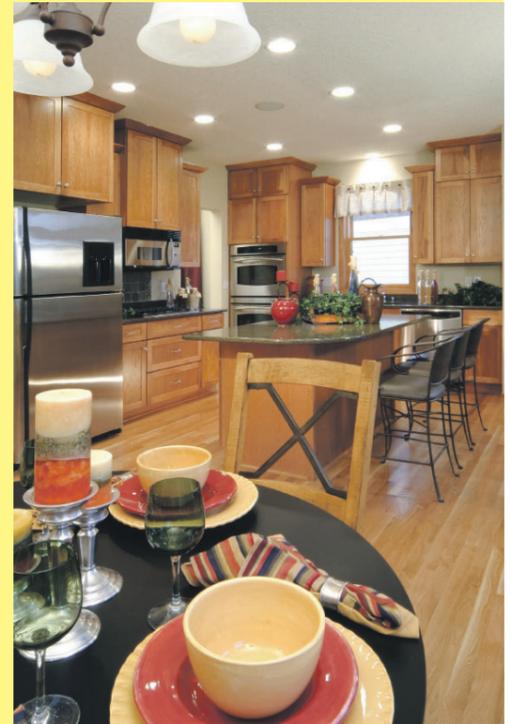
When all or any of that is in hand you'll need to give some thought to decor. There's nothing like bright sunshine to show up the flaws in that wallpaper, those chips in the paint. There never has been a better selection of decorating materials in the shops, and it's at prices most can afford. Hire shops 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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& Garden for the Summer

SUMMER GARDENS

The garden is in effect, a frame for your home. It is what is seen by the onlooker. It is what gives the visitor that all important, first impression of your home. It actually says a great deal about you and your standards of living. In addition of course, it is a useful extension to your home. A place to go to enjoy fresh air, privacy and the pleasures of flowers and foliage, bird song and the sky. A garden should be as carefully composed and tended as the best room in your house. It is after all an expensive area of property that should never be neglected.

There are three main areas of a garden that require care and attention. They are; the pathways and boundaries; the buildings and decorative structures; the planted areas. Each requires attention of a special sort. Each poses its own special problems. They all combine together to provide that unique ambience that signifies your home.

Pathways and boundaries need to be in good repair or they don't do the jobs they are designed to do. Broken pathways and drives are ugly to look at and dangerous to use. Steps and slopes even more so. The secret is to repair as you go so you are not faced with a huge bill when you least want one. And the same applies to boundaries and gates. They represent part of the security provisions of your property. They also show the outside world the limits of your land, so it is important that boundaries are intact and gates close easily and securely. Remember a gate constantly slamming in the wind will break itself and weaken the fence or wall to which it is attached. Again a repair in time can save a great deal of time and money.



A patio is part of this section and most homes these days either have one or are planning to do so. There is nothing quite so useful as this decorative paved area where you can stand garden furniture securely and enjoy the outdoors when perhaps the lawn is too wet to walk on. With a selection of containers with flowering plants and pretty foliage they can add a continental touch to your garden. A brick-built barbecue area attached as well will make a patio a perfect entertaining area too.

The buildings and decorative structures in your garden must also be kept up to scratch. Sheds need to be secure or there is no point storing valuable garden tools inside. Of course if you haven't yet got a garden shed, isn't it time you did have? If you like gardening a greenhouse is a very useful structure whether it is heated in winter or not. Once you have a greenhouse you can bring on seedlings, raise your own bedding plants, grow a variety of exotica or just have fresh tomatoes and cucumbers of your own in season. How about a summerhouse to have summer family meals in or garden picnics? Some are designed to incorporate a tool shed at the back and so solve two problems at the same time. Or you could just have a decorative pergola with roses and other climbing plants trained about. Placed beside a garden pool with a small fountain it could all look absolutely wonderful and so very pleasant to sit in.

Once you have the more permanent structures of the garden built and established you should turn your attention to the planted areas. This is the garden proper and carefully planned, you can

probably do a great deal with even a small, urban plot. To plan your garden first acquire some graph paper. Next take a tour around a variety of garden centres, public gardens and stately homes if there are any within reach. Take notes of the ideas you like. Take a tape measure and check the dimensions of the established shrubs. If you are lucky enough to have access to a botanical garden you will find the plants have name labels so you can note those you would like to see in your own garden.

Armed with all this information and appraised of the type of soil you have and which of those subjects you fancy will grow in it, you can sit down and plan your garden. Be creative. Don't imagine anything is obligatory, not even the lawn. In a very small garden an area of fine, coarse or coloured gravel can look just as attractive and provides an area just as useful to stand, sit or play on. It is less work to keep up too, an important point if you lead a busy life. Try to provide surprises here and there. Don't have straight lines in the garden. Give those border edges curves. If you have a lawn put small beds in here and there or plant a weeping tree at some point. Consider a rock garden. Placed near the pool it can give a garden great dimension. Plan too for your lifestyle. Shrubs and evergreens require less attention than annuals, perennials and biennials, and they can look every bit as attractive as the soft stemmed plants.

If you have a large plot and you fancy home-grown vegetables, plan that plot carefully too. Again don't be too hide-bound by tradition. Many vegetables will grow quite happily in borders amongst inedible plants. Indeed there are some of the brassica family that are positively decorative in their own right.

If time is a big problem well don't give up. Why not instruct a garden/landscape designer to help with the plans and organize some of the heavier, more time-consuming construction work for you? It can save a great deal of time, energy and heartache, especially if your knowledge of gardening at this point is limited. What's more, it need not cost as much as you might imagine and could even save you money in terms of expensive disasters averted.

Summer is the perfect time to get to grips with your garden and if you start right away, by next summer you'll have a garden to be really proud of.



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Squeasy Peasy (Shona Reeve, Annabel Stewart, Shona Warwick, Anna MacLeod, Ruth Hamilton) being presented the trophy by Stuart Black of Highland Council

Ullapool's 'Squeasy Peasy' to represent Scotland

A GROUP of prospective entrepreneurs from Ullapool High School will represent Scotland at an international competition after being named national champions.

Reusable baby food pouch 'Squeasy Peasy' - Shona Reeve, Annabel Stewart, Shona Warwick, Anna MacLeod, Ruth Hamilton - created a reusable baby food pouch which impressed judges at the European Business Game final in Inverness.

As well as the product, the team came up with a detailed business proposal that included market research, a three-year financial plan, and multi-lingual baby food recipe videos on YouTube.

The youngsters will now take on competition from around the continent at the international final in the Faroe Islands at the end of June.

Business studies principal teacher at Ullapool High School Sheila Green said: 'The enthusiastic, competent, and hardworking team enjoyed completing the business plan and gained many transferable skills in the process.'

'They are now very much looking forward to the challenge of competing against the winning teams from all the other countries.'

Concern voiced over Tyndrum and Crianlarich fire stations

CONCERN has been raised over organisational changes to the way fire crews cover the Strathfillan area.

Bruce Crawford MSP has written to the chief officer of the new Scottish Fire and Rescue service to raise concern over how the Tyndrum and Crianlarich stations are operated. Previously, the stations were considered one, both retaining four firefighters each.

The stations have now been redesignated as individual stations, meaning all four firefighters from each station would have to attend any incident.

Mr Crawford said: 'That does not appear workable on the face of it as all four fire fighters cannot be available 24 hours per day, seven days per week.'

'I hope that the Chief Fire Officer can offer reassurances to those served by the two stations in Strathfillan that structural changes for the service will in no way threaten operational capacity or public safety.'

Basking shark business starts in Oban

AN OPPORTUNITY to swim with massive sharks without the need for a cage is being offered by a new Oban-based business.

Shane Wasik has started up Basking Shark Scotland after being inspired by research which has found there are hundreds of these amazing creatures around the Argyll coast. Despite their large size basking sharks are harmless to humans. They use their metre wide mouth to filter plankton from the sea water.

Shane said: 'Basking Shark Scotland is the only operator to offer boat excursions out to the islands of Mull, Coll and Tiree with the aim of snorkelling with basking sharks from Oban.'

'Our business operates single, two and three day trips to see the sharks which includes watching the abundant wildlife in the area such as whales, dolphins, eagles and otters.'

'We hope to have a mix of customers from divers and photographers, wildlife enthusiasts, to tourists looking for a big animal adventure experience.'

Ancient Glencoe trees face the axe

THEY were planted to commemorate Glencoe MacDonalds who fought and died in the Napoleonic wars.

But now a line of 200-year-old beech and oak trees near the historic Lochaber village are themselves to be laid to rest.

They stand along The Avenue, the popular path along the banks of the River Coe named in their honour.

The gnarled old soldiers have lost many limbs in recent years to winter storms, posing a hazard to passers-by.

And demands for action grew after a huge bough sheared off overnight in a storm and came crashing down only inches from a local woman's car parked next to one of the ancient specimens.

Ros MacDonald of Glencoe Heritage Trust (GHT), which owns the land in question, said the trees were planted as saplings between 1799-1815, each in memory of a local soldier who fell fighting the brilliant French general. But in recent years high winds have thinned their ranks between Invercoe and the 'Green Pool'.

And following a fact-finding trip Highland Council tree specialists condemned the veterans left standing, after judging them to be in 'a precarious state'.

Mrs MacDonald told *The Oban Times*: 'The trees are past their sell-by date. They really are. There are just seven left from the original planting and they are all to come down.'

'All the trees have been x-rayed by Highland Council some time ago. Anyone looking at them knows they are in a bad way. I don't think anyone will be bothered because they are in such a dangerous condition.'

'One came down last winter through a combination of the wind and the river undermining the roots. They had been falling before that and by any measure

they are unsafe. At least the local people know they will get the firewood, which is good.'

Over the last decade, GHT has managed the woodland in the lower reaches of the glen, distributing fallen wood to local people during the winter and clearing scrub from the river banks, which now attract many visitors to take photographs of the scenic area.

Mrs MacDonald said: 'The riverside paths have been opened up a lot and more and more people are using them now.'

'It is the trust's policy, when one of the trees comes down, to plant a new tree. The trust is now looking forward to the next decade when new directors will come on board to carry forward the aims and objectives set out in 2002 'to preserve this area of Glencoe for future generations to enjoy'.

Highland Council said seven mature trees - five beech and two oak - had significantly deteriorated since a survey in 2009 found a number of conditions affecting them, including fungal attack. A spokesperson said: 'Our view is that the trees need to be removed due to the health and safety risks. In addition a number of other trees holding various degrees of deadwood should also be removed as soon as possible.'

'We have advised the trust that any works to the trees be consulted on locally given their location and the Forestry Commission will be able to let them know whether a felling licence is required.'

'The trees represent a very strong feature locally. Their loss is very much regretted but it is hoped the trust will take the opportunity to replace them and we will be pleased to offer further advice.'



For the chop: one of the diseased beech trees to be felled at Glencoe. Ros MacDonald of Glencoe Heritage Trust won't mourn its passing. 20_191res01

Great Glen walk for hospital

A LOCHABER woman will attempt to walk the 73-mile long Great Glen Way in just 30 hours to raise money for a hospital which cared for her father following a serious accident at work.

Elaine Cameron of Spean Bridge and her friend Liz Proudlock will tackle the route from Fort William to Inverness tomorrow (Friday) to raise funds for the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow.

Elaine's father Ewen, who manages Gellargarry Shinty Club, was paralysed in 2001 and spent several months in the hospital's spinal injuries unit.

Ms Cameron said: 'With the care and support of the specialised staff in the unit, he has been able to adapt and enjoy life to the fullest.'

'As part of the rehabilitation process, patients are encouraged to take part in activities and sports, such as archery and curling and take trips out with the unit to help adapt to their new life in a wheelchair.'

'These activities are integral to the patients recovery, however, they are solely funded by goodwill and fundraising.'



Alan Knox of the Scottish Ambulance Service demonstrates one of the new machines with members of the community resilience team. 20_191defb01

Heart start project to be expanded across Lochaber

A INITIATIVE to provide immediate emergency treatment for cardiac arrest victims in the Fort William area is set to be expanded across the rest of Lochaber.

The Lochaber Defibrillator Project, launched last week, saw heart-start machines housed in 10 town Pubwatch premises and the Free Church in Caol, An Drochaid in Claggan, the Spean Bridge Hotel and at Strontian and Glenfinnan.

Councillor Thomas MacLennan has been involved with setting up the scheme and said the next step would be to create a charity to provide the life saving machines to the more remote parts of Lochaber.

He said: 'This is a great scheme.'

'But we need to take it on to the next step and turning it into a charity is the road we need to go down.'

'We've got 15 defibrillators now and we would really like to add to that.'

Dr Brian Tregaskis, consultant physician at the Belford Hospital, added: 'We need to expand further - to Ardnamurchan, to Strontian, all over.'

Ben Nevis bike hike kick starts marathon challenge

LOCHAILORT man John Bryden is to carry his motorbike to the top of Ben Nevis before setting out on his second marathon charity motorbike challenge.

Mr Bryden will scale the Ben to raise awareness and money for his 10,000-mile round trip to

Moscow and back on a 125cc 10 horsepower bike to raise money for Kirsty's Kids, the charity he and his wife Jan set up in memory of their daughter Kirsty.

Kirsty, aged 20, died in a car crash on the A830 in 2010.

Mr Bryden said he wanted other charities to get involved with the

Ben Nevis challenge. He said: 'We are inviting charities from across the UK to join and unite with us for the day at Ben Nevis, each raising awareness for their own organisation while helping me get the bike to the top and back in one day.'

'We want to raise the profile of Kirsty's Kids to the highest possible level in the UK while uniting children's charities from around the country.'

Mr Bryden will head up on the Ben on June 15, before setting off for Moscow on July 4. He will head to the Netherlands, up north through Scandinavia

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Hundreds welcome Six Days Trial riders

HUNDREDS of Fort William locals and visitors lined the town's high street on Sunday afternoon to welcome competitors in this year's Scottish Six Days Trial.

Numbers of spectators were down on previous parades, but that was to be expected with the cold wind and rain contrasting with continental temperatures which have greeted the parade in recent years. The riders were led by Lochaber pair Gary MacLennan and Gavin Brown, who were given the honour of the top two numbers for the competition.

The snake of motorbikes turned off their engines as they reached Cameron Square where Provost Allan Henderson welcomed them to Lochaber. The riders then continued down the street, briefly stopping to pose for photos.



Local riders Gavin Brown, right, and Gary MacLennan, along with Gary's daughter Leah, enjoy the procession down the high street. 20_191sdd03

Pre-65 riders forced off course by wet weather

HEAVY rain combined with mountain snowmelt to partially wipe out the Pre-65 for the first time in its 29-year history at Kinlochleven last weekend.

One hundred and eighty competitors lined up for the two-day vintage motorcycle event - the traditional curtain-raiser for the Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT) - in pouring rain on Friday morning.

The 10am start was delayed by an hour as organisers worked feverishly to re-flag the course after burns became raging torrents. The usual 30-section lap was shortened to 15 sections to be ridden twice but the second circuit later had to be scrubbed completely.

And fans were disappointed again on Saturday when dangerously high water levels forced the cancellation of the entire day's competition.

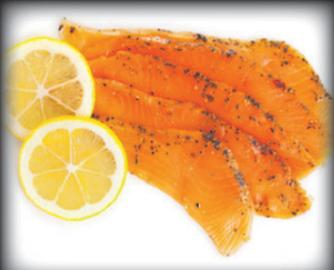
SSDT secretary Anne Gordon told *The Oban Times* at Friday's start: 'We had a huge problem with water flow and we decided to change some of the routes. A lot of the sections were too waterlogged and dangerous, so we had to take them out. We made the call last night (Thursday) then we made the alterations this morning.'

She added later: 'The decision to cancel the second day of the trial was not taken lightly and we hope riders will not be put off from entering again in the future.'

James Harland won the Challenge Trophy for best performance. Kinlochleven's Martin Murphy was forced to retire from the event.



Good luck dad! Tyler Murphy was at the start of the Pre-65 to cheer on his father Martin Murphy of Kinlochleven firm Leven Homes as he prepared to set out on the rain-soaked course on Friday. 20_191pre01



BEST of The West

THERE can be no doubt, when it comes to finding well produced, high quality goods, West Highlands and Islands has earned a firm reputation for producing some of the world's finest foods, jewellery and produce - and with good reason.

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From hand dived scallops or salmon caught or farmed on the west coast, to

Highland beef or high quality cheeses - you'll never grow tired of trying the treats on offer, nor will you be short of finding something local to complete a course.

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or producer creating fine clothes or accessories for every occasion.

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The Scottish Hotel Awards 2013

THE scale of success for west coast hoteliers after an astonishing trophy haul at the Scottish Hotel Awards is only just sinking in. Described as a major boost for the local tourism industry, the event saw tens of local businesses claim certificates and trophies alike, confirming that for the tourist, the west is most certainly best for all kinds of accommodation. Among the plethora of prizes handed out were accolades celebrating the food, service, business ethic and dedication of hotel staff across Argyll and the Isles, Lochaber and the western isles - underlining the undoubted progress made by the local tourist trade. Among those still coming to terms with the scale of the win is Anne Gracie, of Skye's Toravaig and Duisdale House Hotels, which between them won a total of seven awards. She said: 'It was great recognition of the team, who put in so much work and dedication. 'We won seven awards in total and it's a great confidence boost, especially when you're on

the edge - we're not in the central belt.' The Cameron House Hotel on Loch Lomond won seven awards in total too, including two major awards; Concierge Team of the Year and informal dining restaurant of the year. The impressive list of awards include the Informal Dining Restaurant of the Year, Concierge Team of the Year, The Argyll and Lomond Family Hotel of the Year, The Argyll and Lomond Luxury Hotel of the Year and The Argyll and Lomond Wedding Hotel of the Year. Andy Roger, operations director, said 'We are delighted with these awards which help recognise the hard work and dedication the team at Cameron House have put in over the last year.' Other award winners include Oban's Queen's Hotel, for superstar housekeepers, while Sandy and Ina MacArthur at Alt na Craig, Oban, won outstanding service medals and the guest house won the best hospitality and welcome award.



Jo Currie, with husband Dave, after being named a Tourism Dame at the Scottish Hotel Awards. Jo and Dave run Tobermory guest house Highland Cottage.



Katie Mackay of Tiroran House, Mull, collecting her award for the best Country House Hotel. She was joined on stage by husband Laurence, far right, and head chef Craig Ferguson, far left.



Above: Kinloch Lodge Hotel's directors Marcello Tully, with wife Claire, and Isabella Macdonald, right, after being named Scotland's Romantic Hotel of the Year. Marcello is also the hotel's head chef.



Karen and Sean O'Byrne, who picked up the Guest House of the Year award as well as the eco and innovation award.



Calum and Rachel Ross, proprietors of the Loch Melfort Hotel, collect the Hoteliers of the Year award from the Scottish Government minister for international development, Humza Yousaf MSP.



David MacLennan, of Duisdale House on Skye, who was named Host with the Most. The hotel was also named island hotel of the year and island service excellence hotel of the year.



Nick Horne and his wife Nikki after winning the best Small Country Hotel and Best Seafood awards at the Scottish Hotel Awards.



Craig Beedie of Auchrannie on Arran, who won the Executive Chef of the Year award.



Anne Gracie, owner of the Toravaig House Hotel and Duisdale House Hotel on Skye, was named a Tourism Dame, while her Toravaig hotel was named Island Hotel of the Year. In total, the hotels won seven awards.



Rastislav Valko, Geoffrey Botterill, Antony Butterworth and Helen Driver in the Morning Room at Kilmichael House Hotel with their awards. Helen was named a Tourism Dame, while the hotel won the best small hotel breakfast of the year, the beautiful menu award and the islands luxury hotel of the year award.



Hector, a familiar site at the Creggans Inn, Loch Fyne, was given a special collar tag shaped like a bone after being named Scottish Hotel Doggie of the Year.

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Auchlyne bullocks sell to £1355 at Dalmally May sale

UNITED Auctions held their annual May sale of 278 cattle of all classes, at Dalmally Auction Mart on Saturday.

A good offering of grazing cattle sold in keeping with principal mainland centre's. Averages failed to reach last year's exceptional high values, this being attributed to lack of grass throughout the country.

Bullocks sold to average £755 or 231pence per kilo and sold to a top of £1355 for Charolais crosses from Auchlyne and 258pence per kilo, also Charolais crosses from Barnakill.

Heifers sold to average £608 or 212pence per kilo and selling to a top of £1035 for Charolais crosses from Auchlyne and 231pence per kilo for Charolais crosses from Dunans.



Lessons learnt through the winter feeding and lambing period will be discussed with early lambing results and problems also reported

Kirkton to host farm open day

SCOTLAND'S Rural Colleges (SRUC) are to host another Open Day at SAC Kirkton and Auchtertyre, near Criannich on Friday, May 24 at 10.30am.

A new suckler herd, grassland improvement and progress with the sheep flocks will be on a busy agenda as new research programmes and demonstration projects are being developed, designed to address some of the important challenges facing farmers in the hills and uplands.

Researchers at Scotland's Rural College have been helped in their planning by a special Advisory Committee which comprises industry and SRUC representatives. For example the Committee endorsed the decision to re-introduce a small herd of breeding cattle to Kirkton and will be key

to identifying the role this plays in future. Establishment of the herd has begun with the arrival of 21 bulling heifers and visitors to the free update event will hear more about the plans for that herd, given the appropriate research funding.

Meanwhile there has been strong progress with the sheep flocks on the farm, although the results of a winter and spring that has been difficult for flockmasters up and down the country, have yet to be fully accounted for. Lessons learnt through the winter feeding and lambing period will be discussed with early lambing results and problems also reported. Staff will explain the progress to date and outline options for lamb finishing in the autumn ahead. Lanark based Robert Logan from SAC Consulting, a Division of SRUC, will also

consider wider issues for the sheep sector in Scotland.

With stock keepers everywhere anxious about the late growth of spring grass the final key topic to be covered concerns the grass improvement programme and will feature the soil mapping and grazing improvement work underway at Kirkton. As a farm managed for research purposes very real efforts have been made to understand more about the resources on the unit. This includes the detail of soil condition and variability and how to optimise lime and fertiliser inputs to the more productive parts of the farm.

'So far it has been a really difficult year for hill farmers throughout the country,' said Dr Tony Waterhouse, Head of SRUC's Hill and Mountain Research Centre.

'We have shared the same problems and our early lambing results and the progress with both sheep flocks and new cattle herd will be of interest to hill farmers as they try to put a difficult spring behind them.'

'Probably just as important for a sector where life can be lonely, will be the opportunity to meet fellow farmers and share experiences. It often helps when you know you are not the only one to have a particular problem.'

While the event is free to visitors a complimentary lunch will be provided and it would assist catering arrangements if those planning to attend register with SAC Consulting offices in Oban (01631 563093 email jane.organ@sac.co.uk) or Stirling (01786 450964 e mail anne.martin@sac.co.uk)

Soil health highlighted at Mull monitor farm

THE IMPORTANCE of good soil health has been highlighted at an Isle of Mull monitor farm meeting. Having this healthy foundation to produce grassland was the main topic at the recent meeting at the 7600 acre Torloisk, one of the network of Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) monitor farms throughout Scotland.

Torloisk is rented by Iain Mackay on a five year tenancy. He runs a pedigree Highland fold of 55 breeding females and approximately 850 ewes. The current Torloisk stocking rate is 0.07 livestock units per hectare and Mr Mackay is trying to increase the farm's stock carrying capacity. To do this he aims to improve the grassland on some of the better, ploughable land, with the target of eventually achieving a stocking rate of 0.09 livestock units per hectare, which would mean an additional 350 ewes.

Dr Bill Crooks, a senior consultant and soil specialist with Scotland's Rural College, explained basic soil health principles to the community group, adding that soil improvement ventures demand a time investment of a minimum of several years. He said: 'To maximise grass growth, four key aspects need to be correct and in balance: soil structure; pH; phosphate; and potash.'

'To assess soil structure, dig a hole in the fields selected for improvement. This will show you the existing root development, and establish whether or not root growth is being restricted by compaction.'

'Compaction limits the ability of plants to glean nutrients from the soil, so you need a soil which is free draining, with plenty of air spaces to allow good root penetration. Compaction also leads to drainage issues, with water logged soils being colder, resulting in slower grass growth, than in soils which are free draining.'

Dr Crooks explained that surface compaction is generally caused by livestock and rain. Deeper compaction is often the result of machinery, with ploughing sometimes creating a pan several inches below the surface.

Phosphate is important for root development and early season growth. The third vital soil nutrient listed by Dr Crooks - potash - helps grassland plants maximise the benefits of available nitrogen, either bagged or natural, while also boosting disease resistance.

The next Mull monitor farm meeting will be on June 6.

Limousin bullocks sell to 268ppk at Lochboisdale sale

UNITED Auctions held their annual Spring sale of all classes' cattle at Lochboisdale Auction Mart on April 19.

All classes met with a spirited trade and sold above sellers expectations.

Bullocks sold to average £856.67 or 230.7pence per kilo against £734.57 or 205.2p per kilo at last year's sale. Heifers sold to average £828.50 or 218pence per kilo against £585.53 or 195.3 pence per kilo at last year's sale.

The top priced bullock per kilo came from No 458 North Lochboisdale when their Limousin crosses sold to 268pence and Limousin heifers from No 103 Carman sold to 244pence.

Clachan Hereford bullocks sell to £1170 in Tیره

United Auctions held their annual May sale of all classes of cattle and sheep at Tیره Auction Mart last Thursday.

Bullocks sold to average £809 or 215pence per kilo selling to a top of £1170 for Hereford crosses from Clachan whilst 245pence per kilo for Simmental crosses from No5 Balevullin. Heifers sold to average £868 or 214pence per kilo selling to a top of £1110 and 240pence per kilo for Angus Crosses from Heylipool Farm.

All classes of sheep sold in keeping with current mainland levels.

Dingwall sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 814 store cattle and 49 OTM cattle at Dingwall last Wednesday when an excellent show of cattle on offer met a strong demand with grazing types selling particularly well.

Bullocks averaged 236.8p and sold to 304.1p per kg for a 370kg Limousin cross from Messrs Hugh and Neil Mackay, Wester Tomloan, Ardlach, and £1,280 for a 600kg Charolais cross from Lower Gartally, Lewistown.

Heifers averaged 221.1p and sold to 272.7p per kg for a 220kg Limousin cross from Wester Tomloan, and £1,265 for a pair of 630kg Charolais crosses from Lower Gartally.

Young bulls averaged 212p and sold to 218.2p per kg for 330kg Charolais crosses from Woodside, West Park, and £900 for a 435kg Limousin cross from Redfield, North Kessock.

Market reports

TIRE United Auctions

Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: £860 - Heylipool Farm.
Blond D AquataineX: £1160 - 5 Balevullin
CharolaisX: £1040, £990(2), £980(2), £880, £860 and £815 - Heylipool Farm.
HerefordX: £1170(2) - Clachan.
LimousinX: £920 - 5 Balevullin £890 - Heylipool Farm.

Heifers
Aberdeen AngusX: £1110 - Heylipool Farm £950 - Hillcrest.
Blond D AquataineX: £1000-2/15 Balevullin £960, £870 and £780 - 5 Balevullin.
HerefordX: £1100(3), £1080(2), £1040(2) and £900(2) - Clachan.
LimousinX: £1060 - Heylipool Farm £910 - 5 Balevullin.
SalerX: £930 - Hillcrest.
SimmentalX: £1030 - 5 Balevullin.

Cows
£830 - Vaul.
Prices per kilo
Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: 210p - Heylipool Farm.
ShorthornX: 213p(2)-3 Middleton.
Blond D AquataineX: 216p - 5 Balevullin.
CharolaisX: 228p, 222p(2), 219p - Heylipool Farm.
HerefordX: 218p(2) - Clachan.
LimousinX: 216p - Heylipool Farm.
SalerX: 241p - No5 Balevullin
SimmentalX: 245p, 230p - No5 Balevullin
Heifers

Aberdeen AngusX: 240p - Heylipool Farm 221p - Hillcrest.
Blond D AquataineX: 225p - 5 Balevullin 207p - 2/15 Balevullin.
HerefordX: 238p(2), 237p(2), 218p(2) - Clachan.
LimousinX: £228p - Heylipool Farm 217p - Mainroad.
SalerX: 219p - Hillcrest.
SimmentalX: 228p - 5 Balevullin.
Sheep
Ewes
£76.00 - 4 Kilkenneth £74.00, £73.00, £71.00 and £70.00 - Heylipool Farm.
Rams
£90.00 - 8 Kilkenneth.
Widders
£80.00 - Heylipool Farm.
Hoggs
£91.00 - Druimfhraoich £77.00 - Middleton Farm.

LOCHBOISDALE United Auctions

Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X: £865 and £725 - 325 North Boisdale.
Limousin X: £1060 - 1 Ormiclate £950 - 103 Carnan £925 and £915 - 1 Ormiclate £885 - 458 North Lochboisdale.
Simmental X: £935 and £925 - 8 Milton.
Heifers
Aberdeen Angus X: £800 - 342 North Boisdale.
Limousin X: £1165, £1130(2), £1000 and £950 - 103 Carnan.
Cows
£1010 - 103 Carnan £1000 - 1 Howbeg £990 - 310 Kilpether

DALMALLY United Auctions

Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X: £785 - Knock-Dhu
Charolais X: £1355, £1105, £1075, £1055 and £835 - Auchlyne Farm.
Limousin X: £1065, £965(2), £955 and £945 - Tiraghoil £875 and £845(2) - Knock-Dhu £845(7) - Tiraghoil.
Shorthorn X: £755(2)- Arileod, Coll.
Simmental X: £965 and £925 - Tiraghoil £865 - Knock-Dhu £845 - Duncroisk £835 - Glencrenan Estate £825 - Duncroisk(3) and Tiraghoil.
Heifers
Charolais X: £1035(2)- Auchlyne Farm.
Limousin X: £895 - Ardsignish £865 - Tiraghoil £855 and £845 - Balliemanoich, Kilmartin.

Simmental X: £795 - Duallin.
Prices per kilo
Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X: 215p - Knock-Dhu.
Charolais X: 258p - Barnakill 257p - Dunans 244p(2) - Barnakill 243p - Dunans 237p(2) and 225p - Auchlyne 221p - Barnakill 220p - Auchlyne.
Limousin X: 251p(7) - Tiraghoil 250p - Tullochcan 248p(2) - Brechoille 246p - Knock-Dhu 239p(2) - Brechoile 238p(5) - Tiraghoil 235p - Craigmore 234p(2) - Keilator 232p - Craigmore 231p - Tullochcan 228p(2) - Knock-Dhu 224p(7) - Tiraghoil 221p - Ardmaleish 220p(3) - Knock-Dhu.
SalerX: 234p - Arileod, Coll.
Shorthorn X: 250p(2) - Barnakill.
Simmental X: 252p(6)- Keilator 248p(4) - Tiraghoil 247p(5) - Keilator 244p - Tiraghoil 239p(2) - Glencrenan 233p - Duncroisk and Glencrenan Estate 226p(2), 223p and 221p(3) - Duncroisk.
Heifers
Charolais X: 231p(2) - Dunans 222p - Barnakill 212p(2) and 205p(2) - Auchlyne.
Limousin X: 220p(2) - Duncroisk 218p and 214p(2) - Ardsignish.
SimmentalX: 216p(3) - Dunans.

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Bullocks up to 200kg - Erchite, Dores, £790, 281.1p; 201-250kg - Drumgask, £750, 302.4p;

251-300kg - Balicherry, Balblair, £790, 281.1p; 301-350kg - Torgormack, Inverness, £900, Balicherry, 268.3p; 351-400kg - Wester Tomloan, £1,125, Torgormack, 284.4p; 401-450kg - Torgorm, £1,130, 261p; 451-500kg - Torgorm, £1,195, 256p; 501-550kg - Easter Brockloch, Rafford, £1,260, 240p; 551-600kg - 14 Baligill, Strathy, £1,260, New Cottage Farm, Lyth, 221.2p; 601-650kg - New Cottage Farm, £1,270, 204.8p.
Heifers
201-250kg - 14 Baligill, £580, Drumgask, 247.7p; 251-300kg - Wester Tomloan, £665, 252.9p; 301-350kg - Torgormack, £825, 243.4p; 351-400kg - Wester Tomloan, £980, 252.9p; 401-450kg - Meikle Geddes, Nairn, £1,050, Woodside, 238.1p; 451-500kg - Kindeace, Alness, £1,090, 229.6p; 501-550kg - Penick Farm, Auldearn, £1,220, Meikle Geddes, 231.7p; 551-600kg - Lower Gartally, £1,200, 203.3p; 601-651kg - Lower Gartally, 200.8p.

OTM prime and feeding cows:
Auchmore, (SimX), 179.7p; Lower Milton, Drumadrochit, (LimX), 178.6p; Torgorm, (CharX), 176.9p; Torgorm, (SimX), £1,510; Clury, (LimX), £1,390; Auchmore, (ShoX), £1,350.

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Business



Eye to eye
with John Wallace

Why Reading Can Be Hard Work

Reading is a task most of us take for granted. What might appear a simple task is, in fact, a complex process involving vision, eye movements and language skills. Problems reading can mean a child is labelled as "dyslexic". Problems can include miss-reading words, getting letters reversed, loss of place when reading and an inability to easily comprehend what is being read.

For some patients the problem is a simple focussing one which spectacles can remedy. For many people I see the main complaint is of constantly losing their place when reading. When we read our eyes tend to jump from word to word and then from the end of the line back to the start of the line below. This process of "tracking" is essential for reading.

Last week I had the opportunity to examine patients with a computerised eye tracking monitor. You would think eye movements would be smooth and regular. For even the best performing reader in the group, eye movements were irregular. When reading our eyes should jump from the left hand word onto the next on the right. Often, however, their eyes would jump forward two or three words and then reverse back several words. Sometimes they would stick at a particular word for much longer than anticipated. When this happens reading ceases to be a pleasure and for many patients becomes an extremely arduous task.

Many of the patients I examine, both children and adults, have associated problems with the muscles surrounding their eyes. Investigation of tracking problems requires specialised equipment and training and a basic pre-school screening or a basic NHS eye examination will frequently fail to detect tracking problems. To read comfortably and fluently our eyes must work efficiently. Often a course of exercises can make a huge difference to reading efficiency.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
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11/12 Argyll Square
Oban

Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)
www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk

BSW Timber teams up with RSPB to help pupils watch the birdies

SAWMILL firm BSW Timber has supplied 20 bird boxes to schools in Fort William with support from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

The handmade open-fronted boxes, built at BSW's Corpach mill, were distributed to Banavie, Caol, Lochside RC and Fort William primary schools and will encourage local children to take an interest in local birdlife.

The RSPB distributed information booklets and leaflets to teachers and pupils to help children identify different types of birds they might see using the boxes, such as robins, wrens and pied wagtails.

The pupils will also learn about how and when to feed birds and the uses of different types of boxes, as well as other features of their school grounds important to birds.

Rebekah Stackhouse, RSPB education and youth programmes manager, said: 'It's brilliant to make playgrounds more wildlife friendly, and it's important that young people have the chance to connect with and take action for nature nearby.'

Banavie Primary School head teacher Maxean Dunham said: 'Donations such as this are always gratefully received at our school. The children were all very excited about the boxes and look forward to learning about and monitoring the birds' activity in our school grounds.'

BSW Timber marketing manager Eve Johnson added: 'We're grateful to the RSPB for supporting this initiative and hope the children enjoy learning about their local bird life.'



BSW's Eve Graham with some Banavie Primary School pupils.

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Applicants should be proficient in the use of computers, particularly the MS Office suite of programmes. The work will entail a variety of important administrative, clerical and managerial duties.

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A current, clean driving licence is desirable. Hours are 40 per week Monday to Friday, with weekend working payable at an enhanced rate, required on a rota basis. We operate a generous company pension scheme and annual leave entitlement is 31 days.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
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The Scottish Salmon Company
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Email: veronica.anderson@scottishsalmon.com

Closing date for applications: Friday 16th May 2013
Visit our website: www.scottishsalmon.com

Compost Plant Operator

Shanks Waste Management are currently seeking a full time Compost Plant Operator to be based at the Lingerton Landfill site, Lochgilphead. Reporting to the Compost Supervisor, the main duties involved will include:

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- Daily and weekly checks of mobile plant in accordance with site procedures
- A solid understanding of health and safety
- Any other duties as required by the supervisor

Experience of operating mobile plant is essential. You will need to be able to work on your own initiative to a high standard whilst having the ability to work within an effective team. The individual will have a flexible approach to working, with the capacity to work overtime when required. You will need to be able to liaise with and take instruction from Supervisors/Managers. Good written and spoken English is essential. Basic computer knowledge is desirable.

To apply please write enclosing an up to date CV and covering letter quoting reference number 740 to Ria Findlay, Human Resources Department, Shanks, 110 Easter Queenslie Road, Queenslie, Glasgow, G33 4UL, or email ria.findlay@shanks.co.uk. Closing date for applications is 19 May 2013.



Gas Depot Clerk/Delivery Driver

This position is both challenging and varied; the ideal candidate must hold a full driving license Heavy lifting of gas bottles involved. You must have good customer care skills, pleasant telephone manner and be computer literate. You should be well organized and able to work on your own initiative.

Candidates must have: Driving Licence, ADR Preferable although training can be given

Forklift experience preferable although training can be given
All interested parties please phone 01631 566370 ask for Graham Greenlees or alternatively e-mail: info@argyllresources.co.uk for an application.



CASHIER REQUIRED FOR BETTING SHOP IN CAMPBELTOWN.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY AS FULL TRAINING WILL BE GIVEN. REFERENCES ESSENTIAL.

CALL SCOTBET 0131 440 5197.

Oban Times Oban Times
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

Argyll & Bute Community Health Partnership

Mid Argyll, Kintyre & Islay Locality
Argyll & Bute Hospital, Lochgilphead

Team Secretary, Choose Life – Band 3
£16,110 - £19,077
Fixed term until 31/03/14 due to funding allocation
16 Hours per week

We require an enthusiastic, self motivated individual to provide effective secretarial and administrative support to the Argyll & Bute Choose Life Initiative, part of the Scottish Government's Suicide Prevention Strategy.

You should have a good general education and have comprehensive secretarial experience to include minute taking, financial recording and event organising as well as being proficient in the use of Microsoft computer packages.

This post will require the postholder to be able to work effectively alone and as part of a team, to have excellent organisational skills and to be able to work well under pressure to achieve deadlines. An understanding of, and positive attitude to suicide prevention is helpful.

Effective communication skills and the ability to interact with NHS staff at all levels, other services such as suppliers and the public is required.

While a car owner/user is not essential, it would be useful as would the flexibility to alter work patterns and location to support events on an infrequent basis.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by Tracy Preece on tel: 01546 602323 or by email: tracy.preece@nhs.net

Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8LB, tel: 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or email: recruitment.ab@nhs.net

Please quote job reference number 13ab/040b.
Closing date for receipt of applications: 23 May 2013.



www.nhs.uk



Croft House Grant and Loan Collection Manager

Tiree
£22,173 - £25,165

We are currently seeking applications for a Croft House Grant and Loan Collection Office Manager in the Rural Payments and Inspections Division office based in Tiree.

This post will manage day to day operations of our small but busy team in Tiree. The Manager will direct, develop and support colleagues to deliver both the Croft House Grant Scheme and the Loan Collection element of the Croft Building Grant and Loan Scheme.

For further details and to apply online, visit our website at <http://www.work-for-scotland.org>

Applications must be submitted online via our website by the **Sunday 26 May 2013 at Midnight.**

If you experience any difficulties accessing the Work for Scotland website, please contact the Resourcing Team on 0131 244 4682 or at centralresourcingunit@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

We welcome applications from all suitably qualified people and aim to employ a diverse workforce, which reflects the people of Scotland.

An Equal Opportunities Employer



PART-TIME DRIVER REQUIRED FOR ARTIC AND RIGID

Apply Also
Transport Services

Tel. 01852 300393

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT



Operations & Marketing Assistant - Full time/Permanent

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

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

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



PART-TIME DELIVERY DRIVER REQUIRED

MacLennan Motors are looking for a competent individual who will be available throughout the week to carry out collections and deliveries throughout Oban. No experience necessary but a full driving licence is essential.

For more information please contact Stewart on 01879 220 555 or stewart@macleannanmotors.com

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan

sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568021



Marine Harvest bids to become 'global seafood leader'

Takeover would 'lift' both Norwegian companies claims fish farming giant

A HOSTILE takeover bid could see fish farming company Marine Harvest become 'a global seafood leader', the company claims.

Cermaq has warned shareholders to steer clear of an offer by Marine Harvest after publicly disagreeing with its rival's views on the merits of the takeover, as it is conditional on Cermaq shareholders deciding not to follow through on a previously agreed purchase of fish oil company Copeinca.

But Marine Harvest, which has several operations on the west coast of Scotland, said the deal would 'lift' both Norwegian companies.

The offer, which represents a

premium of 22 per cent to the last traded price for Cermaq and 33 per cent above the volume weighted average share price, will treat all shareholders, including the government, equally.

To carry out the transaction, Cermaq must change its company bylaws and Marine Harvest will as a result propose that an extraordinary general meeting of Cermaq is summoned to approve such a change.

If Marine Harvest receives sufficient acceptance for its voluntary offer, the shares that Cermaq has already acquired in Copeinca will be sold.

Marine Harvest will forward its annual general meeting to May 23

in order to seek authorisation to issue consideration shares to Cermaq shareholders.

Ole-Eirik Lerøy, chairman of Marine Harvest, said: 'In our view, no other industrial combination than Cermaq and Marine Harvest is better suited to lift both the companies and the Norwegian marine industry into a position of global leadership.'

In a statement released on Monday, Cermaq said: 'Pursuant to the agreements entered into with Copeinca, Cermaq is under an obligation to complete the agreed process for the transaction. This is preventing the company from entering into discussions with Marine Harvest

which are based on the presumption that the Copeinca transaction is not completed.

'For all of the above reasons, the process to complete the Copeinca transaction will continue as planned.'

'Considering the situation and Marine Harvest's expressed intention of voting against the Copeinca transaction, Cermaq will review all of its options, including alternative financing, to secure completion of the transaction should this be required to protect the interests of all of its shareholders.'

It further adds its belief that Marine Harvest's offer 'seriously undervalues' Cermaq's business.

Council backs EVS Youth in Action programme

ARGYLL and Bute Council is helping youngsters in the area get work experience abroad in the hope of eventually gaining local employment.

European Voluntary Service (EVS) Youth in Action programme, open to those aged between 18 and 30, is being promoted by the council's youth services team.

The team's Scott Douglas has recently been on EVS training with the programme and is now able to help young people who want to take up the challenge of broadening their horizons and helping others.

On the course he met volunteers who took up placements with school clubs in the Czech Republic, bird conservation on Malta and a centre for the homeless in Pamplona, Spain.

George Freeman, lead councillor for community culture, said: 'I'm delighted our youth services are now linked to this international scheme. Volunteering helps young people to learn new skills and get the sort of experience which local employers value.'

Volunteers can benefit from specific planned training throughout the activity and their efforts are formally recognised through a Youthpass. Participation is free except for a possible contribution of a maximum of 10 per cent of the travel costs. Volunteers receive board and lodging, insurance cover and an allowance for the duration of the project. To find out more contact Scott Douglas on scott.douglas@argyll-bute.gov.uk or 01631 567977.

Increase in west coast public sector contracts

MORE businesses from the west coast of Scotland are securing public sector contracts than ever before.

Public Contracts Scotland, the website on which government bodies and local authorities offer opportunities to tender for work, has published results which show 80 per cent of contracts were awarded to Scottish companies.

American hero boosts Harris Tweed profile

THE real-life American hero behind the Iran hostage rescue featured in the film *Argo* has been honoured for services to Harris Tweed.

Agent Tony Mendez was played in the Best Picture of the Year Oscar-winner by Ben Affleck - whose Harris Tweed jacket is giving the fabric its highest-profile Hollywood exposure in decades.

Tony was guest of honour at the launch of a new social media site, Need for Tweed, a collaboration between Harris Tweed Hebrides and Leo Burnett advertising agency which will celebrate the heritage of Harris Tweed in North America as well current, cutting-edge use.

Speaking in New York, he confirmed that the movie reflected reality and that Harris Tweed had been 'part of what every agent wore' during his time in the service. 'I wore it all the time,' he confirmed.

When Ben Affleck asked him how he dressed during the *Argo* mission, Tony couriered to Hollywood the jacket he wore during the rescue drama in Iran more than 30 years ago - and which he had refused to part with.

Brian Wilson, who chairs Harris Tweed Hebrides, said: 'Argo is the perfect link. Tony represents an era



Tony Mendez was guest of honour at the New York launch of the social media site Need for Tweed.

when every well-dressed American had Harris Tweed in his closet while Ben Affleck confirms why that would

again be a great idea. By telling the story and honouring Tony, we hope everyone who sees *Argo* will be more

likely to say - that's a great Harris Tweed jacket Ben Affleck is wearing - I want one.'

RECRUITMENT

Master of RV Calanus

Salary: IRO£36,831.48 per annum including overtime consolidation
Annual hours contract



A vacancy exists for the post of Master of the laboratory's 20 m research vessel Calanus. The successful applicant will have a minimum of a Yachtmaster Offshore Certificate of Competence for motor vessels with a commercial endorsement, proven leadership and ships' management experience.

The post holder will have primary responsibility for the management of the marine staff and day-to-day operations of the vessel in the support of the SAMS science, education and commercial work. They will also have a wider input into the operation and management of the other vessels operated by SAMS and will be expected to advise management on issues of ship operations, seagoing health and safety and assist in the planning of coastal research cruises.

The post requires enthusiasm for delivering a high quality of support for scientific activities involving experienced in-house and external users, in addition to less experienced students, and flexibility to deal with the rapidly changing needs of research and commercial work. Although much of the work of the Calanus is carried out in the coastal waters in the vicinity of Oban, a requirement of the post is a willingness to operate the Calanus away from its homeport of Oban as required by the programme. The successful candidate would be expected to live within reasonable travelling distance of SAMS.

For further information and to apply for this position online, go to: www.sams.ac.uk. Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Master of Calanus, (Job Ref. D06/13.KJ), The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA or e-mail recruitment@sams.ac.uk

Closing date: Monday 20th May 2013
Interviews will be held early June.

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

Looking for a change?

Ipsos MORI is looking for reliable, self motivated people to join our team of **Market Research Interviewers** in your area. Calling on people in their own homes - no selling. Able to work at least 2+ days per week, 6 hours a day including afternoons/evenings and weekends. Full training and support provided. Own car and landline essential. Good level of written and spoken English required. Good rates of pay.

Visit www.ipsos-mori.com/interviewers for an application pack, quoting reference 504.

Fort William Sawmill
Committed to quality

Aged 16-18?
Ready for an Apprenticeship?
Then it's time to join us at our Sawmill in Fort William.

Electrical, Maintenance & Saw Doctor Apprenticeships

For more information and to apply, please visit www.bsw.co.uk/vacancies
Closing date for applications: 31st May 2013.



Scottish Natural Heritage is the leading public body responsible for advising Ministers on matters relating to the natural heritage. The natural environment is a key asset that underpins Scotland's wealth, health and quality of life. Our job is to conserve this resource, to promote its sustainable management and to encourage people to access and enjoy it responsibly.



Operations Officer - Kintyre
37 hours a week, Fixed Term until 31st April 2014
Starting salary £19,629 per annum
Location: Lochgilphead
(Ref: 045-331)

You will contribute to the work of the Argyll and Outer Hebrides Area Team as defined by the unit business plan. You will be responsible for the delivery of Scottish Natural Heritage's objectives within the Kintyre part of the mid-Argyll and Kintyre area operational team based in SNH's Lochgilphead office.

Operations Officer - Islay
37 hours a week, Permanent
Starting salary £19,629 per annum
Location: Bowmore
(Ref: 045-323)

You will contribute to the work of the Argyll and Outer Hebrides Area Team as defined by the unit business plan. You will be responsible for the delivery of Scottish Natural Heritage's objectives within the Islands of Islay, Jura & Colonsay as part of the operational team based in SNH's Bowmore office.

Operations Officer - Kintyre
37 hours a week, Fixed Term until 30th November 2013
Starting salary £19,629 per annum
Location: Oban
(Ref: 045-332)

You will contribute to the work of the Argyll and Outer Hebrides Area Team as defined by the unit business plan. You will be responsible for the delivery of Scottish Natural Heritage's objectives within the Islands of Mull, Coll & Tiree operational team based in SNH's Oban office.

You must have a degree or equivalent in an environmental discipline or countryside management, or relevant practical experience in environmental or countryside management. You must also have knowledge of relevant planning and environmental legislation and understanding of working with the planning system (including development of plans, planning applications and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)). An understanding of designated areas (Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Natural sites), are a must, with knowledge and experience of species ecology (particularly internationally important bird species such as geese, raptors, and other European Protected Species found in mid Argyll), habitat management, land use, landscape and associated natural heritage issues. You will have relevant experience of working with a range of official bodies, NGO's and the general public, with knowledge of SNH's remit, policies and priorities.

Good organisational skills and well-developed written, oral and presentation skills are a must. Finally, you must have a driving licence or other means of transport available to you as this role will involve travelling to areas not covered by public transport.

Closing date for all posts: 21st May 2013.

We're as supportive, committed and proud of our people as we are of the natural world around us. Find out more, and apply, online. Alternatively, call 01463 725182.



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PUBLIC NOTICES



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A82 (BELFORD ROAD/INVERLOCHY PLACE, FORT WILLIAM) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF WAITING AND LOADING) ORDER 2013

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order temporarily prohibiting traffic from waiting or loading on that length of the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road from its junction with Belford Road/Nevis Bridge roundabout, Fort William in a southwestwardly direction through Inverlochry Place to the Morrisons Roundabout, Fort William, a distance of 880 metres or thereby.

The Order, which is required because works are being or are proposed to be executed on or near the said length of road to allow essential road resurfacing to take place, will be in operation from 11th May 2013 until midnight on 30th May 2013 but will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the lengths of road as are indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. The Order does not apply to works vehicles or vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, coastguard, ambulance or police purposes or to acts done with the permission or upon the direction of a police constable in uniform.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at: <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/policy/legal-requirements/road-and-traffic-orders/TROs>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

J J MORAN

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ 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. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00739/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse	Glebe Bunness Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Bunness Isle of Mull
13/00845/PP	Infilling of land to use for siting of storage containers	Container Yard Glengallan Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4HG	Oban Area Office
13/00863/PP	Formation of access ramp. Amendments to design and location (retrospective) previously approved under planning permission 09/00266/DET	Land North of Brochroy Cottage Tainuill Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuill
13/00895/PP	Erection of extension to dwellinghouse	15 Creag Bhan Village Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
13/00921/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land North East of 24 Lonan Drive Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office

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

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00837/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of new access.	Land South East of Lower Cragabus The Oa Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

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

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

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

Business

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan

sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568021

Islay distillery wins highest international safety award

BOWMORE distillery has continued its reputation as one of the safest after receiving a hat trick of distinctions at the International Safety Awards.

Morrison Bowmore Distillers Limited is one of only four organisations to have achieved this accolade the maximum possible number of three times.

Neal Stone, director of policy and communications of the British Safety Council which holds the awards, said: 'The trustees and executive of the British Safety Council congratulate Morrison Bowmore Distillers Ltd on their achievement of a distinction, the highest accolade, in our 2013 International Safety Awards.'

'The company is to be specially congratulated on gaining a distinction for the third year running - the only company in the food and drinks sector to achieve this accolade.'

Andrew Rankin, Morrison Bowmore's operations director, commented: 'This is a truly excellent achievement and I would personally like to thank all our staff and contractors for their dedication and commitment in enabling us to maintain such a high level of performance. To be recognised by the British Safety Council in this way is further testimony to our commitment of integrating health and safety into the heart of the way we work.'

As summer approaches, are you ready for your seasonal staff?

IN THE tourism industry especially, many employers take on temporary workers over the summer season.

Employers do need to be aware of the issues of employing seasonal staff and their legal obligations.

Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway is on hand to help local businesses understand their obligations by providing support from business advisers and a range of interactive online tools. Pre-

employment checks on all employees are required and this can be time consuming if a large number of seasonal staff need to be taken on.

Some checks are optional but advisable like checking qualifications or references, while others are a legal requirement, such as ensuring that all workers are entitled to be in the UK and to take up the job in question.

The moment an applicant unconditionally accepts a job offer a

contract of employment comes into existence.

The terms of the contract can be oral, written, implied or a mixture of all three.

Even if a written contract is not issued, employers have a legal duty to provide most employees with a written statement of main employment particulars within two months of the start of their employment. Unless the worker has signed an opt out

agreement, or an exemption applies, workers aged 18 or over cannot be forced to work for more than 48 hours a week on average. This applies to temporary workers as well as permanent employees.

Temporary workers have the same rights as other employees and are entitled to a rest break of at least 20 minutes if working more than six hours.

Workers who are over the minimum

school-leaving age but under 18 must not work for more than eight hours a day or 40 hours a week. These hours worked cannot be averaged out and there is no opt-out available.

Employees in this age group are entitled to a break of 30 minutes every four and a half hours worked, a rest period of 12 hours between each working day and two days off a week.

Employers are liable for the acts

of temporary employees in the same way as permanent employees so it is important seasonal staff are aware of and understand company policies.

Business Gateway can provide additional guidance on any of these subjects and a range of useful policy templates and pro formas to help small businesses meet these obligations.

To find out more visit www.bgateway.com or contact the local office on 01546 605 459.

Kilchoman named IWC Whisky of the Year

A WHISKY produced by Islay's only farm distillery, Kilchoman, has been named Whisky of the Year at the International Whisky Competition (IWC).

Its Machir Bay whisky received the highest score after a blind tasting of more than 50 whiskies by an expert panel.

Owner and founder of Kilchoman Distillery, Anthony Willis, also won Master Distiller of the Year. Sylvain Allard, managing director of the IWC, said: 'Machir Bay and Kilchoman Distillery are worthy winners in this year's IWC. To have such a young whisky receive the highest score is unprecedented. It's a significant accomplishment that Kilchoman has only been bottling single malt whisky since 2008 on a micro-distillery.'

Anthony Willis said: 'We're honoured to receive recognition at the IWC for both Machir Bay and the distillery overall. We launched the Machir Bay as our core range last year and have been thrilled by the response from experts and our customers.'



Cameron and Struan Cameron onboard Schiehallion. 16_118CoastalConnection01

Oban boat charter businesses launches new vessel

A NEW vessel which will help one of Oban's boat charter businesses expand has been officially launched.

Coastal Connection, run by twins Cameron and Struan Smith, was promoting Schiehallion during an open day for commercial clients.

The 12-metre Redbay RIB is ideal for

corporate work, conducting surveys and transfers. The boat has several aspects which make it appealing to charter - inside there is removable seating, a microwave and a toilet.

Cameron said: 'We're having an open day to encourage commercial clients and raise the profile of the company. It also allows us

to show the variety of vessels available and the flexibility we offer.'

The new vessel is powered by a jet drive system which has no external propeller making it safe for wildlife and divers.

'This makes the vessel much more manoeuvrable and means less maintenance,' added Cameron.

It is expected that Schiehallion will operate under the tourism side of the business this summer before moving into commercial work.

'We're hoping she'll go into the transfer market in renewable energy - tidal and wind farms. We want to get into these emerging markets,' said Cameron.

Practical help, advice and support for new and growing businesses

To find out how Business Gateway can help your business, contact the local office on 01546 605 459 or visit www.bgateway.com

Supporters of the Oban Times business pages



business gateway
slighe gnothachais

PUBLIC NOTICES

www.highland.gov.uk



Highland Council, Education, Culture & Sport Service are conducting a pre-application consultation on the following development proposal:

Construction of New Gaelic Medium Primary School with community and sports facilities on land adjacent to Ardour Road, Caol, Fort William, PH33 7JE.

Further information can be obtained from Highland Council, Housing & Property Service, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William, PH33 6EL, opening hours 9:00am to 5:00pm; Monday to Friday.

Public exhibitions will be held on Wednesday 22nd May at two locations: (1) at the Caol Community Centre, Caol, from 10:30am to 1:30pm and (2) at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William from 2:00pm to 7:00pm

Anyone wishing to comment on the proposals should do so by writing to Mr Ron MacKenzie, Highland Council, Education, Culture & Sport Service, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX by 12th June, 2013.

www.highland.gov.uk



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/01459/FUL	6 Dalnabreck, Acharacle	Extension to house to form residential annexe
13/01508/PIP	380M North of Keppoch House, Arisaig	Erection of house
13/01510/FUL	Land 140M North West of Oakwood, Muirshairlich Banavie, Fort William	Erection of 2 houses (amendment to 10/03775/FUL)
13/01525/FUL	Longrigg, Strontian Acharacle	Extension to house
13/01533/FUL	Ardgarry Farm Faichen, Invergarry	Erection of garage (retrospective)
13/01537/FUL	Guisachan, Glenfinnan	Erection of storage building, external storage area and change of use of cottage to staff welfare facility (amendment to 12/02458/FUL)
13/01559/FUL	Mount View, Invergarry	Erection of conservatory
13/01582/PIP	Land 50M to North of Lagganlea, South Laggan Spean Bridge	Erection of house (renewal of 07/00552/OUTLO)

Time period for comments is 14 days.
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF WALKWAY, LOCHALINE FERRY TERMINAL

Notice is hereby given that Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of removal and replacement of walkway between the inner dolphin and outer dolphin at:

Location	Latitude	Longitude
Lochaline Ferry Terminal	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
	56 32.182'N	05 46.535'W
	56 32.191'N	05 46.555'W
	56 32.227'N	05 46.515'W
	56 32.244'N	05 46.499'W
	56 32.240'N	05 46.470'W
	56 32.220'N	05 46.480'W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at the Information Board at Lochaline Ferry Terminal.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference:

FKB/A1410
Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd

APPENDIX 1

REQUIRED FORM AND WORDING OF ADVERTISEMENT

The form of advertisement and text to be included in the advertisement referred to in the attached notice are as follows:

"WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

SEPA-INITIATED VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION AWE BARRAGE, INVERAWE POWER STATION, DALMALLY

SEPA has reviewed water use licence number CAR/L/1011462 authorising the carrying on of a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Inverawe Power Station, Dalmally, Argyll, and now proposes to vary the authorisation as follows:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
A change to the compensation releases from the Awe barrage to the River Awe	River Awe, downstream from the Awe Barrage	Downstream from NN 0453 2868

SEPA considers that the above changes to a controlled activity may have an impact on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the proposed variation Schedule and accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) and by prior arrangement at the SEPA Lochgilphead office, 2 Smithy Lane, Lochgilphead, or telephone 01546 602876.

Alternatively, the proposed variation may be viewed on SEPA's website at: www.sepa.org.uk/water/water_regulation/advised_applications.aspx

Any person affected or likely to be affected by or having an interest in, the proposed variation may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1011462:

Registry Department, SEPA Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB, or email registrydingwall@sepa.org.uk

Written representations, including e-mails to the address given above, received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the proposed variation.

Before making its determination, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or not grant the proposed variation.

CROFTING COMMISSION COMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

Name, Croft, Extent/Reason, Conditions, Case number
Mrs J C MacLean, Mr I A MacLean & Mr J W MacLean, 206 Acharacle Fillans Cottage, Ardnamurchan & Sunart
0.055 ha - Croft house site and garden ground
4.85.43020
Conditions: 3a, 4
Mr A MacLean Achnacraig, Pennygown & Torasay
0.104 ha - Croft house site and garden ground
4.85.43454
Conditions: 1, 3c, 4

- Conditions
- (1) Purchase area within 5 years of the date of direction.
 - (3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:
 - (a) the date of the direction
 - (c) acquisition
 - (4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

Atlantis Leisure
ATLANTIS LEISURE - NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Annual General Meeting of Oban & Lorn Community Enterprise Limited will be held at Atlantis Leisure on Monday 3rd June at 7pm, Atlantis Function Room.
All welcome.

Oban & Lorn Riding for the Disabled AGM
May 27, 2013
Glencruitten Golf Course
2pm

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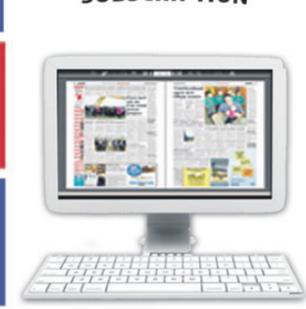
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BIRTHS

DUNCAN - William and Anne are delighted to announce the birth of their son Cameron Lyons Duncan, on April 28, 2013, a wee brother for Catriona, Erin and Thomas and grandson for the late Tam Duncan and the late Anne Lyons of Dunbeg, Oban, and for John and Gill Bachelor of Warrington, Peterborough. Thanks to staff at MacKinnon Hospital Broadford and Raigmore, Inverness.

WHEELANS - Dr. Craig and Mrs. Donna (nee Ferguson) Wheelans are delighted to announce the water birth of Harris Falconer Ferguson Wheelans at Borders General Hospital, Melrose on Tuesday April 23, 2013. A grandson for Dilys, Jake, Anne and Billy.

ENGAGEMENTS



NOBLE - BUCKIE
Iain and Linda Noble, Tobermory are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Gail Cameron Noble to Rory Buckie, son of Winnie Buckie, Manila Philippines and the late Kjeld Buckie, Copenhagen. Congratulations to you both x

DEATHS

CAMERON - Peacefully at Abbeyfield Nursing Home, Ballachulish on May 2, 2013, Isa, age 82 years, late of Park Road, Ballachulish and Camuschorr, Strontian, a much loved cousin. Funeral service on Thursday, May 9 at 12 noon in Free Church, Fort William thereafter interment at Drimnatorrin Cemetery, Strontian. Family flowers only please, donations, if desired to Abbeyfield Resident's Fund.

CUTHBERTSON - Kathleen Cuthbertson (nee Gunn), who sadly passed away on May 1, 2013. Much loved wife, mother, granny, sister, and daughter. She will be sorely missed. Memorial service at St. Mary's Church, Glencoe on Friday, May 10 at 11am.

DRUMMOND - Sadly, in the early hours of May 2, 2013, Iain Darroch, beloved husband and best friend of Joan, 40 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, father to Frankie, Vivienne, Joan, Gordon and Andrew, much loved grandfather to Steven, Alan, Lindsay, Yvonne, Stacey, Scott, Eilidh, Kyle, Heather, Robbie and Emma and great grandfather to Euan, only brother of Davy. Deeply loved and missed by all. Memorial Service will take place at The Church of Scotland, Glenelg Road, Oban on Friday, May 10, at 7.00 p.m. followed by Cremation Service at Cardross Crematorium, on Saturday, May 11 at 10.30am to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Retiral collection/donations will be taken for Oban Hospice.

FARQUHAR - Peacefully at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow on May 3, 2013, aged 65 years, George Alexander Farquhar, loving partner of Lynne Fountain, dear brother to Ann, Peter, Kathleen & Robert and a much loved brother-in-law and uncle. Funeral will take place from Glenorchy Kirk, Dalmally on Friday May 10, at 1 pm, thereafter to Glenorchy Cemetery. (Black Optional).

RITCHIE - Cecil William Stonebridge, MBE. Peacefully, on April 30, 2013, husband of Elizabeth Margaret. Graveside service at Pennyfuir Cemetery, Oban, at 2pm, on May 10, 2013. All friends welcome to attend.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

KELLY - William and family would like to thank all friends and relatives for all their kind expressions of sympathy on the loss of their mother and grandmother Cathy. Thanks to the Rev Roddy Campbell for his comforting service, to Archie MacGillivray Funeral Directors, to Beth Campbell for the catering, and to Hilary for the beautiful flowers. Special thanks to her goddaughter Kiki Maccoll who cared for her lovingly and allowed her to spend the last few months of her life in the comfort of her own home. Finally to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and generously donated £611.00 to the "Lismore Granny Bus".

McLENNAN - Margaret and family would like to thank all relations, friends and neighbours for all their sympathy following the sad loss of Donnie. A special thank you to ambulance crews, Dr Fattah and all the staff of Ward B for their kindness and attention. Thanks also to the Royal Hotel, Hamish Hocy & Son and Rev. Dugald Cameron. A collection raised £477.93 for ABCD.

O'DRISCOLL - The family of the late Lorna O'Driscoll would like to thank family and friends for their love and support. Thanks to district nurses, Carr Gomm, Marie Curie, nurses and doctors at Lorn and Islands Hospital and

Lorn Medical Centre for all their care and support. Thank you also to Oban Hospice, Flower Basket, D & A Munn, Stevenson Kennedy and Rev Ken Hunter for a comforting service.

RANKIN - The family of the late Mary Rankin would like to thank everyone for the cards, telephone calls and support received at this sad time. A special thank you to the medical and nursing staff of the Combined Assessment Unit and Ward 1 of the Belford Hospital for the outstanding care Mary received. We would also like to thank Anne Widdop, Humanist celebrant, for her moving and meaningful tribute and Ewen of McLellan and Co for his efficient and sympathetic services. We all miss her so much.

- Norma, Peter, Sandy, Amy and all the family.

MEMORIALS

CLARK - In memory of my dear brother Tommy, who died on May 4, 2009.

Every day in some small way Memories of you come my way Though absent you are always near Loved and remembered every day.

- Mary at Kilninan
CLARK - In loving memory of my dear uncle Tommy Clark, died at Kilninan, Isle of Mull on May 4, 2009.

Precious memories of a wonderful man who is loved, missed and remembered every day.

- Mary and Bobby.
MACCALL - Malcolm Alexander died May 11, 2012. One year has passed since that sad day

When one we loved was called away God took him home, it was His will But in our hearts he liveth still.

- Catherine, Wilma, Natalie and families.
MACCALL - Malcolm Alexander died May 11, 2012. The rolling stream of life rolls on

But still the vacant chair Recalls the love, the voice, the smile Of the father and shennar who once sat there.

- Robert, Janice, Jenna, Aaron, Bryana.
MACDONALD - Marilyn (MacArthur), Cherished wife and mother, died May 10, 1998.

Always remembered with everlasting memories.

- Billy, William, Morven, and Andrea.
MACDONALD - In loving memory of our dear brother-in-law and uncle Donald Neil MacDonald, who died May 9, 2009.

Forever in our thoughts.

- Ellen and family.
MACKAY - In loving memory of our mum and gran, Nan MacKay, died May 10, 2012.

Love and miss you forever.

- From all the family.
MACLEOD - Margaret (Rita) Remembering with love a mum, mum-in-law, gran and great-gran passed away May 10, 2005.

- Sandra, Denis and family.
MACPHEE - Treasured memories of our dad Alexander MacPhee (Sandy), who died at his home, Coire-Leis, Camaghael on May 11, 1974.

We never ask for miracles But today just one would do To see the front door open and see our dad walk through

We miss you dad. - His loving daughter Mary and family and son Alex and family.

MARSHALL - In loving memory of my beloved wife Betty, who passed away May 11, 2008.

If I could have a lifetime wish A dream that could come true I pray to God with all my heart For yesterday and you.

- Inserted by Steve.

SINCLAIR - Achaleven Farm. Treasured memories of our dear grandparents, Donald, who died March 21, 1985 and Duncan who died May 6, 2003.

No words no verse Could ever say How much we miss you every day

Precious are our memories of our Shen and grampa We will never forget.

- Granddaughter Marie, great-grandson Duncan, and Dugald. xxx Gentle Jesus up above Give Shen and grampa all our love.

- Caroline and children, Josie, Kevin and Gabriel. Denise and Owen and Christopher. xxx
STEEL - Loving memories of our dad Ian who died May 9, 1984.

- Morag and Alan
STOTT - Treasured memories of a dear mum and granny, Christina, who died May 6, 1987.

Loved and remembered always.

- Inserted by Rosemary, Ewen, Ewen and Ross, Tigh-na-Coille, Spean Bridge.

WATT - In loving memory of our mother Mary Watt (Mamie), who died May 12, 1984. Always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.

- Catherine and family, Tobermory
- Arthur, Sheena and family, Alexandria

Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival



The Festival Fling at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Saturday night was a family affair. Photo by Kevin McGlynn. t19dance11no



Amelia MacTaggart of North Connel and Appin's Molly Gregory-Beard, winners of the girls vocal solos. Photo by Kevin McGlynn. t19singers1no



The Sequence choir, who took part in the Concert of Champions at the Corran Halls on Saturday night. Photo by Kevin McGlynn. t19dance10no



Florence Campbell-Gray and Emma Baird, both Taynuilt, the winners of girls duets. Photo by Kevin McGlynn. t19dance8no



Kirsty Campbell, the open woodwind winner and winner of the Rotary Young Musician of the Year quaiich, which was presented by president, Iain MacKinnon. Photo by Kevin McGlynn. t19dance9no

The Oban Times
& West Highland Times
THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

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SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Thursday 9 May 2013
Ascension Day
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Sung Eucharist..... 19:30
Oban Bach Choir & Orchestra:
Mozart's Coronation Mass
Sunday 12 May 2013
Sunday after Ascension
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
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St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Communion..... 11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
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Holy Eucharist.....
.....Wed 15 May 14.30

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Runners ignore the rain to take part in the busy ABCD 10k and Fun Run on Sunday.

Wind and rain fail to dampen the spirits of ABCD 10k and fun runners

NEARLY 100 keen runners took part in the annual Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) 10k and Fun Run, despite Sunday's heavy rain.

Starting at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, the weather was atrocious throughout the race and all those competing did extremely well given the wet and windy

conditions. Such was the enthusiasm for the race that the two youngest entrants were pushed round the course in prams by their mums!

Gregor MacGregor won the 10k with a time of 38mins 10, while Alison Chong was second placed overall and first lady with a time of 42min 40.

Ewan McCormick won the boys fun run with a time of 10mins 23, although Helen Chong was first overall in the fun run, winning the girls section with a time of 10mins 17.

Well earned medal
The competitors all received a well earned medal and the prizes for the winners

were presented by Jim Newall and Mary MacMillan.

Finally Jim Newall was awarded the Jimmy Donn Memorial Trophy for 2013 for his long service to ABCD since the charity was founded in 2000.

Results
The full results are as follows: Men's

10K: 1 Gregor MacGregor, 38min 10 secs; 2 Gordon Binnie, 43min 26 secs; 3 Alex MacVicar 45min 45secs. Male Veteran: 1 Eric Walton. Junior boy: 1 Patrick MacIntyre, 47 min 25 secs.

Ladies 10 K: 1 Alison Chong in 42 min 40 secs; 2 Doreen Henderson in 52 min 40secs; 3 Bobbi-Jo Wallace, 53 min 30 secs.

Lady veteran: 1 Doreen Henderson. Junior girl: 1 Alison MacVicar in 52 min 55 secs. Boy's Fun Run: 1 Ewan McCormick 10 min 23 secs; 2 Craig MacNiven, 10 min 25 secs; 3 Morgan Gemmill, 12 min 33 secs.

Girl's Fun Run: 1 Helen Chong, 10 min 17 secs; 2 Eva Chong 10 min 45 secs; 3 Rosie MacIntyre, 13 min 55secs.

Saints boys on the run to raise club funds

ON Sunday May 5 Oban Saints U14s took part in their annual fundraising activity.

This year they decided to do something a bit different and ran in the local ABCD (Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease) 10K event. On the day of the event all 26 members of the squad completed the course in strong winds and heavy rain but were well supported by a good number of parents and other well wishers.

The Oban Saints youth teams compete in the Dumbarton Football Development Leagues (DFDL) and have teams in each age group from U13s to U16s and also operate development groups at primary school age.

Oban Saints hold the Community Club Award through the SFA Quality Mark Scheme and have recently entered into a partnership agreement with Oban High School.

This will help enable all youngsters in the area that would like to participate in football have access to top class coaching regardless of ability.

When the players of the U14s were asked what they would like to do this year, one of them suggested the annual 10k run.

It was discussed and agreed that the boys would have to take part in a six week training programme in the build up to the event to ensure that they were prepared for the run.

Each and every one of the players showed great commitment to the event and impressed local people who were soon talking about the boys being seen about the town 'out for a run'. This made it a bit easier on the boys to fill their sponsor forms for club funds and the ABCD charity.

The commitment and effort that the young players have shown has had a positive effect on and off the park and the team currently tops the Dumbarton Development League with only three matches of the season to complete.

Cup Final

They also have the small matter of a League Cup final to contest on Sunday May 12 against Lochgilhead Red Star at the Bet Butler Stadium, home of Scottish League side Dumbarton.

The final will see the two Argyll teams compete for the third time this season, with both teams having a win apiece in the league.

Club coaches Joe MacIntyre, Donald MacLean and Scott Cooper have been so impressed with the player's dedication, commitment and work rate this season they decided to reward the boys for their efforts by arranging a trip to Alton towers at the season end.

Joe MacIntyre said: 'We asked a number of local businesses if they would like to support the boys in the 10k and in return the players each ran with the logo of the business attached

to the back of his shirt. The boys themselves did not know this was happening right up to the last minute so it also gave them a boost when they realised just how much local support they were receiving.

Donald MacLean added, 'We would like to thank all the businesses that supported the boys in the event. We would also like to give a special mention to Patrick McIntyre who completed the 10K event with a fantastic time of 47 minutes'.

When asked about the hopes for the season run in, Scott Cooper said: 'The boys have been terrific all season and we just hope that they have enjoyed their football so far.'

'As long as they enjoy the experience of the cup final then we will be happy.'

The Oban Saints U14s will now attempt to create their own piece of history and become the first youth team from Oban to complete the league and cup double which would cap an excellent season for a fine bunch of boys. The companies who sponsored the boys in the 10k event were: Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund, Oban Express, Nories, The Creel, Loch Melfort Hotel, Steakhouse, Strathclyde Scaffolding, Homebase, Jewson, Howdens, Keyline, Ardoran Marine, Booker, HC Munton, RA Clements, PTS, Northern Tools and Equipment, Mansell.

Portree 'A' win Lochalsh Triathlon

PORTREE 'A' defied miserable weather to win the 19th annual Lochalsh Leisure Triathlon in Kyle on Saturday.

Despite the conditions, the event - a 10-length swim, two-mile cycle and a mile run - saw a good turn out from Skye and Lochalsh primary schools.

Ten high school pupils also competed for honours, but there was a scare for Ruth Gordon, one of Skye's brightest swimming prospects, when she misjudged a corner while cycling and suffered a nasty fall. A visit to the hospital confirmed that, thankfully, there were no serious injuries.

Lochalsh Leisure Centre manager Chris Mackinnon paid tribute to everyone who contributed to making the day a success.

He said: 'Thanks to all the children who took part and also all the parents and helpers who assisted with bike pick ups.'

'Also thanks to all those who stewarded, all the centre staff, to Jill and Shona for dealing with the BBQ and to the local Co-ops and to Asda for donating rolls and burgers.'

Mr Mackinnon added: 'I would like to remind all schools and parents that the event is restricted to P5-7 pupils. One little boy had to be turned away as he was only P4 age and I could sense his disappointment when given the news.'

Results: Primary Trophy 3x3 - 1 Thomas Goodman (Bodbil a bobs); 2 Elaine Deas (Portree A); 3 Callum Flannagan (Bodbil a bobs); 4 Martin Pringle (Portree A); 5 Sam Stubbs (M&S); 6 Leon Miles Shinnie (Portree A); 7 Finlay Davidson (Elgol); 8 Andrew Whitehead (Sgoil Stafainn); 9 Ross Gordon (Portree C); 10 Emily Matheson (Sgoil Stafainn); 11 Aidan Ruddy (Portree B); 12 Abi Davidson (Elgol); 13 Joe Jones (Portree B); 14 Martha Shillaker (M&S); 15 Ross Stewart (Sleat); 16 Una MacLennan; 17 Isla Macleod (Sgoil Stafainn); 18 Charlotte Gordon (Portree B); 19 Nadia Fenton (Bodbil a bobs); 20 Abby Wood (Portree C); 21 Melina Arnott (M&S); 22 Ella Macfarlane (Portree C); 23 Louise Innes, Duncan Watt (Elgol), High



Triathlon winners: the Portree Primary School 'A' team of Leon Miles Shinnie, Elaine Deas and Martin Pringle. Elaine won the girls event and was second overall. Martin was third boy and fourth overall. Leon was sixth overall.

School 3x3 - 1 Gabriel Parsons; 2 Andrew Grieve; 3 Samuel Parson; 4 Liam Arnott; 5 Rana Stewart; 6 Calum Dean Morrice; 7 Isla Campbell; 8 Tristan Jackson; 9 Kirsty Watt; 10 Ruth Gordon (ret).

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Celebrations for Lochaber High



Champions! The Robertson Cup winning Lochaber High School team with the trophy.

LOCHABER High School are celebrating after winning the Robertson Cup Shinty Sixes at Drumnadrochit last week.

Seven high school teams from across the Highlands took part in the 16th annual round robin event at Glen Urquhart High School, with Portree finishing in second place.

The other sides taking part were Dingwall, Charleston, two Glen Urquhart teams and Kingussie, who finished third.

The two top sides played out a tight 0-0 draw, with Lochaber ending the tournament on 13 points, two ahead of Portree.

And there was double joy for Loch-

aber as Gregor Cameron was named player of the tournament.

Event organiser Allan MacLeod said: 'We witnessed some fantastic shinty from all the schools taking part. Thanks to all the teams for taking the time to come and compete in this event, which has gone from strength to strength over the years.'

Macaulay Cup ties take centre stage this weekend

'We're looking forward to defending the cup, but this is just the first step'

Fraser Inglis made his long-awaited return for **OBAN CAMANACHD** on Saturday, but he wasn't able to inspire a scoring spree from the forwards.

Oban recorded three against Lochaber at Mossfield on Saturday, but it was midfielders Garry Lord and Andrew MacCuish - whose second three minutes from time secured a 3-3 draw - who netted for the hosts.

At 37, Inglis is no spring chicken, but his class was clear. Manager Gussie Campbell is hoping he will help see off Glenorchy in the Macaulay Cup this weekend.

Campbell said: 'Our ambition is to be in the next round of the cup. I'm looking for the boys to step up and produce a performance.'

David Lafferty impressed Campbell with his performance on Saturday after stepping up from Lochside and is likely to play on Saturday, as is Inglis.

NEWTONMORE welcome Lochaber in the second round of the Macaulay Cup this Saturday.

Manager PJ MacKintosh told *The Oban Times* he would not be taking the Spear Bridge side lightly, despite their lowly league position. He said: 'Lochaber are a good side, they are better than the league suggests. They've got a good squad, they're big, they're strong, they've got international players, but they're just not getting the rub of the green in front of goal.'

Paul MacArthur is approaching a first team return and is likely to feature for the second team against Kingussie on Friday night.

More's league game with Fort William was postponed last weekend as rain left the Eilan unplayable.

KINGUSSIE will be hoping to come flying out the traps against Kinlochshiel in the Artemis Macaulay Cup second round tie at The Dell this Saturday.

Manager Russell Jones has pinpointed slow starts as Kings' main failure so far this season after watching his side lose two first half goals in last weekend's 2-1 loss to Glenquhart.

Jones told *The Oban Times*: 'We seem to be scoring lots of goals in the last 20 minutes of matches, but we need to be a bit more threatening in the first half.'

Kinlochshiel are a fit young team. We got a good result up there at the start of the season but we're under no illusions. It will be a tough game.'

Rain meant no game for

INVERARAY on Saturday, with their match against Kinlochshiel cancelled.

Manager Garry MacPherson is hoping this weekend's Macaulay Cup tie against Glasgow Mid Argyll does go ahead so memory of the defeat against Newtonmore can be quickly forgotten.

He added: 'I'll be looking for us to score a few goals but we're taking nothing for granted. We played them pre-season and they're a tough team to beat.'

'There's always a cup upset somewhere along the lines - as long as we're not one of them.'

Stuart Robertson is the only player missing for Inveraray ahead of the tie.

Macaulay Cup holders **GLENURQUHART** start the defence of the trophy with a local derby away to unbeaten Lovat on Saturday.

Glen manager Drew McNeil told *The Oban Times* the form book would be thrown out the window for the derby.

He said: 'It's a local derby, so it's not really relevant who is on good form and who isn't. I always expected Lovat to do well this year, I'm not surprised at all.'

'Our results have improved but the performances have been good for a while. Hopefully there's a bit more confidence in the team now.'

'We're looking forward to defending the cup, but this is just the first step.'

Andrew Pearson praised Brian MacCallum for netting another three goals for **LOCHSIDE ROVERS** - but was disappointed to lose David McMillan early on against Aberdeen on Saturday.

McMillan lasted ten minutes before a muscle injury forced him from the park - but it didn't disrupt the hosts too much as they romped to a 4-1 victory, with Sean Morgan getting the other goal.

Pearson's charges travel to Kilmory on Saturday, and he admits he's looking for more of the same.

He said: 'We could think we should take the points but nobody is talking about definite wins,' he said.

New Orion Group premierships leaders **LOVAT** welcome local rivals Glenquhart to Kiltarlity in the Artemis Macaulay Cup in a tie which promises to be a cracker.

The Glen have shown fine form of late while Lovat's 2-1 win at Kyles further cemented their credentials as real challengers to title favourites Newtonmore.

Lovat coach Allan MacRae would not be averse to a good

cup run either - but the Macaulay holders constitute a formidable obstacle.

MacRae said: 'It will be a hard game - they are on a wee run themselves and seem to be picking up a bit so they will be tough to counter.'

'They will be fit and mobile but we are playing some good stuff so it should make for a great game.'

Lovat were under the cosh at Kyles for the first half but went in 1-1 at the break courtesy of a Lorne MacKay goal. A 73rd minute Owen Ferguson strike sealed the win.

KILMALLIE go into Saturday's derby clash with Fort William in the Artemis Macaulay Cup with almost a full squad at their disposal.

Half back Martin Stewart, who is suspended, is the only absentee but coach Duncan Kelly has Martin 'Shorty' Graham available to slot into Stewart's place.

Kelly told *The Oban Times*: 'They have home advantage. An Aird is a bigger park than ours and being a premier league team they will start as favourites - but we have nothing to lose.'

'You never quite know how Fort William/Kilmallie games are going to go - they are always close encounters.'

'We will just play our normal game and take it from there. We will let them worry about us.'

The wet weather that blighted the west coast also cost **OBAN CELTIC** their Camanachd Cup tie against Caberfeidh, but president Davy Hamilton is hopeful the break will help his misfiring forwards.

Taynuilt visit Ganavan this weekend on Macaulay Cup duty and Hamilton is keen to see goals.

He said: 'We've got to practice and get the boys out for practice. Hopefully it will all come good because it'll be hard against Taynuilt. The game plays to a finish though, so it's good to have the game at home.'

'Hopefully we'll have all the boys there but we will probably be missing Allan MacInnes. Apart from that we should be alright.'

LOCHABER will be massive underdogs when they visit Newtonmore this Saturday, but after finally finding their scoring touch the Spear Bridge side will be hoping to spring a surprise.

Manager Callum Cameron has seen his side show signs of life after only scoring one goal in their first six games of 2013.



Allan Henderson, Provost of Lochaber and Archie Robertson, President, Camanachd Association make the draw for the second round of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup.

Camanachd Cup second round draw

THE draw for the second round of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup, which sees the ten Premiership sides enter the action, was made on Monday at this year's Cup Final venue, An Aird, Fort William, by local Highland Councillor and Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson and Camanachd Association President Archie Robertson.

This is the first time that shinty's Big Day Out will return to An Aird since 2008 when Fort William defeated Kingussie on home turf by two goals to one.

Camanachd Association President Archie Robertson said: 'We are delighted to be back in Fort William for this year's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final; it is an excellent facility and I am in no doubt that it will provide a first class setting for the match. Shinty has been highly fortunate to have enjoyed some great finals over the past few years and by the looks of this draw we are set for more of the same.'

Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson added: 'I am delighted that we will be hosting the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final in Lochaber this year. The draw for the next round looks very exciting and I am hopeful that one or two of the local clubs will make it through to An Aird on September 14.'

The draw was as follows:

Kingussie v Lovat
Kyles Athletic v Inveraray
Newtonmore v Strathglass
Fort William v Kilmallie or Glasgow MA
Caberfeidh or Oban Celtic v Glenorchy
Skye v Kinlochshiel
Lochaber v Glenquhart
Beauy or Strathglass v Oban Camanachd

The second round fixtures will take place on Saturday June 1. This year's final is at An Aird, Fort William, on Saturday September 14.

Lochaber have hit the back of the net six times in two games, including three against high-flying Lovat in a MacTavish Cup clash. Lochaber missed the chance to pull clear of the bottom of the league last weekend, drawing 3-3 with Oban.

A Ben Delaney strike and two from Neil MacDonall looked to have given Lochaber the win before a late equaliser from Oban.

To progress in the Artemis Macaulay Cup **KINLOCHSHIEL** will have to overcome Kingussie at The Dell.

Both teams have been blowing hot and cold in recent times but one potential issue for 'Shiel will be match sharpness as Saturday's encounter will be their first outing since the 3-2 Co-operative MacTavish Cup defeat to Glenquhart on April 20.

Coach Johnston Gill told *The Oban Times*: 'Just now, match fitness is our biggest problem. That's my biggest worry because this will be our first competitive game for three weeks.'

'We really have to hit the ground running because Kingussie have played in these intervening weeks and we have not. I went to watch them playing Glenquhart and they are a good side although without Ronald Ross they are not the force they were.'

'Shiel will be boosted by the return of Finlay MacRae and Duncan 'Ach' MacRae to the team, but another key man, Fraser MacVicar, may be unavailable through work commitments.'

TAYNUILT manager Willie Gillies says his eyes are on league success rather than cup survival ahead of this weekend's cup tie against Oban Celtic.

Gillies was pleased with his team's efforts despite a 3-1 loss

to Skye in the Camanachd Cup on Saturday, saying he was impressed with his young side's workrate and determination.

He admits he will use Saturday's game against Celtic as an opportunity to blood more youths, but said he will be taking the game seriously.

'I put my son Ryan on against Skye and he really mixed things up. He's big and lanky and helped move the ball around better. The effort from the whole team was there. The main thing for us is the league - we want to scrape some points there so it's not life or death against Celtic. We're still taking it seriously.'

KYLES title charge is hanging by a thread after a disappointing 2-1 defeat at the hands of Lovat at the weekend, despite putting on a strong performance.

Zac Coley's 27th minute counter gave Kyles hope of securing all the points against their league rivals, cancelling out Lorne MacKay's opener.

However, Owen Ferguson scored on 74 minutes to leave Kyles manager James Perlich four points adrift from the pinnacle. Both Newtonmore and Inveraray are three points ahead, each with games in hand.

Asked if his title charge was over, manager James Perlich said: 'Realistically, probably we will struggle.'

'In some way you don't know how Newtonmore will do but that's half way through the season and we've probably dropped too many points already.'

'I was quite pleased despite the result. We're six players down on last season but I was pleased with the performance.'

Kyles travel to Bute this weekend on Macaulay Cup duty.

FORT WILLIAM will be looking to shake off their indifferent league form for the

middle of the park and we will have to deal with that. But to be honest we have enough to think about with our own team and we just have to get it right.'

After a fine 1-0 win against Inverness in the Camanachd Cup, **GLENORCHY** will be hoping to take their knockout form into this weekend's tie against Oban Camanachd.

It won't be an easy Macaulay Cup tie. Camanachd hit six against the side the last time the teams met, but manager John Smith will be keen to see his team repeat Saturday's cup heroics, where a Steven Turner penalty on the 67th minute secured passage into the next round.

BALLACHULISH will be hoping their unexpected free week will give them a helping hand when they travel to Col Glen on Saturday.

The league match against Bute was cancelled thanks to a waterlogged pitch, giving the team a chance to rest ahead of this weekend's game against the mid-tabled Col Glen.

Ballachulish currently sit two points adrift of the top, although Kyles Athletic have played the same number of games.

SKYE CAMANACHD return to Marine Harvest North Division 1 duty this weekend after winning through to the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup second round with a 3-1 win at Taynuilt.

The trip to second bottom Inverness should present few problems but the teams' last meeting - a 1-0 win for Skye - shows that Willie MacRae's men can take nothing for granted.

The coach told *The Oban Times*: 'We have had a couple of tight games against them lately so we'll see what Saturday brings.'

'We should have a full squad and it's looking good. But we still need to get the points and to keep pecking away.'

Goals from Iain Murray, Stevie Morrison and Kenny Campbell were enough to see off Taynuilt. MacRae said: 'We were pretty much in control and got what we went for.'

GLENGARRY will take on Beauy looking to kick start their stuttering 2013 season.

The Inveraray side sit fifth in Marine Harvest north division two with six points from seven games, but they have yet to record back-to-back victories after losing 2-1 to league leaders Lovat last weekend.

Daniel MacLennan gave 'Garry the lead after half an hour, but they couldn't hold onto to the lead and Lovat equalised with 15 minutes to play through Rory Campbell.

Euan Ferguson grabbed the winner in the 81st minute.



Results

Results 4 May

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 1st Round
 Beauy P - P Strathglass Unplayable Field
 Caberfeidh P - P Oban Celtic Unplayable Field
 Inverness 0 - 1 Glenorchy
 Kilmallie P - P Glasgow Mid Argyll Unplayable Field
 Kilmory 1 - 4 Strachur
 Taynuilt 1 - 3 Skye

Orion Group Premiership
 Glenquhart 2 - 1 Kingussie
 Inveraray P - P Kinlochshiel Unplayable Field
 Kyles Athletic 1 - 2 Lovat
 Newtonmore P - P Fort William Unplayable Field
 Oban Camanachd 3 - 3 Lochaber

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Lochside Rovers 4 - 1 Aberdeen

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Beauy P - P Kinlochshiel Unplayable Field
 Fort William 2 - 3 Newtonmore
 Kingussie P - P Glenquhart Unplayable Field
 Lovat 2 - 1 Glengarry
 Skye 3 - 1 Aberdeen University

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Bute P - P Ballachulish Unplayable Field
 Col Glen P - P Aberdeen
 Aberdeen unable to field a team points to Col Glen
 Inveraray P - P Glasgow MA Unplayable Field
 Kyles Athletic P - P Tayforth Unplayable Field

Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Inverness P - P Lewis Unplayable Field
 Kilmallie P - P Strathspye Unplayable Field
 Boleskine 1 - 4 Lochcarron
 Lochaber 3 - 0 Caberfeidh
 Lochbroom 0 - 5 Strathglass

Fixtures

Friday 10 May

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Kingussie v Newtonmore
 John Angus Gillies - 7.30pm (19.30 Throw Up)

Saturday 11 May

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 1st Round
 Beauy v Strathglass
 Donald MacRae

Artemis Macaulay Cup 1st Round
 Bute v Kyles Athletic
 David Mitchell - 3pm
 Inveraray v Glasgow Mid Argyll
 Ronnie Campbell - 3pm
 Glenorchy v Oban Camanachd
 Oban Celtic v Taynuilt
 Fort William v Kilmallie
 Evan MacRae
 Kinlochshiel v Kinlochshiel
 Deck Cameron
 Lovat v Glenquhart
 Graham Cameron
 Newtonmore v Lochaber
 Innes Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Inverness v Skye
 Colin MacDonall

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Aberdeen v Strachur
 Euan Pearson
 Kilmory v Lochside Rovers
 Daniel MacRae

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Kinlochshiel v Aberdeen University
 Calum Girvan
 Glengarry v Beauy
 Willie MacRae
 Glenquhart v Lovat
 John Matheson - 12pm
 Skye v Fort William
 Neil Ferguson

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Bute v Tayforth
 Duncan Freshwater - 12pm
 Col Glen v Ballachulish
 John MacGregor
 Glasgow Mid Argyll v Aberdeen
 Neil MacDonall
 Inveraray v Kyles Athletic
 Jim Innes - 12 pm

Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Boleskine v Lochbroom
 Rah Douglas
 Kilmallie v Inverness
 Alex MacVicar
 Lewis v Caberfeidh
 John MacLeod
 Lochcarron v Strathspye
 Archie Ritchie
 (All throw ups 2.30 unless stated)

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

COMPETITION

WIN £600

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

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Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavuil, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

I McKillop, Lochiel Road, Fort William
J Muir, Westbank, Raod, Ardrishaig

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I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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Saints pick up maximum points from double header

Saturday May 4
Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
Oban Saints 3

Aikenhead Thistle 1
OBAN Saints played the first of a double header last weekend when they took on Aikenhead Thistle, who are presently sitting in second place in the Premier Division.

And an impressive 90 minute display earned the local lads all three points in an exciting encounter.

The games between these two good footballing teams have always been cracking affairs and this one was no exception. Saints welcomed Craig MacEwan and Alan Miller back into the squad but Dene Cassells, and Eddie Swift were unavailable.

The home side started off well and should have taken the lead in the 14th minute when Donald Campbell played Craig MacEwan through the middle. Craig elected to shoot when a lob looked the better option.

The first half was evenly balanced with both teams playing some good football but half time arrived with the scoreline blank.

The home team started the second half the same as the first and almost took the lead in the 51st minute when Paul Kerr was unlucky to see his shot come off the bar after he got on the end of a Craig MacEwan cross.

The home side opened the scoring in the 59th minute when Willie Gemmill and Donald Campbell worked a short corner on the left before Willie sent over a deep cross to the far post for Alex Craik to volley the ball high into the net past the helpless goalkeeper.

The Oban side increased their lead five minutes later when the ball fell to Ross Maitland, lurking 25 yards from goal and the wee man thundered a tremendous shot into the postage stamp corner of the net.

Aikenhead looked a beaten side now and Donald Campbell made things worse for the Glasgow

outfit when he fired home Saints' third goal. The visitors pulled a goal back from the penalty spot with two minutes remaining to make the final score 3-1.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted: He said: 'We played really well today against a good Aikenhead team and fully deserved the three points.'

Sunday May 5
Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
Oban Saints 2

Eaglesham 0
SAINTS played their second game in 24 hours when they took on bottom of the table Eaglesham and all credit should go to the Premier League strugglers for making Saints fight all the way for the win.

The manager elected to start with the same 11 that defeated Aikenhead the day before.

Saints defeated the Hams 4-0 away from home a couple of weeks ago, but the team took a



No way through for Eaglesham's Ross McCorquodale as Dene Cassells and Keith Millar close him down in midfield.

Inset: Keith Millar heads home the opening goal. Photos: Stephen Lawson

while to get going in this game. The passing was poor early on with the players choosing the wrong options at times.

The visitors main play was to play long balls up to giant front man Tony O'Neill but apart from this they never really troubled the Saints defence too much.

The game started in reasonable conditions, but the wind and rain started to make things difficult for the players as the afternoon wore on.

Although Saints had the better of the chances the scoreline remained blank as the referee blew for half time, although Daniel

Cassells had to make a fine save to deny Tony O'Neill.

The second half started with Saints in a determined mood, but they were finding it hard to break down a determined Hams defence well marshalled by David Scott.

The visitors were dropping deeper and deeper as the home side pushed forward and Donald Campbell should have opened the scoring when he was clean through with only the keeper to beat but for some reason the normally clinical finisher knocked the ball past the post.

The deadlock was finally

broken in the 74th minute after some good work on the right which resulted in Craig MacEwan crossing the ball for Saints skipper Keith Millar who got in front of the keeper to head the ball into the net much to the relief of the Saints supporters and management team.

Credit to Eaglesham they battled away to try and get back into the game, but with five minutes remaining Craig MacEwan thumped a low shot into the corner of the net to make the final score 2-0.

Iain Jackson was happy to get all three points but a bit

disappointed in the way the team played, especially in the first half.

On going to press Saints were due to play Haldane United in the semi final of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy at McKenna Park, Govan. Full report next week.

The Oban club will be playing two games again this weekend. On Saturday they travel to take on Finnart at Glasgow Green Football Centre and on Sunday they play host to Rolls Royce from East Kilbride.

This game will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s no game; Under 14s v Goldenhill, postponed; Under 15s 0, FC Thistle 2; Ardencaple v Under 16s postponed.

Saturday's fixtures: League Cup Final - Lochgilhead Red Star v Under 14s, Bet Butler Stadium, Dumbarton, 1.30pm kick-off. Milngavie v Under 13s; Under 16s v Milngavie. Thursday May 9 - Milngavie v Under 15s

Oban Bowling Club

BOWLS

OBAN Bowling Club is linking with primary schools in Oban to give schoolchildren the opportunity to play bowls and P6 of the three local primary schools are due to visit the green on May 14 and 15.

The club's open week for anyone to come along and try the game is on from May 20-26. For details call Helen on 01631 570988 or see advert on community noticeboard page.

Tobermory

BOWLS

JUNIOR/SENIOR competition: 1 Graham Brown/Lewis Brown 82-13.5-68.5; 2 Ross Kirsop/Scott Paterson 91-21-70; 3 Ewan MacCrae/William MacCrae 77-07-70. Mens Medal: 1 Angus Cowe 79-10-69; 2 John Weir 82-12-70; 3 Tom Nunn 83-13-70.

Islay

RESULTS of Medal played Sunday May 5: 1 David Johnston 79 Less 10, Nett 69; 2 Scott Currie 82 Less 11, Nett 71; 3 Charles Holyoake 77 Less 5, Nett 72. C.S.S. 71.

Oban Lorne hope to round off season in style

RUGBY

OBAN Lorne will end one of their most successful ever seasons, as the National Bowl Champions and West Division 3 champions, by travelling to Lanark this Saturday for the last league match of the season.

It will be the first match Oban has played since its Murrayfield triumph and players are hoping to close their 50th anniversary year with another win to round off a successful league campaign.

Lanark, who were beaten 54-0 by Oban at Glencruitten earlier this year, sit bottom of the Division 3 table but will provide a tougher test for the Green Machine playing at home.

Oban will round this weekend off with their annual club dinner this Saturday evening from 8pm. Guest speakers include former Scotland and British and Irish Lions coach Peter Wright. Tickets are available from Oban Sports Shop.

Last Saturday a youthful Oban Lorne side attended the Lochaber 7's at Banavie. Oban Lorne has a busy schedule over the coming weeks and will be hosting its own annual 7's at Glencruitten on Saturday May 25 from 12pm. Fifteen teams have been confirmed in what is shaping up to be a fantastic day of 7-a-side rugby. The bar will be open all day and food will be available. Everyone welcome.



Taynuilt Golf Club Mixed Open winners.

Taynuilt Golf Club Mixed Open

GOLF

TAYNUILT Mixed Open played on May 5: Nett results - 1 Richard Bergant (Taynuilt) Etive Brown (Dalmally) 61.5 (20.5); 2 Allan Stewart (Taynuilt) Liz Mudie (Taynuilt) 66 (21.0); 3 Alan MacKie (Glencruitten) Janet Buchanan (Dalmally) 67 (11.0). Gross Result - 1

Wyndham & Margaret Tranter (Raglan Parc) 76. Ladies Nearest the Pin: Ann Colthart (Dalmally); Gents Nearest the Pin: Iain MacCallman (Clobber). Ladies Longest Drive: Fiona McGlynn (Taynuilt); Gents Longest Drive: Wyndham

Tranter (Raglan Parc). Ladies - Club Championship 1st round (Heap) + Medal played 30 April - 1 Jill Stewart 72 (21); 2 Moira MacVicar 72 (31) 3 Mairead Sim 72 (15).

Scottish Amateur League results and fixtures

FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Jimmy Marshall Trophy semi final - Hillington 1, Campbeltown Pupils 1. Hillington won 3-2 on penalties. Premier Division - Saturday - Oban Saints 3, Aikenhead Thistle 1; Sunday - Oban Saints 2, Eaglesham 0; Division 1A - Port Glasgow United 5, Dunoon Athletic 1; Division 1B - Easthall Star 5, Lochgilhead Red Star 3.

This weekend's fixtures: Saturday - Finnart v Oban Saints; Sunday - Oban Saints v Rolls Royce EK. Premier Division 2 - Centre v Campbeltown Pupils; Dunoon v Hillington; Division 1B - Millerston Thistle v Lochgilhead Red Star.

Mull rally driver has sights set on winning British Championship

RALLYING

A MULL rally ace has his sights set firmly on the British championship this year and is taking his first steps towards it this weekend.

John MacCrone, 23, hopes to follow in the footsteps of fellow Scots, Colin, Alistair and Jimmy McRae, and David Bogie, all former British champs.

This weekend he heads into the wilds of the Kielder Forest, along with 90 other crews, to tackle the opening round of the championship, the Pirelli International in Carlisle.

After an impressive season last year in the World Rally Championship Academy, where MacCrone bagged a couple of podiums and a series of fastest times, he is up for the challenge.

'I remember when I was younger saying to myself that I would like to at least try and win the British Rally Championship, like Colin did,' MacCrone said.

'I'm now in the right position to do that. I'm in the right car, have a good team and an experienced co-driver. It's obviously too early to make predictions and say I'm going to win it, but that's the aim.'

MacCrone will lead the Culina Palletforce Racing team, which will also run Carlisle's Peter Taylor, in his all-new Citroen DS3 R3. And he has a new co-driver, Welshman Phil Pugh.

MacCrone added: 'Phil has been there, done it. He's got loads of experience and it's great for my confidence. We've been working well together in testing, now we just need to do it on the Pirelli.'

'We have a great relationship both in and out of the car and I think we'll just build those levels of trust even more as we go through this season. He's on-board to help me and point me,

literally, in the right direction.'

MacCrone is quick to admit his biggest thought ahead of the event is getting through the first stage, the nine-miler at Punder-shaw, unscathed. He said: 'I've never done a rally stage in this car with this navigator before so the first stage will definitely be interesting for the both of us. I'm eager to get to the end of it and then take it from there.'

'By no means will I be going



John MacCrone and co-driver Phil Pugh in their Culina Palletforce Racing Citroen DS3 R3.

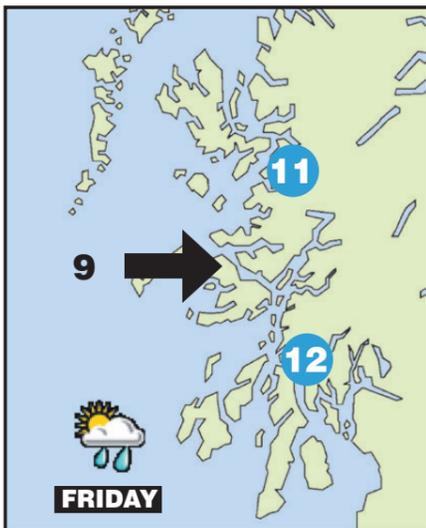
Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds moderate, easterly
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C

Friday Light rain showers
Winds light, westerly
Temperatures 5°C to 12°C.

Weekend Outlook Rain
Winds moderate, west north westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, May 9, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	05.08 3.7 11.25 0.9 17.19 3.7 23.54 0.9	
Fri	05.42 3.8 11.59 0.9 17.52 3.8 *** **	
Sat	00.29 1.0 06.15 3.8 12.35 0.9 18.24 3.8	
Sun	01.04 1.1 06.49 3.7 13.11 1.0 18.57 3.8	
Mon	01.39 1.3 07.24 3.6 13.47 1.1 19.31 3.7	
Tues	02.14 1.4 08.00 3.5 14.24 1.3 20.06 3.6	
Wed	02.52 1.6 08.36 3.3 15.02 1.4 20.43 3.4	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION

Established 1861 No 8146

Thursday 9 May, 2013

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Scottish Hotel Awards 2013

Page 18



Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival

Pages 12, 13 and 25

SPORTS NEWS

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup draw

Thieves deal boxing club a low blow

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK

A KINLOCHLEVEN boxing club has had alcohol and a small amount of cash stolen from its gym - just weeks before their biggest ever home show.

Claymores Amateur Boxing Club are due to host a Scotland vs England match up on June 15, and had been saving up bottles of drink to stock the bar at the event. But when club coach Martin Glenesk went to check the supplies, he found several bottles of expensive spirits missing, with an estimated retail value of around £1,000.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We keep it in a locked cupboard. It's where we keep the booze, wristbands, everything you need for a show. It's not something we check very often. I just went down just to check on the crockery and I noticed that a lot of the booze had gone.'

'The key for the cupboard was kept in a locked office at the gym in Kinlochleven business park. It appears the thefts happened over a number of days, raising suspicions the culprit knew where to look.'

Mr Glenesk said: 'I don't know if it was an inside job.'

'To get to the key they've had to break into the office, then go into the cupboard. But it is the only cupboard in the place we kept locked so it's not brain surgery to work out where it was.'

'The police said they didn't think it was kids because they went in and past all the alcopops to the good stuff.'

Around £30 was also stolen from a float for selling sweets to young club members.

Some local businesses have already offered to replace some of the drink for free to show their support to the club, which only formed in 2008.

Mr Glenesk added: 'It's put a real downer on things, everyone is paranoid now. But the show is still going ahead. People have really rallied round us, so I'm chuffed with that. If there's a silver lining, that's it.'

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: 'It appears the culprits managed to get in through an insecurity in the building.'

'Any information from the public would be greatly appreciated.'



Fort rider gets Six Days Trial underway

Lochaber's Gary MacDonald was in contention on Wednesday morning after two days of the Scottish Six Days Trial on his return to the event. The Kinlochleven rider, who missed the trial last year, picked up five points over the first two days to sit in seventh place - just three points behind the leaders. Local teenager Jack Dignan was the second highest placed newcomer, sitting in 107th place out of 265 riders. Fort William's Gary MacLennan, above, got the event underway at 7.30am on Monday. His brother, local councillor Thomas MacLennan, looked on as Roy Bridge youngster Finlay Cameron piped Gary out of the starting gate. For coverage of the SSDT parade and the Pre '65 competition in Kinlochleven see page 4. [T. FISHER/02](#)

Residents get chance to have say on new Fort William school plans

FORT William residents will get the chance to have their say on plans for one of the new primary schools being built in the town as part of a £32 million pound project.

Highland Council will display the proposals for the new facility on Lundavra Road at the West Highland Hotel from 11am to 7pm next Wednesday, and are asking for local input.

The new building will replace

the existing Fort William and Upper Achintore primaries.

Locals have participated in the creation of the plans, which will also see community meeting rooms and sports facilities created at the site.

Ken Johnstone of the Upper Achintore Regeneration Group told *The Oban Times* locals were glad to see the plans progressing.

He said: 'We had quite a lot of

input into the substance of the design, and we're supportive of it. They have delivered on the community aspect.'

'We are concerned about some safety aspects though, like the need for a safe bus bay and drop off point, and we're concerned about children having to cross the wide, busy junction at Connachie Road and Lundavra Road.'

The plans are part of the

Greater Fort William Primary Schools Project, which will also see a new all-Gaelic school built at Ardgor Road in Caol.

Highland Council will also create a joint campus on the existing Caol Primary School site with a combined Roman Catholic primary, merging the present Fort William and Lochside schools.

The new buildings are planned to open in August 2015.

Fury at last minute Waverley trip cancellation

Hundreds disappointed as cruise to Iona is called off

FORT William daytrippers hoping to visit Iona on the Waverley paddle steamer were left fuming after their journey was cancelled at the last minute on Monday morning.

The contingent of around 60 had arrived at Oban to join hundreds of others expecting to sail for the sacred isle, the burial place of early Scottish kings and home to the sixth century monastery founded by Saint Columba.

But with the Waverley about to depart they were told the Iona trip was off and Tobermory was the new destination.

The Lochaber group's day out had already been disrupted when their scheduled departure from Fort William was cancelled because of a generator problem with the steamer on Sunday.

Waverley Excursions chartered two coaches from Shiel Buses to bring the group to Oban, including Caol woman Joyce Vickers.

Mrs Vickers was on a personal pilgrimage to Iona - her mother is buried in St Columba Minor Church in Newquay, Cornwall and next month is the 1450th anniversary of St Columba's arrival on the isle.

The 83-year-old, who paid £37 for her ticket, told *The Oban Times*: 'They were sailing for Iona at 11.30am. But at 11.10am it came over the tannoy that we were not going and were going to Tobermory instead.'

'The reason given was the weather but there were big hisses and boos. I want my money back

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk



Joyce Vickers: no cruise to Iona.

Morvern and the Lynn of Lorn. Whilst we were sorry not to be able to offer the trip to Iona and know that passengers were disappointed not to get to their chosen destination, safety of our passengers is our primary concern.'

An industry source told *The Oban Times* that following the Herald of Free Enterprise ferry disaster off Zeebrugge in 1987 in which 188 passengers and crew drowned, the law states any decision to sail is the captain's alone. He said: 'It is a criminal offence to make the master sail against his professional judgement. He is the only person qualified to make that call.'

He added: 'The bottom of Mull and round Iona are pretty exposed, it is the Atlantic after all. They are some of the most treacherous waters on the west coast of Scotland.'

Shiel Buses owner David MacGillivray confirmed two coaches had been chartered to take around 60 Waverley passengers to Oban on Monday morning and bring them home in the evening. Most had taken the alternative day trip to Tobermory, he said.

Four young Iona men drowned crossing the Sound of Iona to Mull in December 1998 after their 14-foot dinghy capsized.

See Leader page 10.



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Glenelg 'Cake Break' duo hope for record

TWO GLENELG girls who have organised a Multiple Sclerosis Society Cake Break coffee morning on Saturday are hoping proceeds will top last year's total.

Plockton High School pupils Skye Scobie and Jordan Lane, who are both aged 13, collected more than £600 at their first Cake Break in 2012 - one of the largest amounts ever raised at a coffee morning in the Lochalsh village.

Skye, whose mum Jane and dad Craig run Glenelg shop, said: 'I'm big fan of JLS, my favourite is Orisette Williams and I became aware of MS after learning that he was a carer for his mum, who suffers from MS.'

'Myself and Jordan did a sponsored run and cycle in 2011 and we raised over £200. Then we decided we wanted to participate in another fund

raising event in 2012, that's when we found out about Cake Break.'

'People contributed greatly by baking a variety of cupcakes, biscuits and cakes, and as entertainment we held competitions which both young and old could enjoy.'

'We did competitions like name the novelty cake, guess the baby and a treasure hunt with generous prizes donated by local businesses which we contacted. With the help of family and friends we raised over £600.'

She added: 'Please join me and help make a difference for those who suffer with MS. Together we can beat it. So please join up and host your own Cake Break.'

The girls' fundraiser will be held in Glenelg and Arnisdale Community Hall.



Cake Break campaigners: Jordan Lane, left, and Skye Scobie.

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Lochaber: *The Last Bandit Country or Jacobite Heartland?*
Prof. Allan MacInnes FRSE FRHistS

In the eyes of central government, Scottish and British, the Lochaber district was regarded as the epicentre of Highland disorder and disloyalty from the 15th to the 18th centuries. How justified was this reputation?

Tuesday 21 May 2013, 7.00pm
The Sunart Centre, Strontian

This event will be finished in time to catch the Corran Ferry back towards Fort William

English & Scots: *Using the Past to Explain the Present*
Prof. Jeremy Smith FRSE, University of Glasgow

This talk will explore how present-day speech and writing can be used to find out how people spoke in the past, and an attempt will be made, using evidence such as place-names, to link language development to geography as well as history. The focus will be on English and Scots, but the discussion will be relevant for other languages as well.

Thursday 23 May 2013, 7.00pm
Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William
and Friday 24 May 2013, 7.00pm,
West Highland College, Kilchoan

For further information and to register:
Tel: 0131 240 2780 events@royalsoced.org.uk
www.royalsoced.org.uk/events
Refreshments served from 6.30pm

The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland's National Academy, is Scottish Charity No. SC000470

Annual garden fundraiser in aid of music school

LOCHABER Music School will hold a fundraising open garden day at Camaghael this Sunday afternoon, with flowers and teas on sale.

The annual event at Murlaggan will see senior pupils from the music school providing musical accompaniment throughout the day.

Music school director Peter Rose said: 'The garden day is always a lovely occasion. Lorna Ungoed-Thomas's garden is a wonderful oasis of rich, beautiful colours and we are extremely grateful to her for opening it up to visitors once again for this very special annual occasion.'

Loch Morar kayak accident victim named

THE MAN killed in a kayaking accident on Loch Morar last week has been named as Alexander Thorburn, from the Fife area.

The 48-year-old and a second man were plunged into the loch after it capsized on the evening of Sunday April 28.

The other man swam to an island before managing to raise the alarm the next morning.

Death of tanker crew member not suspicious

A 53-YEAR-OLD crew member died aboard on the BP Tanker 'British Explorer' on Sunday morning, Police Scotland have reported.

Stornoway police were called in about 9.28am and were conveyed to the vessel with the assistance of Stornoway lifeboat. Following enquiries a report is to be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. There are no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death.

Lochaber gears up for second wild festival

LOCHABER is gearing up for the second annual Wild Lochaber Festival, which starts on Saturday May 18.

The week long event will celebrate the diverse nature and landscape of the area with a series of wildlife walks, Land Rover safaris, talks, boat trips and competitions.

Eight new wildlife guides - called 'The Wild Lochaber Trails' - will be launched during the festival.

Presenter and author Muriel Gray will unveil the Ardgour and Moirdart trail to launch the festival on Friday 17th May at the Ben Nevis Distillery.

Many of the events are free to participate in, including a wildlife and historical walk around Canna Bay, sea kayaking on Loch Moirdart and a landscape photography day.



Catch of the day: Inverlochypupils Beth Fairley, Brett MacMillan, Jamie MacMillan and Kathryn Kelly at the fresh fish workshop run by Seafood Scotland's Ruathy Donald, right. Inverloch class teacher Ann Dowson, left, helps with the net. 20.1916h01

Seafish roadshow washes ashore to share good news about the sea with pupils

MORE than 300 pupils from Lochaber high and local primary schools learned about the fruits of the sea at a two-day event in the school last week.

The Seafood in Schools roadshow saw children enjoy workshops explaining different species' journey from sea to plate, together with the health benefits of eating fresh fish.

Ruathy Donald from event organisers Seafood Scotland gave pupils the chance to handle crab, lobster, haddock, monkfish, squid and more, while local chef Stewart MacLachlan from the Crannog Restaurant in Fort William showed just how easy it is to make quick, delicious fish dishes - with tasty samples of pan-cooked langoustines on offer. In addition to Lochaber High

School pupils, primary school classes from Banavie, Caol, Fort William, Fort William RC, Invergarry, Inverloch, Lochyside, Roy Bridge, Spean Bridge, St Brides and Upper Achintore primary schools attended.

And the children's families got their chance to enjoy the same workshops and sample seafood delicacies last Wednesday evening.



Liam Johnstone, Kevin Sabiu and Martin Black dish up a bowl of soup at the fundraising event for Lochaber foodbank. 20.1919p001

Foodbank set to open in Fort William

FORT William people struggling to feed their families could soon be helped out with a foodbank set to open in the town.

Fort William Christian Fellowship Pastor John Penny hopes to open the charity operation on the town's High Street this summer.

Lochaber residents who have been referred by social services, doctors or Jobcentre Plus would be entitled to emergency supplies from the foodbank, including tinned goods, noodles, pasta and soup.

Mr Penny estimates at least 80 people in Lochaber are struggling to feed themselves each month.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We're waiting for the go-ahead to open in the old hydro shop in the High Street. We're reasonably

Call for land buy-out task force to adopt radical approach

THE ORGANISATION representing the country's community land owners has urged a task force charged with making land buy-outs easier to rise to the challenge when it makes its interim report later this month.

Community Land Scotland argues broadening land ownership is essential and wants the Land Reform Review Group to embrace its Scottish Government brief to adopt a 'radical' approach.

And according to chairman David Cameron, further land reform is inextricably tied to 'changing the balance of current interests'.

He said: 'It is hard to think that Scotland could be taken seriously when it comes to securing greater social justice unless achieving significant change in land ownership patterns is firmly part of the agenda.'

Large crowd gathers for baptism

THERE was a large crowd at the morning service of the Plockton Free Church on Sunday May 5 when Ruairidh McGrath, son of Michael and Anne-Marie, was baptised by Rev Roddie Rankin. Ann-Marie is the daughter of Iain and Ann Fraser, The Schoolhouse, Inverinate.

Police appeal for death crash witnesses

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a motorcyclist died following a crash at a known danger spot on the A830 Road to the Isles.

The accident, which did not involve any other vehicles, happened at near Callart railway

bridge, around a mile and half east of Glenfinnan Monument at 3.10pm on Sunday afternoon.

Injuries
The man, not thought to be local, suffered serious injuries and was taken to the Belford Hospital where he died.

The road was closed for nearly six hours, with a 70-metre detour put in place via the A861 road through Ardgour and Moirdart.

A police spokesman said: 'We would like to hear from anyone who may have information relating to the collision.'

As *The Oban Times* went to press, no details of the man had been released.

Bend
The road reduces to a one lane under the bridge, with give way signs recently put in place at the tight bend.

Family day out to look for butterflies

A FAMILY day out looking for butterflies in Glen Nevis run by Dr Tom Prescott of Butterfly Conservation Scotland has been organised for Sunday at 11am. To book a place at the free event, contact Nevis Landscape on 01397 701088 or at info@nevispartnership.co.uk.



Haul of shame: just some of the litter collected along the scenic Lochaline-Kingairloch road.

Unsung Morvern hero mounts litter blitz on roadside verges

A PUBLICLY-spirited Morvern man mounted his own litter blitz to clean up roadside verges in one of the West Highlands' most scenic areas.

The unsung hero, who does not wish to be identified, targeted the A884 between Lochaline and the Kingairloch crossroads after noticing an increase in rubbish thrown out of passing vehicles.

The road, much of it single track, connects the Corran and Lochaline-Fishnish ferries and is well-used during the holiday season.

In the past two weeks alone the good citizen collected 24 glass bottles, 129 plastic bottles, 96 aluminium cans and five 'miscellaneous' items. Ironically, the haul - which has gone for recycling

- includes many bottles and tins from leading drink manufacturers with labels encouraging their customers to help keep Britain tidy.

Lochaline JP Iain Thornber praised the clean-up effort - but was dismayed that the beauty of the Highlands was being spoiled by litter louts.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'These people are committing a crime. In what is the Year of Natural Scotland the message does not seem to be getting through.'

'There are sheep, cattle and deer along there and if they picked any of these items up and swallowed them it could cause the animals serious harm.'

He added: 'It is disappointing that some people have such little regard for our natural environment.'



Takeshi Shikama.

Japanese artist wins first Jon Schueler Scholarship

A JAPANESE artist/photographer has been awarded the first Jon Schueler Scholarship at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO), the Gaelic college on Skye.

Takeshi Shikama was selected from 200 applicants from around the world for the major new visual arts residency.

From July, Shikama will spend three months at SMO researching, developing and producing work in the dedicated artist's studio overlooking

the Sound of Sleat, from which Schueler drew much inspiration.

The scholarship celebrates the bond between the US abstract expressionist painter, who died in 1992, and the landscapes of south Skye.

Kath MacLeod, SMO arts development officer said 'We are delighted to be hosting the artist Takeshi Shikama on the first three month residency. 'There will be opportunities for other visual

artists to meet Takeshi, see work in progress and hopefully spark an interesting exchange of ideas.'

Shikama said: 'I am very much looking forward to meeting with people and experiencing and learning about the Gaelic culture. I believe that the Gaels and we Japanese bear resemblance in sensibility.'

At the end of the residency, Shikama will be offered the chance to exhibit his work.

Skye Accordion and Fiddle Festival

PREPARATIONS have been completed for one of Skye's biggest annual events, the Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Festival.

The programme kicks off at 7.30pm on Thursday May 23 with music from visiting and local players culminating in performances from The Pentlands Ceilidh Band.

Friday afternoon features live music in the Royal Hotel and other establishments in Portree, while in the evening the Royal has the popular Hector McFadyen Trio.

Saturday will see all-day sessions and an eagerly anticipated appearance of Graeme Mitchell's Scottish Dance Band starting at 2.30pm in the Royal.

Portree's historic Skye Gathering Hall is the setting for the festival dance at 8.30pm with Nicky McMichan's Scottish Dance Band providing the music.

from far and wide, many of whom return year after year, attracted by the friendly atmosphere and an abundance of the finest music.

Festival chairman Jim Campbell said: 'This is our ninth consecutive festival and from advance bookings it looks being the busiest yet.'

'Tickets for the dance are already being booked well in advance and the festival just seems to go from strength to strength. Organising it takes a huge amount of work - but it's all worthwhile when we see so many people enjoying themselves in a great atmosphere.'

Admission to the dance is by ticket only on 01478 612138, by e-mail on info@skyeemusic.co.uk or from festival committee members in the Royal.

John Grundy.

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Morvern Lines

FOR CENTURIES the Sound of Mull has been a busy and important seaway.

Ships of all sizes and nationalities from dugout canoes to the *Ark Royal* have sailed on it. Before she was decommissioned in 1997 the Royal Yacht *Britannia* and her naval escort used to pass through on the royal family's annual cruise of the Western Isles.

For the past two weeks residents and visitors to Morvern have enjoyed a grandstand view of many of the armed forces' ships taking part in one of the largest military exercises in Europe.

Exercise Joint Warrior, involving more than 40 warships and 12,000 personnel from the UK, the Netherlands, Canada, France, Denmark, Belgium, Norway, Poland,



One of the Visby class 'stealth' warships spotted off Morvern.

Sweden and Germany, have been training off the west coast of Scotland.

Of particular interest was a Norwegian submarine passing a few cables length from the Morvern shore with some of the crew on the conning tower waving to passing yachts.

So too was the spectacle of one of the new Visby class vessels which are amongst the world's first, fully operational, stealth warships more or less invisible to radar.

ANOTHER welcome vessel in the Sound recently was the *Wilson Goole* which docked at the Lochaline Quartz Sand Company's pier inside Loch Aline to take onboard 3,112 tonnes of silica sand - the largest shipment so far since the mine re-opened last year.

The MV *Wilson Goole* was built in 1995 and sails under a Maltese flag. Her gross tonnage is 2,446. She is 88m long with a 13m beam and her draught is 5.5m. She is owned by Wilson Eurocarriers, Bergen, Norway.

The Lochaline mine currently employs nine full and three part time staff and since it came back into production, has delivered approximately 40,000 tonnes of sand to Runcorn on the River Mersey for NSG/Pilkington for their Optiwhite product. Pilkington Optiwhite is a low iron, extra clear, float glass with a very high light transmission.

Used in architecture and design, Optiwhite is practically colourless and ideal for exterior or interior glazing, furniture and a wide range of other products including conservatories and a variety of solar technologies.

THE NEW £3 million Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) pier near Pennygowan on Mull is more or less on schedule for completion in late August this year.

The locally-based company, TSL Constrictors Ltd, have been carrying out most of the work.

It has been estimated that the new pier will save on at least 800,000 lorry miles each year which should prevent further damage to the fragile single-track, Lochaline-Carnoch Bridge road and relieve congestion at the Corran Ferry.

Some years ago FCS made a timber loading facility near Savary on the Sound of Mull from which it was intended to export all of Morvern's timber. Because the design engineers failed to appreciate the exposed nature of the site and take into account a nearby reef, the project was a costly and useless exercise ending before it had begun. Perhaps when FCS finally decide to construct their proposed new hydroelectric schemes in Morvern, they will plough the profits from them into another pier for the benefit of the whole area instead of donating a few pounds to some unwanted community project.

WHEN LOCAL government was re-organised in the 1970s, Fort William replaced Oban as Morvern's market-town.

It was a novelty to begin with to jump in a car and shop without worrying whether the Oban-Lochaline ferry was going to call or not. It was also a time when Fort William's high street was a busy thoroughfare with a cinema, tailors, shoe and hardware shops and several other upmarket outlets.

Now, because of a dearth of every day services, Fort William's High Street is in terminal decline resembling a crumbling, highland mansion with the laird lying upstairs in bed - dead for the past 50 years! When small ghost towns are mentioned in America today the talk is about architectural euthanasia and bulldozing them down. Is this the fate in store for Fort William's once thriving High Street?

Iain Thornber.

Ancient Glencoe trees face the axe

THEY were planted to commemorate Glencoe MacDonalds who fought and died in the Napoleonic wars.

But now a line of 200-year-old beech and oak trees near the historic Lochaber village are themselves to be laid to rest. They stand along The Avenue, the popular path along the banks of the River Coe named in their honour.

The gnarled old soldiers have lost many limbs in recent years to winter storms, posing a hazard to passers-by.

And demands for action grew after a huge bough sheared off overnight in a storm and came crashing down only inches from a local woman's car parked next to one of the ancient specimens.

Ros Macdonald of Glencoe Heritage Trust (GHT), which owns the land in question, said the trees were planted as saplings between 1799-1815, each in memory of a local soldier who

fell fighting the brilliant French general. But in recent years high winds have thinned their ranks between Invercoe and the 'Green Pool'.

And following a fact-finding trip Highland Council tree specialists condemned the veterans left standing, after judging them to be in 'a precarious state'.

Mrs Macdonald told *The Oban Times*: 'The trees are past their sell-by date. They really are. There are just seven left from the original planting and they are all to come down.'

'All the trees have been x-rayed by Highland Council some time ago. Anyone looking at them knows they are in a bad way. I don't think anyone will be bothered because they are in such a dangerous condition.'

'One came down last winter through a combination of the wind and the river undermining the roots. They had been falling before that and by any measure

they are unsafe. At least the local people know they will get the firewood, which is good.'

Over the last decade, GHT has managed the woodland in the lower reaches of the glen, distributing fallen wood to local people during the winter and clearing scrub from the river banks, which now attract many visitors to take photographs of the scenic area.

Mrs Macdonald said: 'The riverside paths have been opened up a lot and more and more people are using them now.'

'It is the trust's policy, when one of the trees comes down, to plant a new tree. The trust is now looking forward to the next decade when new directors will come on board to carry forward the aims and objectives set out in 2002 'to preserve this area of Glencoe for future generations to enjoy'.

Highland Council said seven mature trees - five beech and two oak - had significantly deteriorated since a survey in 2009 found a number of conditions affecting them, including fungal attack. A spokesperson said: 'Our view is that the trees need to be removed due to the health and safety risks. In addition a number of other trees holding various degrees of deadwood should also be removed as soon as possible.'

'We have advised the trust that any works to the trees be consulted on locally given their location and the Forestry Commission will be able to let them know whether a felling licence is required.'

'The trees represent a very strong feature locally. Their loss is very much regretted but it is hoped the trust will take the opportunity to replace them and we will be pleased to offer further advice.'



For the chop: one of the diseased beech trees to be felled at Glencoe. Ros Macdonald of Glencoe Heritage Trust won't mourn its passing. 20_19trees01

Great Glen walk for hospital

A LOCHABER woman will attempt to walk the 73-mile long Great Glen Way in just 30 hours to raise money for a hospital which cared for her father following a serious accident at work.

Elaine Cameron of Spean Bridge and her friend Liz Proudlock will tackle the route from Fort William to Inverness tomorrow (Friday) to raise funds for the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow.

Elaine's father Ewen, who manages Glengarry Shinty Club, was paralysed in 2001 and spent several months in the hospital's spinal injuries unit.

Ms Cameron said: 'With the care and support of the specialised staff in the unit, he has been able to adapt and enjoy life to the fullest.'

'As part of the rehabilitation process, patients are encouraged to take part in activities and sports, such as archery and curling and take trips out with the unit to help adapt to their new life in a wheelchair.'

'These activities are integral to the patients recovery, however, they are solely funded by goodwill and fundraising.'



Alan Knox of the Scottish Ambulance Service demonstrates one of the new machines with members of the community resilience team. 20_19defib01

Heart start project to be expanded across Lochaber

A INITIATIVE to provide immediate emergency treatment for cardiac arrest victims in the Fort William area is set to be expanded across the rest of Lochaber.

The Lochaber Defibrillator Project, launched last week, saw heart-start machines housed in 10 town Pubwatch premises and the Free Church in Caol, An Drochaid in Claggan, the Spean Bridge Hotel and at Strontian and Glenfinnan.

Councillor Thomas MacLennan has been involved with setting up the scheme and said the next step would be to

create a charity to provide the life saving machines to the more remote parts of Lochaber.

He said: 'This is a great scheme. 'But we need to take it on to the next step and turning it into a charity is the road we need to go down.'

'We've got 15 defibrillators now and we would really like to add to that.'

Dr Brian Tregaskis, consultant physician at the Belford Hospital, added: 'We need to expand further - to Ardnamurchan, to Strontian, all over.'

Ben Nevis bike hike kick starts marathon challenge

LOCHAILORT man John Bryden is to carry his motorbike to the top of Ben Nevis before setting out on his second marathon charity motorbike challenge.

Mr Bryden will scale the Ben to raise awareness and money for his 10,000-mile round trip to

Moscow and back on a 125cc 10 horsepower bike to raise money for Kirsty's Kids, the charity he and his wife Jan set up in memory of their daughter Kirsty.

Kirsty, aged 20, died in a car crash on the A830 in 2010.

Mr Bryden said he wanted other charities to get involved with the

Ben Nevis challenge. He said: 'We are inviting charities from across the UK to join and unite with us for the day at Ben Nevis, each raising awareness for their own organisation while helping me get the bike to the top and back in one day.'

of Kirsty's Kids to the highest possible level in the UK while uniting children's charities from around the country.'

Mr Bryden will head up on the Ben on June 15, before setting off for Moscow on July 4. He will head to the Netherlands, up north through Scandinavia

and on to the Russian capital. On his way back to Lochaber the former policeman will visit several countries including Poland, Germany and France.

Mr Bryden circumnavigated the UK coastline in 2011 on the small bike, raising more than £13,000.

Hundreds welcome Six Days Trial riders

HUNDREDS of Fort William locals and visitors lined the town's high street on Sunday afternoon to welcome competitors in this year's Scottish Six Days Trial.

Numbers of spectators were down on previous parades, but that was to be expected with the cold wind and rain contrasting with continental temperatures which have greeted the parade in recent years. The riders were led by Lochaber pair Gary MacLennan and Gavin Brown, who were given the honour of the top two numbers for the competition.

The snake of motorbikes turned off their engines as they reached Cameron Square where Provost Allan Henderson welcomed them to Lochaber. The riders then continued down the street, briefly stopping to pose for photos.



Local riders Gavin Brown, right, and Gary MacLennan, along with Gary's daughter Leah, enjoy the procession down the high street. 20_19ssd03

Pre-65 riders forced off course by wet weather

HEAVY rain combined with mountain snowmelt to partially wipe out the Pre-65 for the first time in its 29-year history at Kinlochleven last weekend.

One hundred and eighty competitors lined up for the two-day vintage motorcycle event - the traditional curtain-raiser for the Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT) - in pouring rain on Friday morning. The 10am start was delayed by an hour as organisers worked feverishly to re-flag the course after burns became raging torrents. The usual 30-section lap was shortened to 15 sections to be ridden twice but the second circuit later had to be scrubbed completely.

And fans were disappointed again on Saturday when dangerously high water levels forced the cancellation of the entire day's competition.

SSDT secretary Anne Gordon told *The Oban Times* at Friday's start: 'We had a huge problem with water flow and we decided to change some of the routes. A lot of the sections were too waterlogged and dangerous, so we had to take them out. We made the call last night (Thursday) then we made the alterations this morning.'

'She added later: 'The decision to cancel the second day of the trial was not taken lightly and we hope riders will not be put off from entering again in the future.'

James Harland won the Challenge Trophy for best performance. Kinlochleven's Martin Murphy was forced to retire from the event.



Good luck dad! Tyler Murphy was at the start of the Pre-65 to cheer on his father Martin Murphy of Kinlochleven firm Leven Homes as he prepared to set out on the rain-soaked course on Friday. 20_19pre01

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Pupils from Dalmally Primary School performed 'She Will be Coming Round the Mountain' at the 30th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

Music and dance festival was one of the best

'It was an incredible array of art and culture - traditional and contemporary'

THE 30th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival has been described as one of the most successful yet after welcoming more than 1,100 competitors.

Oban was alive with colour and song at the weekend as the event hosted music, dance and singing competitions across 11 venues, while the organisers were honoured in a civic reception hosted by councillors

Roddy McCuish, Louise Glen-Lee and Mary-Jean Devon.

Chairman of the event, Donald MacLean, said he was delighted with how the weekend turned out.

'The 30th festival was a real success,' he said. 'One of the busiest and most vibrant to date, it really was brimming with talent all the way through.'

'It was an incredible array of art and culture - traditional and

contemporary, Gaelic, Scots and English. It is so encouraging to see so many people put so much into what is a voluntary celebration of our heritage.

'If anyone is looking for an uplifting experience or is seeking confirmation of the talent, dedication and positivity of our youth, they should come along to festival.'

Councillors McCuish, Glen-Lee and Devon hosted a

reception for those who have contributed to the festival over the years - paying tribute to its significant impact in cultural and economic terms and pledging support for its continued development, for which we are of course very grateful.

'All in all a real success in its 30th year and a tremendous team effort.'

Mr MacLean paid particular tribute to those who helped

organise or host competitions this year.

He said: 'Massive thanks are due to everyone who helped - participants, supporters, audience members, announcers, MCs, stewards, adjudicators and, last but not least, members of the organising committee, who are now looking forward to the next thirty years!'

See our picture special on the festival on pages 12 and 13.

Young families group face 3,600 per cent rent increase

'Some things are worth more than money' - claims supporter of Soroba Young Family Group

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

"We had a peppercorn rent until our lease ran out."

manager Soroba Young Family Group

A SOROBA-based children's charity that supports more than 100 families could be made homeless after its landlord - a social housing provider - imposed a 3,600 per cent rent increase.

The Soroba Young Family Group (SYF) has been told by the Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) that a peppercorn rent of £100 per annum was to end. Instead, the charity would have to pay the going rate for the property, a rent of £3,600 a year.

It follows a decision taken by ACHA last year to eliminate peppercorn rents for charitable groups across its network to 'harmonise' lease arrangements.

SYF provide - among other things - day care for children up to five, family support, young parent support and services for children referred by the NHS and social work.

They also support children with additional needs, but say they face an uphill struggle to meet the increased rental payments and warn they could be forced to move from their home - something that could affect the services it currently delivers.

Janice Kay, manager of SYF, said: 'We had a peppercorn rent until September, when our lease expired.'

'Discussions have taken place with ACHA and we're still in talks with them but our point seems to have fallen on deaf ears.'

'We can probably afford about half that amount. We thought that would be more than reasonable but we haven't had any success yet.'

SYF, who also pay half the rent and electricity for use of the neighbouring community centre, also recently built an extension to the building, but

say ACHA could evict them if they don't sign a new lease demanding the increased rent.

Janice refused to criticise ACHA though, saying they have done 'everything properly'.

Parents in Soroba are angry at the proposal. Calum MacColl, whose young daughter regularly attends at SYF, said: 'If they are evicted it will affect more than 100 families.'

'Some things are worth more than money.'

ACHA's chief executive, Alastair MacGregor, said: 'ACHA's board of management, in June 2012, approved proposals to harmonise a variety of lease arrangements for properties which were let to tenants but to third parties.'

'These special lets had been inherited by the association from Argyll and Bute Council at stock transfer in 2006 and did not have an ACHA lease.'

'The board of management agreed the terms of the new lease to the Soroba Young Family Group should include a rent which was equal to a domestic housing rent, which is what the association would obtain if the property was let to a mainstream housing applicant.'

Pub giant gets nod

THE final hurdle preventing pub giant JD Wetherspoon from opening in the town has been passed after the company was granted a licence. However, the company is yet to confirm opening dates as it considers the conditions attached to the licence. A Wetherspoon spokesman said: 'We can confirm a licence was granted for the site.'

'Organised' thieves target Oban charity shop

CALLOUS thieves who stole two highly valued items from an Oban charity shop have deprived hungry children of food, according to volunteers.

A Waterford Crystal horse and Chalkware German shepherd dog, each worth more than £100, were taken from Oxfam on George Street last Saturday

between 2pm and 4.45pm.

Maggie Clayton, shop volunteer, said: 'They came into the shop and helped themselves when it was busy. I don't think this was opportunistic, I think it was organised, these aren't the kind of things you can run down the street with.'

The two items had been on

display in the window of the shop in the hope of attracting a buyer - this tactic worked but it was too late for the missing pieces.

Maggie added: 'We have had people in trying to buy them. The horse isn't rare but it is precious and the dog is from the 1930s and really good condition which

is unusual. Two hundred pounds would feed a lot of hungry children. If anyone saw anything suspicious would they come and talk to us in confidence.'

Police are investigating theft and their enquiries are continuing. If you have any information which could help contact PC Joel Edwards on 01631 510500.

Extra school holiday for Park pupils

PUPILS at Park Primary School in Oban had an extra long weekend when they returned from a Monday holiday - only to be sent home on Tuesday morning

due to an electrical fault. Firefighters attended to ensure the school was safe and it was expected to re-open on Wednesday morning.

NEWSDESK
FORT WILLIAM
01397 703003

Antiques auction first for Lewis

THE FIRST ever antiques auction on Harris and Lewis will be held at the Caberfeidh Hotel in Stornoway on Saturday May 18.

The event, organised by Gerard's Auction Rooms, will see items such as jewellery, musical instruments and paintings up for sale.

North police to target rural crime

POLICE have launched an operation to target thefts in rural areas across the Highlands, including Lochaber, Lochalsh, Badenoch and Strathspey.

Reports of heating oil, power tools and plant equipment being stolen in remote areas have gone up in recent weeks, and in some cases insecure stores and vehicles have been entered.

Police Scotland said extra officers will be on patrol and specific resources will be used to track the culprits.

Highland and Islands Superintendent John Chisholm said: 'Criminals may travel into the area and travel significant distances looking for opportunities to steal. Farm equipment, marine equipment and any metal of value are also very tempting targets.'

Mental health group look for help

A NEW group to promote mental health and well being is currently being set up in Oban and is looking for volunteers.

Anyone who would like to be part of the group or help out with activities is invited to attend Glencruitten Church Centre on May 25 between 1pm and 4pm.

Organiser Laura Macdonald said: 'Initial suggestions are for a group that meets on a Saturday, but this will be determined by the group members themselves.'

'The open day is for anyone who is interested in joining a mental health and well-being group, volunteering with the group or helping set it up.'

Search on for trusted decorator

THE SEARCH for the most trusted decorator in the West Highlands has been started by a well known paint brand.

Residents are being asked to nominate their perfect painter as part of Dulux Trade's search. To nominate a decorator visit www.trusteddecorator.co.uk.

New 'champions' to care and support dementia sufferers in Oban and Fort William

PEOPLE who suffer from dementia in Oban and Fort William can look forward to receiving the care and support they need as the health service has new 'champions' to ensure their needs are met.

Three healthcare workers from the area were among the first 22 from NHS Highland to graduate as dementia champions - front-line members of

staff who will help to ensure that people with the condition get the care and support they need. This has been described as a 'significant step forward'.

Oban-based stroke co-ordinator Hazel Hamilton, and Fort William-based Dione Westbrook, an occupational therapist, along with staff nurse Jackie Small, of the Belford Hospital, graduated after a six-

month training programme in which topics included screening and assessment, the hospital environment, communication and planning for discharge.

The dementia champions are being supported by Ruth Mantle, who was appointed last year as the area's first Alzheimer Scotland dementia nurse consultant.

She said: 'The people who

have graduated are from a range of disciplines, though they work mainly in acute hospital settings.'

'Having people who have been trained as dementia champions represents a major step forward in our ability to care for people with dementia.'

'It is important that these patients get the dignified care they deserve, and our new

dementia champions will help to ensure that they do.'

She added: 'Some 4,000 people in the Highlands have dementia, and the number is expected to double in the next 25 years. A significant number of these people will find themselves in hospital, perhaps as a result of being injured in a fall.'

'We realise that a hospital can be a difficult environment for

some people, particularly if they have dementia, and we need to work closely with patients and their families to ensure that they are treated with dignity and that their independence and wishes are respected.'

Training of the next batch of dementia champions from across Scotland, which includes 12 from NHS Highland, began on April 25.



The West Telferton Caledonian Dance Band proved popular at Portree

West Telferton Caledonian Dance Band entertain at season finale of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club

TORRENTIAL rain failed to deter a good number of musicians and friends from attending the final monthly meeting of the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club for their 2012/13 season in the Royal Hotel, Portree last Thursday.

Local musicians who entertained were fiddlers Caerina Campbell, Ellie MacPherson, Chloe Urquhart, Mairi MacKinnon and Wendy Riva while accordionists were John Cameron (Braes), John MacGilvary and John Cameron (Portree) who also played keyboard. Last, but not least, was sole local drummer Donald John Campbell.

Some fine sets were also given by two players from the mainland, namely John 'The Box' Mackerlich of Ardelev on

his five row button-box and Jim Johnstone from Spean Bridge on his piano accordion.

All performers acquitted themselves well and had the enthusiastic audience warmed up nicely for the appearance of the guest band, The West Telferton Caledonian Dance Band led by Andrew Knight of Newtongrange on fiddle ably accompanied by Ricky Ross of Dalry on accordion, Matthew MacLennan of Kiltarity on keyboard and Donald John Campbell of Skye on drums.

This excellent quartet quickly engaged with their audience and treated the assembled company to a superb and varied programme of top class music to suit the delighted and appreciative Skye audience,

accompanied by entertaining banter.

The evening was rounded off with a fine 'stramash' involving the local players led by the guest band.

Club members and friends now look forward eagerly to the annual Skye Accordion and Fiddle Festival from May 23 to 25 based in the Royal Hotel, Portree.

It will feature the bands of Hector McFadyen, Graeme Mitchell, Nicky McMichan and The Pentlands Ceilidh Band along with many other visiting musicians - a musical feast not to be missed.

More details can be found on www.skyemusic.co.uk or by telephone on 01478 612138. **John Grundy.**

New poetic guide to Skye launched

CÒMHLAN Bheanntan (A Company of Mountains), a new poetic guide to the peaks, history and culture of the Isle of Skye, will be launched in Sligachan next weekend.

Alec Finlay's poetry mapping of 14 viewpoints on the island, commissioned by contemporary arts producers ATLAS Arts, can be accessed free online and is being billed as 'an ideal companion' on location.

In Còmhlan Bheanntan, Mr Finlay blogs poems from 14 different mountain points and their surroundings.

At the launch event, PANORAMA, the public will be invited to join Mr Finlay and others at the Sligachan Hotel and Minginish Hall in Portnalong for readings, music and walks throughout Saturday and Sunday May 18 and 19.

Contributors include artist/musician Hanna Tuulikki, artist/walker Alison Lloyd, artist Caroline Dear and poet Meg Bateman.

A musical performance by Wounded Knee and 7VWW-WVW will also feature, together with 'Here is Where', a tribute to Tom Weir, and a lecture on volcanoes by artist Ilana Halperin, Karen Holmberg and Andrew Patrizio.

Saturday's programme is fol-



Alec Finlay is the new online poetic guide to Skye's mountains and landscapes

lowed in the evening by Iain's Ceilidh in aid of Marie Curie at the Sligachan Hotel, while on Sunday Mike Lates and Alison Lloyd will lead a five-hour walk to Coire na Creiche and the Fairy Pools via Bealach a Mhainn. Mr Finlay will lead a poetic journey to High Pasture Cave and the area around Kilbride, with contributions from Meg Bateman, Caroline Dear and Hannah Tuulikki.

Now living in Edinburgh, Mr Finlay grew up in the Pentlands. His father was Scottish poet, writer and artist Ian Hamilton Finlay and his grandfather was Seton Gordon (1886-1977), the renowned Scottish author, naturalist, photographer and folklorist.

Mr Gordon lived for over 50 years in Kilmuir, creating maps of Scottish landscapes guided by the work of Japanese poet Matsuo Basho, known for his masterpiece of travel literature, Oku-no-hosomichi (Narrow Road to the Deep North).

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Weather disrupts Loch Shiel Spring Festival

THE WEATHER may have disrupted the Loch Shiel Spring Festival, but it didn't prevent some of the country's finest classical musicians entertaining audiences at venues across Lochaber.

Many of the planned outdoor events for the gala day in and around Glenfinnan on Saturday were forced indoors, or in some cases cancelled as the rain continued to fall.

But an outdoor concert at Glenfinnan Railway Station attracted a large crowd to see Roy

Bridge teenager Helena Rose perform a selection of songs with festival artistic director Charles Mutter and flautist Susan Franks.

Many of the festival's musical events which were planned to be held around the village were moved to Glenfinnan Church, where Lochaber High School teacher and acclaimed tuba player Mark Reynolds delighted the crowd.

Lochaber College percussion group and the Glenfinnan brass and percussion ensemble were

also amongst the performers at the concert.

Mr Mutter told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a shame about the weather but we've still had lots of people coming along and the concert at the train station went really, really well.'

The four day event also saw celebrated pianist Jonathan Powell perform at Shielbridge Hall in Acharacle on Friday evening and the Maxwell Quartet play a selection of pieces by Schubert at the Franz Ariundle Centre in Strontian on Monday.

Oban student to organise sponsored cycle

AN OBAN student is organising a sponsored cycle event across the central belt of Scotland to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Callum Weir, a sport student in Glasgow, has previously cycled from Berlin to Copenhagen for charity and is now taking on this challenge much closer to home.

The route is 47 miles from Murrayfield in Edinburgh to Glasgow Green and will take place on May 26. Registration costs £5 and all profits from registration go to the charity.

Callum said: 'It will follow a Sustrans national route and only a small section is on road so will be safe for families to take part. The race starts at 11am and each person will get their time and a certificate at the end.'

'We are looking for 100 people to take part to raise money and have a great day. It is a great excuse to get fit and start training for a good cause.'

Contact Callum on 07825711117 or callumweir@hotmail.co.uk.

Guest speaker at Lochaber talk

THE INSTITUTE of Physics' National Officer for (Scotland), Alison McLure, will be guest speaker at the next Royal Society of Edinburgh public talk next Wednesday evening.

Ms McLure's lecture, 'Women in Science: Antarctic Experience', will reveal some of the secrets of the remote, hostile and uninhabited continent.

For the early explorers, Antarctica was the ultimate survival contest and for scientists it remains a place of intellectual challenge.

The free event at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, starts at 7pm. Refreshments from 6.30pm. To book a place visit www.royalsoced.org.uk.

Search for poet

THE SEARCH is on for the poet laureate of the west coast and the winner will be published in and receive a free of the National Poetry Anthology (NPA). The overall winner also receives £1,000.

Those who wish to enter should send three unpublished poems, on any subject - up to 25 lines and 160 words each - info@unit-edpress.co.uk or United Press, Admail 3735, London EC1B 1JB by the closing date of June 30.

Historic Book of Kells to come to Oban in June

OBAN and Iona will welcome a delegation from Ireland this June after the Mayor of Kells agreed to travel over with the Book of Kells as part of the St Columba celebrations.

The 20-strong delegation from County Meath, led by the Mayor of Kells, will be in the area between June 7 and 10 at the invite of Oban Community Council to help commemorate

the 1,450th anniversary of the arrival of St Columba to the shores of Scotland. Hile missing the main celebrations, the delegation will take part in a special service at St Columba's Church,

while joining a pilgrimage to Iona on Monday, June 10. Councillors Duncan MacIntyre and Roddy McCuish have been working with the community council to help bring

the delegation to the town, and have congratulated them on their efforts so far. Duncan said: 'There's about 20 likely to come. This is a tremendous opportunity for the

community council and Oban as a whole.' Chairwoman, Marri Molloy, said: 'It's very exciting news and it will be great to welcome them to Oban.'

Fraud to gain late bar licence ends in £2,500 fine

THE FORMER manager of an Oban public house has been fined £2,500 after being found guilty of fraud to obtain a late licence.

Elizabeth Callander, also known as Elaine Cameron, the 60-year-old former manager of Papparazzi, was found guilty of fraudulently obtaining an extension to the opening hours at the licensed premises by pretending to an employee of Argyll and Bute Council that the venue was hosting a wedding reception on March 26, 2010.

Before fining her last Friday Sheriff Douglas Small asked for a summary of her finances from defence agent Sandy Mitchell.

The court heard Callander owed over £120,000 on credit cards and had two properties up for sale as well as posting a £6,271 profit over the course of a year from the guesthouses she owns in Oban, which she also claimed £49,000 of expenses from.

Mr Mitchell said: 'Her problem certainly is one of illiquidity but she will be able to prioritise a financial penalty.'

Callander, of Arbour Guesthouse, Oban, has previous convictions for fraud including providing a false date of birth on her passport.

Sheriff Small said: 'I'm prepared to deal with you by way of a fine but it will be a substantial one to reflect the seriousness with which this type of offence has to be regarded.'

Six months in jail for 'persistent' offender

AN OBAN man has been sent to jail for six months as a catalogue of offences finally caught up with him.

Struin Doull, 23, of 7c Miller Road, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday where Sheriff John Herald told him: 'In the short time I have been in this town it is quite clear to me you are a persistent nuisance.'

Doull will have his sentence backdated to March 1 when he was taken into custody for an assault charge.

His six months behind bars is for assaulting a teenage girl while shouting and swearing at her, placing his ex-partner and then three-year-old daughter in fear and alarm and causing £1,231 worth of damage to the car of his ex's new partner.

Defence agent Laura McManus said Doull had gone through a 'number of significant unfortunate events'. She added: 'He is exceptionally sorry that he caused distress to his ex-partner and his daughter.'

NTS in Argyll has new chairman

THERE is a new chairman of the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) in Argyll.

Mike Hawke took over the role from Jenny McEvoy at the AGM of the Argyll Members' Group of the NTS, held on April 29 in Connel.

The meeting heard positive reports from the chairman, treasurer and membership secretary, who all endorsed the current drive to encourage new members. Other committee changes include Stafford Day as new secretary.

Following the AGM members heard an illustrated talk by the award winning Sir Richard Balharry on Scottish wildlife and habitats.

Tobermory to host street party

A STREET party is to be held in Tobermory to mark the 40th anniversary of the company which runs the town's sheltered housing.

Trust Housing Association, which was established in 1973 as Kirk Care Housing Association, runs Glen Iosal on Breadalbane Street. It provides homes and services to promote independent living among its residents.

The association is holding celebrations from May to August involving as many tenants as possible in more than 60 developments. There will be stalls, music and afternoon tea and the event will be assisted by the local guides - any funds made on the day will be donated to help towards building a new hall.



Richard Massey, 24, originally from Appin, received the Rising Star Young Chef Special Award at the recent Scottish Hotel Awards. Richard now works at the Toravaig House Hotel on the Isle of Skye.

Young chef from Appin is rising star

Former Oban High School pupil gains prestigious recognition at the 2013 Scottish Hotel Awards

ONLY three weeks into managing his first kitchen, Appin's Richard Massey has been named as one of Scotland's most promising chefs.

Richard, 24, had only just taken charge of the kitchen at the Toravaig House Hotel on the Isle of Skye when judges for the Scottish Hotel Awards visited to assess the hotel's credentials as a potential award winner.

Richard, who until then had been sous chef at the company's sister hotel, the Duisdale House Hotel, could have been forgiven for being daunted by the challenge, but instead produced a meal so impressive he was named the Rising Star Young

Chef for 2013. He said: 'I've been here for two months now and I'd just been in the job three weeks when the judges came. It's my first award in my first job as head chef. It's great.'

The former Oban High School and Strath of Appin Primary pupil has had a good grounding, having worked under some of Scotland's top chefs.

He started his cookery career at the Airs Hotel, Port Appin under Paul Burns, who now runs the Hawthorn Restaurant in Benderloch. It was at Airs he grew his passion for cooking.

'I was there as a KP (kitchen porter) and I was so impressed

by what he was doing I thought, I want to do this.'

'He used local ingredients and that's what I try to do as well.'

His previous employers include Inverloch Castle, the Glenapp Hotel and Kinloch House - all award winners at this year's awards.

He added: 'I'm now looking to gain three AA rosettes here for our food.'

'I was with the Glenapp when it retained its Michelin Star and was at the Glenloch when it was given a star.'

'In the long run, that's the direction I'll be pushing for.'

For more on the Scottish Hotel Awards see page 18.

Oban hospital reception to change

VISITORS to hospital in Oban will soon no longer be greeted by healthcare staff but instead by WRVS volunteers, according to NHS bosses.

The current reception service is to be replaced by a WRVS meet and greet and a separate 'booking office' where patients can be admitted.

Hospital staff are not happy about the plans to remove the current reception, with one telling *The Oban Times*: 'It is not for the good.'

It is understood that despite a £60,000 investment which equates to four extra staff in the department the hospital are to make use of volunteers from June 1. The volunteers would not have access to patient records - a member of NHS staff would be called to help with those queries. NHS Highland have confirmed a receptionist will be available out of hours, with the usual doorbell system in place.

Veronica Kennedy, acting locality manager for Oban, Lorn and Isles, said: 'The change to the reception area at Lorn and Islands Hospital is part of redesign work in medical records which has been on going for a year.'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT BY FAITH ORR
f.orr@obantimes.co.uk

'There has been considerable investment in this service and includes an increase in staffing. The front reception will be manned by volunteers from WRVS and NHS Highland staff will man the booking office.'

'This will provide a more confidential service and will allow details to be taken in private where they can't be heard by passers-by.'

But Roddy McCuish, deputy leader of Argyll and Bute Council, told *The Oban Times* he was 'disappointed' to hear this.

He said: 'This is something I would expect to come to the community planning partnership (CPP) before any decisions were made. After all, that is what the CPP is all about - sharing information and consultation before any such decisions are made.'

WRVS could not be reached for comment as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Island primary school head teacher leaves Iona

THE WELL loved head teacher of an island primary school is retiring after almost 13 years in the job.

Liz Kennedy, head teacher of Iona Primary School, will be stepping down at the end of the school year, and islanders are desperate to find a worthy replacement.

A Facebook appeal was sent out and has been shared over 1,000 times by people from around the world.

Mrs Kennedy told *The Oban Times* leaving the school was the hardest decision she has ever made.

She said: 'It is a big venture to leave here. It is not just a job, it is a community here. You are

involved in everything.'

Excellent teacher

Eilidh Poynter, chairwoman of the parent council, added: 'We are sorry to see Mrs Kennedy retire as she has been a very dedicated and excellent teacher. We wish her a very long and happy retirement.'

Mrs Kennedy now plans to move back to Campbeltown and is hoping to renew her links with Africa. 'I'm just going to take it nice and easy for a couple of months,' she said.

Whoever takes over will be handling an increased school roll, up to 13 pupils next year compared to the current eight. The closing date for applications is May 17.

Lorn Lines

THE MULTIPLE Sclerosis Therapy Centre recently organised its annual 'flag week' where volunteers, armed with their collecting cans, knocked on doors in Oban and the surrounding area and raised £517.

Volunteers also collected £779 during the two collection days in Tesco's Oban store. Many thanks go to Tesco and their staff for their assistance at that time.

The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Oban would like to thank the public for giving so generously and also the volunteers who gave up their time and made the effort to help raise funds for the therapy centre which offers oxygen therapy treatment to aid MS and other conditions.

JIM McColl from the BBC's Beechgrove Garden was filming at two local National Trust for Scotland gardens last week.

Both Arduaine and Craeae gardens will feature on the programme later in the month.

In spite of the cold wet weather both gardens are full of life and colour and coming into their spring prime, albeit slightly later than usual.



A cheque was presented to Marjorie Milton of the Friends of Oban Hospice by Noah Demooey and Catriona Cain who were part of an XL Group in Oban High School who raised the money through various activities, including a charity soup and sandwich lunch for staff at the school, while doing their XL course.

AN OBAN woman is raising money to protect children in Africa from malaria through the purchase of mosquito nets.

Kate Turner is asking everyone to put £1 in a coffee cup whenever they go out for a drink or a meal. A total of £5 buys, delivers and hangs up a mosquito net.

The idea of the scheme is that a network of friends will help buy mosquito nets dubbed coffee nets as they are purchased from people's goodwill when having a coffee.

Once the money is collected it can be donated by visiting www.justgiving.com/Kate-Turner4 until October when it will be sent to Ghana, Botswana or Namibia in the form of mosquito nets through the charity Malaria No More.



Pupils experiment with the forces of magnetism when Edinburgh International Science Festival's Generation Science visited Achaleven Primary School.

MAGNETS and their mysterious powers proved an attractive and repellent force in equal force at a science day for pupils at Achaleven and Dunbeg last week.

Edinburgh International Science Festival's Generation Science team brought their Marvellous Magnets workshop to Achaleven Primary on Friday, for the school's own P1/P4 and Dunbeg's P1/P2 pupils.

The classes learned all about magnetic attraction and repulsion, fields and poles and explored what effect magnets have on the world around us.

A spokesperson for the school said: 'Thank you to The Robertson Trust who subsidised this, making this fantastic workshop accessible for us.'



Heavy rain and strong winds failed to deter these sponsored cyclists on Mull at the weekend

Cyclists boost Help for Heroes in memory of Robbie

MORE THAN £1,000 has been raised in memory of fallen soldier Robert 'Robbie' McLaren from the Isle of Mull.

A 60-mile cycle ride was completed by 19 of his friends last Saturday in aid of Help for Heroes.

The group went ahead with the sponsored ride despite heavy rain and strong winds and finished the course in between three and seven hours.

Supporter and local councillor, Alistair MacDougall, said: 'Every

year since Robbie lost his life in Afghanistan they have rallied together as his friends miss him a lot in the community.'

'On Saturday well over £1,000 was raised and the total so far over the four years is over £4,000.'

Robbie was laid to rest in June 2009, in Suie Cemetery, Bunnassan, during one of the biggest funerals the island has ever seen.

He lost his life in Afghanistan, after being in the country for only four weeks.

Oban to feature in top television programme

OBAN is to feature in a hit television series which tells the stories of places around the United Kingdom.

'Hidden stories' 'Town' with Nicholas Crane, which airs on BBC Two, is taking a look at the 'hidden stories' of Oban in the first episode of the new series which is showing on May 21.

Mr Crane said: 'Towns are the lifeblood of the British Isles, they are communities of the future. Smaller than a city, more intimate, much greener, towns are where we first learned to be urban.'

'They are the critical link between city and village, the centre ground, where scale works and community counts. The story of towns is over two thousand years old; it has shaped our lives, our country and our lands.'

The Oban episode will explore Dunollie House, Oban Distillery, artist JoLoMo and Glensanda, Europe's largest granite quarry, as well as looking at Oban's role in the Cold War.

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Squeasy Peasy (Shona Reeve, Annabel Stewart, Shona Warwick, Anna MacLeod, Ruth Hamilton) being presented the trophy by Stuart Black of Highland Council

Ullapool's 'Squeasy Peasy' to represent Scotland

A GROUP of prospective entrepreneurs from Ullapool High School will represent Scotland at an international competition after being named national champions.

Reusable baby food pouch 'Squeasy Peasy' - Shona Reeve, Annabel Stewart, Shona Warwick, Anna MacLeod, Ruth Hamilton - created a reusable baby food pouch which impressed judges at the European Business Game final in Inverness.

As well as the product, the team came up with a detailed business proposal that included market research, a three-year financial plan, and multi-lin-

gual baby food recipe videos on YouTube.

The youngsters will now take on competition from around the continent at the international final in the Faroe Islands at the end of June.

Business studies principal teacher at Ullapool High School Sheila Green said: 'The enthusiastic, competent, and hardworking team enjoyed completing the business plan and gained many transferable skills in the process.'

'They are now very much looking forward to the challenge of competing against the winning teams from all the other countries.'

Concern voiced over Tyndrum and Crianlarich fire stations

CONCERN has been raised over organisational changes to the way fire crews cover the Strathfillan area.

Bruce Crawford MSP has written to the chief officer of the new Scottish Fire and Rescue service to raise concern over how the Tyndrum and Crianlarich stations are operated. Previously, the stations were considered one, both retaining four firefighters each.

The stations have now been redesignated as individual

stations, meaning all four firefighters from each station would have to attend any incident.

Mr Crawford said: 'That does not appear workable on the face of it as all four fire fighters cannot be available 24 hours per day, seven days per week.'

'I hope that the Chief Fire Officer can offer reassurances to those served by the two stations in Strathfillan that structural changes for the service will in no way threaten operational capacity or public safety.'

Basking shark business starts in Oban

AN OPPORTUNITY to swim with massive sharks without the need for a cage is being offered by a new Oban-based business.

Shane Wasik has started up Basking Shark Scotland after being inspired by research which has found there are hundreds of these amazing creatures around the Argyll coast. Despite their large size basking sharks are harmless to humans. They use their metre wide mouth to filter plankton from the sea water.

Shane said: 'Basking Shark Scotland is the only operator to offer boat excursions out to the islands of Mull, Coll and Tiree with the aim of snorkelling with basking sharks from Oban.'

'Our business operates single, two and three day trips to see the sharks which includes watching the abundant wildlife in the area such as whales, dolphins, eagles and otters.'

'We hope to have a mix of customers from divers and photographers, wildlife enthusiasts, to tourists looking for a big animal adventure experience.'

Barralive announces line up for island festival

BARRALIVE will welcome Wolfstone, Face the West, Skerryvore and the Watersay Boys, among others, at this year's festival.

Organised by Feis Bharraigh, the event has this year enlisted the help of Neil Morrison from Macgachans, Tobermory, to oversee the event. Neil, an organiser of Mull Music Festival and licensee at Tiree Music

Festival, said: 'Barra is a magical island and it deserves the best festival possible.'

'The more tourism we can create for this weekend, the more we can promote the island and drive the local economy.'

'It is essential we do not lose what Barralive has become but we also have to grow this event and enable it to be a success as a money raising event for the

progress of Gaelic and traditional music in our islands.'

Held over two days at Tangasdale Machair, the community festival raises funds to support Feis Bharraigh's children's activities in traditional music tuition.

There are numerous volunteers who give up their time and expertise throughout the year to help make the event a success.

Neil said: 'Feis Bharraigh is very grateful for the help offered by the local community.'

'There is an amazing atmosphere at Barralive and this is in part due to our wonderful volunteers, musicians and, of course, our special island location and culture. In Barra last year, a total of 125 children between the ages of four and 16 took part in the week-long

festival with tuition in Gaelic song, fiddle, pipes, accordion, Gaelic drama, art, shinty, highland dance, step dance, clarsach and group work, with many of the classes being taught through the medium of Gaelic.'

Barralive Music on the Edge will be held on July 26 and 27. For tickets and more information, see www.macgachans-tobermory.co.uk.

Appin gains £60,000 for Jubilee Bridge upgrade

MORE than £60,000 has been awarded to Appin Community Council by sportsScotland to help them upgrade the Jubilee Bridge.

The cash was part of a round of funding from the sport body as part of a Scottish Government initiative to provide a legacy from the Commonwealth Games.

Mike Rayworth applied for the funds on behalf of the community council to restore the bridge, built in 1888.

He said: 'The bridge is in a very, very poor state of repair. It is currently closed as some of the beams have been breaking.'

'They have lasted 25 years but we are replacing the bridge beams, deck boards and parapet with Greenheart timber.'

'We are attempting to make the bridge last for a very, very long time.'

He added: 'It has been closed for two or three weeks as a beam broke at one end.'

'We felt we had no option to close the bridge on safety grounds so we have got this grant through just in time.'

'The bridge was opened in 1888 to commemorate the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria. It is an iconic part of Appin village - it would be a huge loss if it went.'

Despite receiving £66,147, the community council is still fundraising towards the £150,000 cost of fixing the bridge. Work will start by July 31 at the latest and will be completed by the end of the year.

All charges dropped in North Lorn rape case

A NORTH Connell man accused of rape has had all charges dropped by the prosecution.

James Stephen, 27, was alleged to have attacked a woman on several instances, including in Oban and Kilmore, between February 2004 and October 2007.

He was also accused of raping the woman while she was pregnant in July 2011 and of two further sexual assaults against her. He will not face any further court action on any of the charges, including being accused of raping another woman in Oban in 2008.

Oban stylist in running for top award

A STYLIST at Oban hair salon Rutherford's is in the running to be named one of the UK's finest.

Allan McKechnie will be one of 20 Scottish stylists to travel to Edinburgh next week for the regional heats of the Wella Trend Vision competition. Three will be selected to compete at the UK finals in London - and could be selected to compete at the world finals in Frankfurt in the autumn.



Health staff receive long service awards

MORE than a dozen members of health service staff received long service awards in Oban to mark the length of time they have dedicated to supporting health care in Argyll.

Robin Creelman, chairman of Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership, said: 'I would like to thank all of our staff across Argyll and Bute for their hard work and

commitment to delivering local health services that we can be proud of.'

'I was especially pleased to have the opportunity to present a number of these staff with an

award to mark their many years of service to the NHS. They do a great job for their local communities and I was really delighted to be able to recognise them for their achievement.'

Appeal to be lodged over Killin pharmacy approval

Decision by NHS Forth Valley 'totally ignores the will of the majority of the people in our remote communities'

AN APPEAL is to be lodged after NHS Forth Valley approved plans to establish a new pharmacy in Killin - a move that could cost the village a GP.

Health board bosses have approved an application from Davidson's the Chemist to open a shop in the village despite a 900-strong petition objection to the plan.

Currently, prescription drugs are dispensed from the local surgery's own dispensary, which supports one of the three GPs employed there.

However, rules state that once a dedicated pharmacist is open in the locality, the GP surgery can no longer operate its dispensary.

While based in Killin, the surgery serves the wider Strathfillan and Balquhider areas, a patch of 300 square miles.

Dr David Syme, a partner at Killin Medical Practice, accused the health board of being selective over which Scottish Government directives to follow when making its decision.

He said: 'Of course we are

disappointed with the decision, which flies in the face of strongly expressed local opinion, contrary to what the Scottish Government intended when they changed the rules with regard to Pharmacy and Dispensing practice in 2012. We feel the committee has misunderstood that intention and will be appealing on that basis.'

'We have had lots of expressions of support from our patients and the local community who realise that the loss of dispensing income will inevitably mean a reduction in

doctor time and the services we are able to provide.'

The appeal will also focus on the company's alleged failure to advertise their plans for 20 consecutive days.

The decision has prompted anger in the community, who have accused NHS Forth Valley of ignoring their wishes.

John Riley, chairman of Strathfillan Community Council, said: 'I'm experiencing deep frustration about the approval of this application which totally ignores the will of

the majority of the people in our remote communities. How can we regard ourselves as living in a democracy when a remote faceless committee can ignore us and our elected representatives and carry on regardless?'

In a letter to Mr Riley, Bruce Crawford MSP said: 'I will be contacting those who have a right of appeal against the decision to encourage them to make representations to the health board by the cut off date of May 14.'

A spokesperson for NHS Forth

Valley said: 'We are aware of local concerns, however, all decisions for new pharmacy applications in Scotland are governed by national pharmacy regulations.'

'It is Scottish Government policy to ensure, as far as possible, that local communities have access to the full range of pharmaceutical services available at a community pharmacy. There is an appeals process and those eligible to appeal the decision have been advised of the process and timescales.'

Special badges awarded to Oban Beavers

FOUR Oban Beaver Scouts have been awarded a special badge and certificate signed by the famous chief scout.

Leigha Low, Heather Dickie, David Cameron and Lewis Macdonald, pictured right, received the Chief Scout Bronze Award and certificate signed by Bear Grylls as well as a special badge for their uniform. This award is given once a beaver scout has earned all five of the challenge badges and is 'quite an honour', according to scouting leaders.

Leader Elisabeth Stevenson, also pictured right, said: 'The 1st Lorn (Argyll) Scout group is extremely proud of these four and their achievement.'

'Scouting is about everyday adventure. It offers hundreds of different activities to girls and boys, indoors and outdoors, both creative and adventurous for everyone and at every level.'

Boys and girls aged six or seven can become a beaver scout. Beavers 'swim up' to cubs to continue on their path through Scouting.



Oban Sheriff Court

Oban man accused of police assault

AN OBAN man accused of assaulting a female police officer by kicking her on the body will face trial on July 7.

Richard Halcrow, 19, of Aithernie, Nursery Lane, Oban, denies all charges against him, including challenging police officers to fight, resisting handcuffs and pushing and pulling another officer by his body armour during an incident last December 28 on George Street. Halcrow will appear again on June 25.

Three-year driving ban and work order

AN OBAN man has been ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work within a 12-month community payback order after drink driving twice while on bail.

John McKay, 39, of 18 Nelson Road, Oban, was also banned from getting behind the wheel for three years by Sheriff John Herald.

McKay had previously admitted the offences with sentencing deferred for background reports - which defence agent Edward Thornton said were 'positive'. He added: 'He has taken on board the fact he has a serious problem.'

Sentence deferred on heroin charge

AN OBAN man is awaiting sentence after he pled guilty to possessing

heroin by letter to Oban Sheriff Court. Iain Cruikshanks, 26, of 8b Mossfield Avenue, Oban, had his sentence deferred until May 28 for the preparation of background reports and for him to be in court in person.

Pub punch lands man in court

PUNCHING a man on his head while in an Oban pub landed a Soroba man in Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Paul Kerr, 29, of 34c McCaig Road, Soroba, Oban, admitted the assault, which took place on January 13.

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

Fine and ban for drink driving

BEING behind the wheel while more than twice the legal drink drive limit landed an Oban man with a £350 fine and a year-long driving ban.

Jonathan Coffey, 29, of 6d Longsdale Crescent, Oban, admitted driving with 77mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court. The legal limit is 35mcg.

Oban man admits sexual threat text

AN OBAN man who sent a message threatening to sexually assault the wife and daughter of his recipient will be sentenced on June 25 at Oban Sheriff Court.

Steven MacLeod, 27, of 8 Hazeldean

Crescent, Oban, pled guilty to sending the message, in which he also swore at the man and made further remarks of an offensive and sexual nature.

Man ordered to do unpaid work after assault

AN OBAN resident who assaulted a woman and a nine-year-old boy has been ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work.

Pawel Kuznicki, 34, of 111F George Street, Oban, will also be supervised for two years as part of his community payback order, imposed by Sheriff John Herald at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday.

Kuznicki previously admitted all offences including placing the pair in fear for their safety, breaking a bail condition by going to their home and struggling with officers who tried to remove him.

Woman who slapped ex fined £200

A WOMAN who slapped the face of her ex-boyfriend in an Oban pub has been fined £200 for the offence.

Andrea Hendry, 24, of 12 Macdougall Court, Oban, previously pled guilty to assaulting the man and shouting and swearing.

She appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday for sentencing.

Defending, Laura McManus told the court Hendry accepted her behaviour was 'entirely inappropriate'.

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Fort looking to end the season on winning note

FOOTBALL

FORT William have one last chance to avoid the Highland League wooden spoon when they welcome closest rivals Lossiemouth to Claggan Park this Saturday.

With two games left Fort sit four points behind this weekend's opponents, knowing a win will be needed to avoid finishing bottom of the league for the third year in a row.

And the Lochaber side need to win both their remaining games to overtake Lossie as the Coasters currently enjoy a +24 goal difference advantage.

Conlon told The Oban Times: 'This is a game we'll be looking to get something out of. Gary Farquhar and Darren Duncan will be unavailable, and Sean Grant is doubtful because of work, so the squad will be down to the bare bones again.'

Following two heavy defeats Fort put in a much improved performance away to Deveronvale last weekend, narrowly losing 2-1.

The home side took the lead after 14 minutes, but Fort were level through an own goal within seconds of the restart. Vale took the lead before half time, and although they had a man sent off in the second half were able to hold out for the win.

Conlon said: 'After the last two home performances which were really disappointing, it was much more encouraging the manner we played.'

A bumper rollover jackpot of £700 is up for grabs in this week's Fort William FC lotto draw.

Last week's numbers were 2, 15 and 16.



Champions! Lochaber firsts celebrate with the trophy after fending off competition from across the country 20_19rugby01

Lochaber Rugby Club win their own sevens

'Being the winning team, the after-match ceilidh was just a little bit extra special'

LOCHABER Rugby Club lifted the trophy after winning their own sevens competition for the first time in 12 years on Saturday.

The annual event saw teams from Aberdeen, Oban, Strathspey Bannockburn and even London travel to Banavie to compete in appalling conditions.

Heavy rain made life difficult for both the teams and spectators, but they battled on to put on an entertaining afternoon of rugby.

The day kicked off with Lochaber recording a narrow win over London side Quintin, before Lochaber colts lost out to

Aberdeenshire. The youngsters then took Bannockburn to a sudden death period, but just lost out to miss the semi finals.

Lochaber firsts then defeated Bannockburn to book their place in the final where they met Aberdeenshire, who knocked Oban out in the semis.

The final started with Lochaber using the wind and conditions to its full potential and were four tries up at the half time break.

The second half started with the home side facing the elements as well as a determined Aberdeenshire side, who scored two quick fire tries and put Lochaber under constant pressure.

RUGBY

The drama moved up a notch when Lochaber's Connor Taylor was sin binned. Despite this they stuck in and only conceded one further try to take the Lochaber Quaich for the first time since 2001 with a score of 24-19.

Lochaber committee member Stewart Sandison told The Oban Times the celebrations continued long into the night.

He said: 'Being the winning team, the after-match ceilidh was just a little bit extra special. A big thanks to our sponsor MacPhee and Partners, the refs, all the teams and everyone who made it an absolutely great day.'

Pam Weller is up to scratch

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER three weeks of play in the ten pin bowling singles leagues at the Nevis Centre Pam Weller leads the scratch league with 43 points.

Colin Pinkett is second on 40 points while Tommy McKnight is two points further back in third.

The handicap league for the Robert Cairns trophy is led by David Cameron on 36 points followed by Chris McCaig on 32 points and Claudia Wittner on 31 points.

Pam Weller leads the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 1,332 pins followed by Colin Pinkett in second with 1,278 and Rossamy Wareing in third with 1,222.

This weeks top performers were Tommy McKnight with the top three game scratch series of 421 and Gilbert Mullen with the top three game handicap series of 587.

The top individual scratch game this week was 166 from Tommy McKnight.

Hebridean Rally plans in progress

RALLYING

PLANS for this year's Rally Hebrides are 'progressing extremely well and on target', organisers Lewis Car Club have announced.

The non-competitive charity event takes place every August in and around Stornoway and raised over £21,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support in the Western Isles in 2012.

Rally Hebrides will go ahead on August 17 and already a number of Scotland's top rally drivers have signed up to take part.

Fort William GC

GOLF

FORT William Golf Club's monthly medal competition was won by Andrew Brown on Saturday despite tricky conditions.

Brown scored a net round of 71 in the wind and rain to finish one shot ahead of Peter Stewart and Neil Feggins.

On Sunday, the senior medal competition was held, with Ian Robertson taking top spot with a score of 68. Willie McCann was second, finishing four shots behind Robertson.

Results: May Medal - 1, Andrew Brown 83-12=71; 2, Peter Stewart 84-12=72 (BIH); 3, Neil Feggins 85-13=72
Senior Medal - 1, Ian Robertson 81-13=68; 2, Willie McCann 86-14=72 (BIH); 3, Dave Smith 81-9=72.

Traigh GC

TRAIGH Golf Club's monthly medal competition saw a field of 12 taking part, with John MacMillan recording a three strokes victory with a net score of 66 which left him clear of second placed Trevor Bell, who shot a net 69.

Isle of Skye GC

ISLE Of Skye Golf Club hosted the two day RNLI Trophy last weekend, with Mike Williams taking top spot, scoring 41 points to leave himself two clear of his nearest challenger Murdo Gordon.

Steve wins Road to the Isles Half Marathon

HALF MARATHON

THE ROAD to the Isles Half Marathon and Team Relay Half Marathon saw Lochaber runners taking all the top honours.

Saturday's annual event, in aid of Mallaig and District Swimming Pool, suffered the same wind and rain as much of Lochaber, but still attracted around 30 people to take part.

Fort William man Steve Cameron got out in front early on and held onto his lead finishing in one hour 23 minutes and 25 seconds - some 13 minutes ahead of second placed Derek Ricky from Glasgow.

Hold off

The women's race saw Gloria White of Arisaig take the win by just under 10 minutes. Her time of 1 hour 34 minutes and 50 seconds was enough to hold off Glasgow runner Hilary Miller.

It was a Mallaig and Morar team who came home first in the team relay race. Angus Kennedy, Aaron MacLean and Henry Young recorded a time of one hour 35 minutes and 52 seconds to lift the new Roy MacPhee memorial trophy.

Sarah Boyce, who helped organise the event, told The Oban Times: 'It went really well, and we were really pleased with the turnout considering the weather conditions.'

'It was nice to get competitors from all over the country but we were really chuffed to see a local team win the Roy MacPhee trophy.'



Fort William man Steve Cameron on his way to a comfortable victory in the half marathon. 20_19marathon01



Season begins at Lochaber Bowling Club

The Lochaber Bowling Club green at the BA Club was officially opened for the summer season recently. Cath MacIntosh threw the first jack to start the new season.

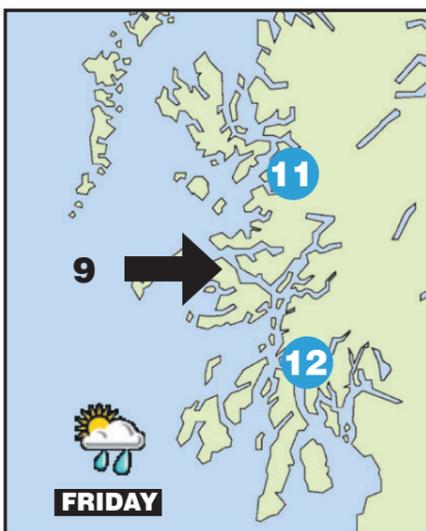
Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds moderate, easterly
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C

Friday Light rain showers
Winds light, westerly
Temperatures 5°C to 12°C.

Weekend Rain
Outlook Winds moderate, west north westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, May 9, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 05.08	3.7 11.25 0.9 17.19	3.7 23.54 0.9
Fri 05.42	3.8 11.59 0.9 17.52	3.8 *** **
Sat 00.29	1.0 06.15 3.8 12.35	0.9 18.24 3.8
Sun 01.04	1.1 06.49 3.7 13.11	1.0 18.57 3.8
Mon 01.39	1.3 07.24 3.6 13.47	1.1 19.31 3.7
Tues 02.14	1.4 08.00 3.5 14.24	1.3 20.06 3.6
Wed 02.52	1.6 08.36 3.3 15.02	1.4 20.43 3.4

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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